

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate

James L. Allen Center - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago

February 1, 2017

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The regular monthly meeting of the Northwestern University Faculty Senate was held on February 1, 2017, at the James L. Allen Center's McCormick Auditorium in Evanston with videoconferencing to the Chicago campus in Wieboldt Hall 421. A number of Senators participated remotely. President Laurie Zoloth called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. A quorum was present. The January 2017 regular meeting minutes were approved.

The President introduced the guest speaker, Northwestern University Board of Trustees Chair William A. Osborn, who gave brief introductory remarks before taking questions from the Senate.

The Senate then heard reports from the chairs of Standing Committees.

After the reports of the Standing Committees, the Executive Committee presented a resolution, which was moved, seconded, and adopted as follows:

**Resolution endorsing petition of Academics against Immigration Executive Order**

*Resolved*, That the Northwestern University Faculty Senate, as the representative and elected body of the faculty, endorses the 'Academics against Immigration Executive Order' petition as circulated on the website [notoimmigrationban.com](http://notoimmigrationban.com), which reads as follows:

"President Donald Trump has signed an [Executive Order](#) (EO) proposing a 90-day suspension of visas and other immigration benefits to all nationals of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Somalia. The unrealistic conditions required for discontinuing the suspension make it very likely that this EO will turn into a permanent ban. We, the undersigned academics and researchers from a variety of fields of study, backgrounds, and personal convictions, would like to voice our concern and strongly oppose this measure on three grounds:

"1. **This Executive Order is discriminatory.** The EO unfairly targets a large group of immigrants and non-immigrants on the basis of their countries of origin, all of which are nations with a majority Muslim population. This is a major step towards implementing the stringent racial and religious profiling promised on the campaign trail. The United States is a democratic nation, and ethnic and religious profiling are in stark contrast to the values and principles we hold.

“2. **This Executive Order is detrimental to the national interests of the United States.** The EO significantly damages American leadership in higher education and research. US research institutes host a significant number of researchers from the nations subjected to the upcoming restrictions. From Iran alone, more than 3000 students have received PhDs from American universities in the past 3 years. The proposed EO limits collaborations with researchers from these nations by restricting entry of these researchers to the US and can potentially lead to departure of many talented individuals who are current and future researchers and entrepreneurs in the US. We strongly believe the immediate and long term consequences of this EO do not serve our national interests.

“3. **This Executive Order imposes undue burden on members of our community:** The people whose status in the United States would be reconsidered under this EO are our students, friends, colleagues, and members of our communities. The implementation of this EO will necessarily tear families apart by restricting entry for family members who live outside of the US and limiting the ability to travel for those who reside and work in the US. These restrictions would be applied to nearly all individuals from these countries, regardless of their immigration status or any other circumstances. This measure is fatally disruptive to the lives of these immigrants, their families, and the communities of which they form an integral part. It is inhumane, ineffective, and un-American.

“These bans, as proposed, have consequences that reach beyond the scope of national security. The unethical and discriminatory treatment of law-abiding, hard-working, and well-integrated immigrants fundamentally contravenes the founding principles of the United States.

“We strongly denounce this ban and urge the President to reconsider going forward with this Executive Order.”

The Senate then proceeded to consideration of the proposed revision of the bylaws of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. The President entertained a motion to reject the proposal, which was moved, seconded, and adopted.

The President then entertained a motion to confirm the Executive Committee’s nomination of Senator Stephen Dinwiddie to a vacant seat on the Committee on Cause. The motion to confirm was made, seconded, and adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Joshua L. Mayer  
Administrative Coordinator