

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
James L. Allen Center - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago
February 14, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Northwestern University Faculty Senate was held on February 14, 2018 at 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 Robert Hariman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was present, and the President noted the electronic approval of the January minutes.

President Hariman welcomed the Senate and gave a report. Items covered included: the Chair of the Board of Trustees is scheduled to speak at the April 18 Senate meeting; Senators will be invited to a dinner at President Schapiro's home on June 7; the Executive Committee approved revised Senate Standing Committee definitions now available on the Senate website; the Senate President's meetings included Assistant Vice President of Information and Analytics Amit Prachand to discuss faculty input on survey designs. President Hariman also participated in the food vendor selection process.

The President also discussed Senate information management in his report. He noted that some years ago the Senate began recording meetings to maintain accuracy in the minutes. This practice has continued and the Executive Committee discussed whether the de facto practice should become policy. The Executive Committee decided to continue to record Senate meetings for the following reasons: as it is a public meeting anyone can record at any time and the Senate will have control over a recording in case inaccuracies are reported. The guidelines for Senate meeting recordings, according to the President, are as follows: The Senate will record meetings, will announce that meetings are being recorded at the beginning of every meeting, and provide Senators access to the recordings in the Senate office at any reasonable time pending a request; Senate meeting recordings will be not distributed otherwise. The President then remarked on the dissemination of Senate reports, stating that Senate reports may be distributed after they were presented to the Senate for the regular meeting. Additionally, committee chairs may send confidential drafts to relevant stakeholders at any time. The President went on to say that the Senate is developing a process to archive Senate documents. Lastly, he said the Executive Committee

wishes to keep the Senate website uncluttered, and to minimize use of email reports, so it is easy for Senators to find crucial information quickly.

The President concluded his report with additional updates: The quarterly summit meeting was held with the administration during which time Senators and administrators had a discussion on several issues including the Sexual Misconduct Policy, NTE salaries, and Senate involvement in strategic planning. He noted the annual Senate planning meeting with the University President and Provost is forthcoming. Last year's proposals included Senate consultation on search committees for deans and directors and adding a Senate member to the Board of Trustees, which are now being done. This year's report features integration with University strategic planning and development of academic programs such as endowed chairs for recently tenured faculty, post-doctoral fellowships to strengthen diversity, and improved collaboration on behalf of the liberal arts education.

The President then introduced Jeanne Herrick, who discussed her report on the Committee on Athletics and Recreation (CAR) and the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). Ms. Herrick suggested the Senate remain in CAR and withdraw its membership from COIA, citing institutional ineffectiveness and lack of transparency as reasons for leaving the latter. A motion to withdraw Senate membership from COIA was made, seconded, and approved.

The Faculty Rights and Responsibility Committee and the Faculty Handbook Committee presented two reports – a report on the University Sexual Misconduct Policy and a report the University Disruption and Demonstration Policy. For the report on Sexual Misconduct, a Senator made the suggestion of adding “presumption of innocence” in the Policy. Another Senator noted that such language presumptively diminishes the claims made by the alleged victim and suggested that “presumption of confidentiality” was more appropriate. Both suggestions were noted by the committee chairs.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Jared Spitz
Administrative Coordinator