

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Scott Hall (Guild Lounge) - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago
February 13, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Northwestern University Faculty Senate was held on February 13, 2019 at Scott Hall's Guild Lounge in Evanston with videoconferencing to the Chicago campus in Wieboldt Hall 421. A number of Senators participated remotely. President Baron Reed called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. A quorum was present.

The president welcomed the Senate and then gave his report:

The president said that the report on the Appropriate Use of Electronic Resources Policy from the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee was forwarded to the Policy Review Committee (PRC) along with feedback from other faculty members. That feedback is being taken seriously by the PRC, and a thorough review is underway.

At the January Senate meeting, the Provost announced the creation of the Undergraduate Student Lifecycle Committee. The president said that several members of the Senate serve on this committee, including Senator Michael Deas and Senator Bob Hasty along with himself. The president is co-chairing the faculty engagement group.

Senators Sue Pechter and Candy Lee are the Senate's representative on the University Library Committee. Senator Pechter provided Senators with the Library's strategic plan and recent acquisitions. Should Senators have questions or concerns about how the Library interacts with faculty, especially in their department, the president said they should contact Senator Pechter, or the Senator representatives from the Library, Senator Elsa Alvaro and Senator Geoff Morse.

Prior to the regularly scheduled standing committee reports, the president mentioned that the Salary and Benefits Committee is currently working on faculty retirement benefits and the NTE Committee is

assisting the Provost Office in gathering data about working conditions for non-tenure-eligible faculty, especially contract length, titles, salary, and re-appointment.

The president said he is scheduled to visit the NU-Q campus later this week. He has been in communication with the two Senate representatives from NU-Q and told them that the Senate is looking at academic freedom issues, NTE concerns, and also how these two things interact. The president plans to discuss these issues and how shared governance functions on their campus during his visit.

The president said that some of the concerns discussed at the November Senate meeting about the proposed federal changes to Title IX were registered as formal complaints by the Office of Equity in a letter sent to the Department of Education during a comment period.

The Senate leadership has raised for discussion the possibility of using guidance documents on disciplinary panels in a variety of contexts. The president said this document would be used to ensure that sanctions carried out across different units would be made more uniform and predictable. Those discussions are still at an early stage, and the president promised to keep the Senate informed should the administration decide to move forward.

The Senate leadership has also talked with the Provost Office and the Office of Equity about providing training on policies having to do with sexual misconduct, discrimination, and harassment so that problems can be addressed before they become disciplinary situations.

The president said that the March Senate meeting will be dedicated to hosting a forum on academic freedom. In April, the Senate will host Lanny Martin, the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

A motion from the Senate leadership was made to replace Senator Sri Sridharan with Senator Therese McGuire as Chair of the Budget and Planning Committee. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Senate then heard reports from some of the standing committees.

Faculty Handbook Committee Chair Richard Kieckhefer followed up on his announcement at the January Faculty Senate meeting that his committee plans to host a forum on academic freedom at the March 13 Faculty Senate meeting. Senator Kieckhefer emphasized that the talking points for the forum were not suggestions for the Handbook but rather are intended to direct the discussion on March 13.

The Governance Committee presented the following proposed changes to the Senate Bylaws for second reading:

Amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws to add a new Article III, Section 8:

The Faculty Senate may remove the President of the Faculty Senate if two-thirds of all Senators vote in favor of a motion of no confidence, providing that the motion was made at the previous meeting. A motion for a vote of no confidence can be brought on the basis of unethical or unprofessional behavior or the inability of the President to complete the duties of office. The motion is brought forward either by a simple majority of the Executive Committee placing a vote of no confidence on the agenda of a Senate meeting or as a motion from the floor during “New Business” at a Senate meeting.

The Past-President shall preside over debate of the motion of no confidence. Voting shall be by secret ballot, and the counting of those ballots shall be done by the Parliamentarian. Senators not present at the meeting will be given 48 hours to submit their vote electronically to the Parliamentarian assuming that the votes of those Senators are needed to determine the outcome. If the two-thirds vote is achieved, the President shall be immediately replaced by the President-Elect. Nominations for a new President-Elect shall be made at the next Senate meeting with voting at the subsequent meeting following the general procedures outlined for selecting a President-Elect in Article III, Section 3. If a President-Elect replaces a President following a vote of no confidence, that person will complete both the remainder of the current term and the following one-year term.

Amend Article III, Section 3 to add the language in italics:

The President Elect must be selected at the last regular Faculty Senate meeting in the Spring quarter. *The Executive Committee shall function as a nominations committee, securing one or more nominations to bring to the Senate at the penultimate regular Faculty Senate meeting in the Spring quarter. Nominations may also come directly from the floor in the penultimate regular Faculty Senate meeting. Candidate(s) should be*

given the opportunity to address the Senate, either in person and/ or in writing, before the vote at the last regular Faculty Senate meeting. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. If there are three or more candidates, rank-choice voting shall be used. If no candidate wins an absolute majority of first place votes, the candidate with the fewest first choice votes would be removed from consideration and those votes would be reallocated to the voters' second choice candidates.

Amend Article III, Section 7 to add the language in italics:

In the event of a vacancy in the position of President, the President Elect will serve as President for the remainder of that academic year and for the academic year in which they would have normally served. In the event of a vacancy in the position of President Elect, the Senate shall *begin selection of a new President Elect at its next regularly scheduled meeting (pursuant to the process outlined in Article III, section 3), or if no such meeting is scheduled before six weeks will pass, at a special meeting of the Senate announced no less than three weeks prior to such meeting.* In the event of a vacancy in the position of Immediate Past President, the most recently serving past President of the Faculty Senate shall serve as Past President for the remainder of the term. In the event of a vacancy in a chair of a Standing Committee, the Executive Committee will act in accordance with Section 4 above, at the time of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate.

A motion was made to adopt the Bylaws amendments. The motion was seconded and a vote was held. According to the Senate Bylaws, a 2/3 majority must vote in favor of a motion to amend the Bylaws. All 37 members of the Senate present in Chicago and Evanston voted in favor of the motion. Votes were counted online as well [the motion passed two days subsequent to this meeting].

The president then introduced the faculty representatives on the Advisory Committee on Investment Responsibility (ACIR), Professor Philip Greenland and Senator Ravi Jagannathan. Professor Greenland said that ACIR is relatively new. 2017-18 was its inaugural year, the majority of which was spent creating a charter, setting guidelines for proposals, policies, and procedures, building committee infrastructure, and communicating with the Northwestern community. ACIR comprises two representatives from each University constituency: faculty, students (undergraduate and graduate), staff,

and alumni. Professor Greenland said that the committee received their first proposal earlier this month. A student group on campus proposed the University divest the University's endowment from fossil fuel companies. Senate Secretary Jared Spitz, who also works with ACIR, promised to send the proposal to all Senators following the meeting.

Professor Greenland then opened the floor for questions about ACIR:

Senator Laurel Harbridge-Yong asked how faculty discover what Northwestern is currently invested in? Professor Greenland said that the problem with trying to figure out current investments is that they can change. ACIR feels the most appropriate way to proceed is to consider policy recommendations as opposed to specific companies. Professor Greenland said the advantage of taking the policy approach is that it has a longer lifespan than singling out one company.

Senator Fred Turek asked how the committee defines "broad consensus" at the University and how the committee relays that information to the Board. Professor Greenland said ACIR does not want to be trivial about this process, meaning the committee is obligated to hear from all interested parties. One way to achieve this is through polling the constituent groups. Additionally, ACIR will relay a majority vote to the Board and would also expect to hear back from the Board why they made a particular decision.

Senator Helen Thompson asked if the committee is doing research on the best mode of ethical investments? Professor Greenland said that research is driven by the proposals that are submitted. In other words, the committee will not generate proposals but will consider all topics put before it.

Senator Emmy Murphy asked, what is line between ethical responsibility and fiduciary responsibility for the Board of Trustees? Professor Greenland said that is a very good question, but it is one for the Board to consider. Professor Greenland also said when he meets with the Investment Committee he plans to ask them that same question.

Senator Elsa Alvaro asked if the University has an investment philosophy that is available? Professor Greenland said he was unaware of such a policy.

Senator Richard Kieckhefer asked if Northwestern sees itself in an oversight role for companies in which they hold stocks? Professor Greenland said that, aside from proposals related to divestment, an alternative method of influence would be proxy voting.

Senator Claudia Swan suggested the Senate put forth proposals through a committee. Professor Greenland said ACIR would welcome that.

The president then introduced Annelise Riles, the new Executive Director of the Buffett Institute and Associate Provost for Global Affairs.

Associate Provost Riles presented some of the programmatic and governance changes now taking place at Buffett: a new faculty advisory board, a council connecting the deans' offices for relevant schools, and an external advisory board. Associate Provost Riles also presented new programming like a multi-language digital platform to connect scholars globally and a series of faculty conversations to explore the deepening of systematic connections with universities around the world. Associate Provost Riles said that faculty interested in taking part in any of these conversations, or in suggesting one not on the list, should reach out to Krzysztof Kozubski (kozubski@northwestern.edu) at the Buffett Institute. Buffet will also be holding an Idea Incubation Workshop in November, as it looks to connect with a broader range of faculty at Northwestern and to explore ways of strengthening the global impact of faculty research. In addition to these other changes, Associate Provost Riles also explained that the Buffett Institute is moving into the Provost's Office and that several other university offices will report to her as Associate Provost for Global Affairs: the International Office, which will become the Office of International Students and Scholars, the Office of Global Safety and Security, and the Undergraduate Learning Abroad program.

Associate Provost Riles then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Laurel Harbridge-Yong said her colleagues in the Department of Political Science are concerned with some of the changes being made, particularly in regard to some cuts that were made with little to no warning. Also, faculty in her department think Buffett is headed in a direction that is

more focused on marketing than on supporting faculty's basic research. Senator Harbridge-Yong then wondered what Buffett's plan is to support faculty research. Associate Provost Riles said she understands that some people are unhappy with the direction Buffett is headed, but she stands by the decisions she made because she believes they are in the best interest of Buffett. She said that she does want to support faculty research, but she is especially looking for collaborative projects. In particular, Buffett's funding should be for work unique to Buffett, meaning funded projects will have to be different from projects departments typically fund.

Senator Albert Hunter speaking on behalf of his colleagues from the Department of Sociology asked if Associate Provost Riles considers the Buffett Institute to be an organization that simply funds research done by faculty and graduate students. And then he asked about the process for funding decisions because faculty in his department feel alienated from those procedural decisions. Associate Provost Riles said that Buffett is absolutely committed to funding graduate student and faculty research. She is also aware that many departments rely on Buffett to fund their graduate students, and she has no intention of that stopping. She did add, however, there is room for more rigor in the funding application process.

Senator Therese McGuire asked why the decision to fund only collaborative research was made. Associate Provost Riles said that is the mission of the Buffett Institute.

Senator Claudia Swan asked how an Incubation Workshop differs substantively from a series of invited speakers, talks that often lead to collaborative publications and other scholarly work of that kind. Associate Provost Riles said that administratively Buffett was not able to handle the number of speaking events that it was committing to before her arrival. She did acknowledge that there was, at times, legitimate scholarly collaboration deriving from the speaker series. But that was not always the case, and Associate Provost Riles said she is trying to create better formats for a common research agenda.

Senator David Schoenbrun speaking on behalf of his colleagues in the Department of History asked for an explanation of the role Associate Provost Riles see for faculty who have fostered ties and connections with scholars around the globe. Also, he asked what kind of accountability Buffett will

have to institutions in developing countries and what role faculty can play in deciding how these projects unfold. Associate Provost Riles said these were really good questions. The answers to them will have to be worked out through the fostering of partnerships with other institutions. In terms of accountability, the committees that were mentioned earlier will be responsible for making these decisions. Senator Schoenbrun asked a second question about how to balance the need to attract more international students with the need to educate existing U.S. students. Associate Provost Riles said she thinks that globalizing Northwestern will produce better opportunities here in the U.S. Furthermore, Northwestern's local engagement already has global networks, and improving the University's global reach will only help to serve those local networks here.

Senator Karen Springen said that 23% of full-time students, both undergraduate and graduate, at Northwestern are international, and the vast majority are from China. She then asked what Buffett plans to do to attract, and keep, students from all around the world. Associate Provost Riles it is up to the schools how they handle admissions, but one great aspect of the International Affairs Office being moved into Buffett is that her office can now engage the international students with more frequency.

With no new business, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Jared Spitz

Secretary of the Faculty Senate