

Northwestern University  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate  
Scott Hall (Guild Lounge) - Evanston, Wieboldt Hall 421 - Chicago  
November 28, 2018

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The regular monthly meeting of the Northwestern University Faculty Senate was held on November 28, 2018 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 5:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

The president welcomed the Senate and then proceeded with his report: As mentioned at the last meeting, an ombuds working group has been formed with two Senate representatives. That group has begun meeting with stakeholders on campus.

The Provost has also formed an advisory group to work on the academic calendar, led by Professor Karen Smilowitz and Professor Robert Gundlach. The president is the Senate's representative for that group. They have two goals: To advise on the implementation of some of the past proposals by the Faculty Senate in 2017, including moving commencement closer to finals, to lengthen Spring Break, and to set up a system that would make it easier to have final exams proctored remotely. The second task for the advisory group is to consider whether the fall quarter can and should be completed before Thanksgiving, and whether there would then be space for a D term and, if so, what it should be used for.

The University's Policy Review Committee has been reconstituted. The president is continuing as the Senate's representative on that committee. Shortly, the Policy Review Committee will be releasing a revised "Appropriate Use of Electronic Resources" policy for community review. Later this year, the committee will also look at the "Civility and Mutual Respect" policy.

The president has been in contact with Student Affairs about course accommodations for students who register with AccessibleNU. The president asked senators to contact him if they have questions or have been substantively engaged in these processes before.

The Department of Education has proposed some changes to Title IX. There is a lengthy period for public comment before they take effect, so it is not entirely clear whether all the changes will be adopted in their current form. If they are, however, the president said the Faculty Handbook will probably need to be revised. The president said the University is monitoring the situation closely.

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

Faculty Handbook Committee Chair Richard Kieckhefer said that his committee has begun reviewing the opening section of the Handbook on academic freedom. The current Handbook simply reproduces the 1940 statement on academic freedom from the AAUP. The committee plans to host an all-campus forum on academic freedom during the winter quarter to elicit feedback from as many people as possible. Beyond the section on academic freedom, Senator Kieckhefer said that several other sections in the Handbook need revision or inclusion of a certain topic. He referenced a colleague's suggestion that the Handbook make a useful statement on mentoring, which does not appear in the current Handbook.

The Student Affairs Committee then presented the following resolution concerning student wellness for the Senate's consideration:

**Whereas** concerns over student wellness have increased significantly over the past several years, and

**Whereas** lack of awareness about available resources to help students stay mentally and physically safe and healthy continues to be a problem,

**Be it resolved** that the Faculty Senate recommends to all faculty that they include the following sentence in their syllabi: "Students can find useful resources for safety and security, academic support, and mental and physical health and well-being at the NUhelp [website](#) and [app](#)."

Following discussion, a motion to endorse the resolution was made, seconded, and passed by the Senate.

The Senate was then briefed on University safety training and procedures by Greg Klaiber, Director of Emergency Management, and Chief of Police Bruce Lewis. For more information on the University's emergency procedures, please visit their [website](#).

Finally, Associate Vice President for Equity Sarah Wake gave an extensive overview of reporting guidelines for the Title IX office. Following this, she detailed the Department of Education's proposed changes to Title IX, how they would affect the University, and the feedback she plans to give during the aforementioned comment period.

Senators were asked to convey the information learned from both presentations to their home departments.

With no new business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Jared Spitz

Secretary of the Faculty Senate