Present: (Professors) Adams, Alshawabkeh, Aroian, Aslam, Basagni, Board, Cokely, Daynard, Fitzgerald, Fountain, Fox, Gaffney, Herman, Katula, Lee, Lefkovitz, McDonough, Muftu, Peterfreund, Poriss, Rappaport, Sceppa, Sherman, Stepanyants, Strauss, Yang, Zgarrick

(Administrators) Finklestein, Courtney, Loeffelholz, Ronkin, Van Den Abbeele, Aubry, Fulmer

Absent: Professors Bansil, Ondrechen
Administrators: Costa, Director, Gibson,

The Senate was convened at 11:47 AM with Professor Daynard presiding in Provost Director’s absence. Professor Poriss acted as Secretary in Professor Ondrechen’s absence.

I. The minutes of 3 October were approved as presented.

II. SAC Report. Professor Daynard reported that SAC met twice in regular session since the last Senate meeting.

The following committees have been staffed and charged. Full texts of the charges may be found on the Faculty Senate website.

**Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Chair Search Committee (external)**

*Elected members from the Department:*
Professor Ahmed Busnaina
Professor Emanuel Melachrinoudis
Professor Nader Jalili

*Appointed members:*
Professor Anand Asthagiri, COE-Chemical Engineering
Professor Alain Karma, COS-Physics

**Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Chair Search Committee (external)**

*Elected members from the Department:*
Professor Miriam Leeser
Professor Nian-Xiang Sun
Professor Masoud Salehi

*Appointed members:*
Professor Jerome Hajjar-COE, Civil and Environmental
Professor Robert McOwen-COS, Mathematics
Senate Ad hoc Committee for the Faculty Handbook
Professor Rhonda Board, BCHS-Nursing
Professor Sharon Bruns, CBA-Accounting
Professor James Hackney, Law (Chair)
Professor Gerald Herman, CSSH-History

Senate Committee for Research Policy Oversight
Members:
Professor Ben-An Khaw, BCHS-Pharmacy Science
Professor Joan Fitzgerald, CSSH-Law & Policy
Professor Miriam Leeser, COE, ECE
Professor Alisa Lincoln, CSSH-Sociology & Anthropology
Professor Sanjeev Mukerjee, COS-Chem&Chem Biology, Chair
Professor James R. Ross, CAMD-Journalism
Professor Ronald L. Sandler, CSSH-Philosophy & Religion
Professor Srinivas Sridhar, COS-Physics
Professor Phyllis Strauss, COS-Biology
Senior Vice Provost for Research Melvin Bernstein, Ex officio
Professor Michael Pollastri, COS-Chem&ChemBio, President’s Ex Officio Representative

Charge:
1. Review the existing policies and procedures at the University related to conflicts of interest and commitment, especially as they pertain to the research activities of the faculty. Survey relevant policies and procedures at appropriate match-mate and aspirant universities.

2. Examine the progress of the University’s initiative to promote interdisciplinary research. Survey the effectiveness of faculty hiring with joint appointments, as well as the development of cross-cutting research projects.

3. Examine Northeastern’s response to new intellectual property assignment practice resulting from the 2011 Stanford University v. Cetus patent case. Report on the Center for Research Innovation’s efforts to protect Northeastern University IP in light of this new legal interpretation and the dissemination of the new information to faculty researchers.

4. Review existing policies and procedures at Northeastern University regarding Classified and Security Sensitive Information (SSI) research, and in particular security policies concerning the new Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security.

SAC reviewed a suggestion to “go paperless” and agreed that, as many Senators bring their paper materials to the Senate meetings, and as SAC does not wish to encourage the use of electronic devices while in session, paper copies will continue to be provided. To promote a greener environment, a recycle bin is placed at the doorway for you to use upon exiting.

III. Presentation on admissions from Senior Vice President Philomena Mantilla and Vice President on Enrollment Management Jane Brown. This presentation may be found on the
Faculty Senate SharePoint site at: 
https://sharepointportal.nunet.neu.edu/NEUSites/Faculty%20Senate/default.aspx

Senior Vice President Philomena Mantilla undertook an overview of undergraduate enrollment patterns, an update of undergraduate retention, an overview of graduate enrollment and a presentation of the emphases for 2013.

The freshman profile: 44,208 applications; a mean SAT of 1360; and 63% from the top ten percent of their high school class. The male/female distribution is even; students of color have increased in percentages; and 41% are from out of the region. This last includes international students.

The growth in the applicant pool has led to increased selectivity with the admit rate trending at 32% indicating a steady decrease. The Senior Vice President showed a graph of admitted students by SAT score noting that the overall student body is stronger which has led to a stronger mean. There are, however, many dimensions to the choice of students other than SAT scores.

Professor Gaffney inquired as to why some with high SAT scores are not admitted. Senior Vice President Mantella responded that there could be many reasons, such as judicial issues or not meeting other criteria (e.g. lack of recommendations, poor grades despite the high SAT).

Professor Fox inquired if those “accepts” are related to college and program targets. Senior Vice President Mantella responded that it is not as much as one might think. A fixed enrollment level (2800) means admissions works to find the best but individual profiles might not be strong enough to meet a college target. Conversation, planning, and negotiation are used to build the strongest class. Responding to another question, Senior Vice President Mantella said that 14,000 applicants were admitted.

Professor Muftu, noting that student attributes are changing for the better, asked how Admissions plans for each college’s requirements. Senior Vice President Mantella responded that Admissions provides a picture of attributes considered [in admitting students] and compares those to College requirements and then plot that by program. There must be an understanding of what creates a successful student and Admissions continues to work with the Deans.

Enrolling students by SAT shows a dramatic shift of the whole with 80% now above 1300.

Professor Daynard reported concerns from faculty that there are substantial shifts in freshman enrollments in particular colleges and departments from year to year and asked if that should not be avoided. Senior Vice President Mantella noted that this is a different level of planning and that dramatic changes in program enrollments are the exception rather than the rule.

Professor Gaffney asked if individual targets were achieved for Colleges and the Senior Vice President responded that each College has a range and the numbers are within those ranges.

It was clarified that Undergraduate Studies encompasses undeclared students (15% of total enrollment). The majority of these declare by the end of the first year.
Professor Fitzgerald asked if the percentages of total enrollment shown by colleges are indicative of what is expected in the coming years. Senior Vice President Mantella responded that generally, yes, but there will be small fluctuations.

Senior Vice President Mantella showed the priorities of highly talented students (the 5 most important characteristics that made them select NU), the diversification of the applicant pool, and international enrollment. It was noted that several large western states send fewer than 10 students to Northeastern which Senior Vice President Mantella said is typical for urban and coastal universities.

Vice President Brown spoke about the undergraduate retention rate. Freshman retention is at 95.5% which puts NU solidly in the top ten. Transfer retention for fall is 95.8% and 96.7% for spring, both up over last year. The overall 85% goal for the six-year graduation rate has not yet been reached. There is significant progress in first to second year retention and minor progress in 2\textsuperscript{nd} to 3\textsuperscript{rd} year retention. A University-wide retention committee includes members from all colleges and meets regularly. A multipronged approach includes campus-wide efforts driven by the colleges; emphasis on student engagement; organized outreach to at-risk populations; and self-studies of advising.

Professor Fox wondered if class sizes impact retention. Vice Provost Ronkin responded that the committee will be looking at a broader picture of first year experiences, but there have yet to be direct links between class size and retention. Professor Fox suggested that the ability to analyze this exists.

Professor Gaffney expressed concern that students are changing and NU is not agile enough to predict where the hot spots will be. Senior Vice President Mantella said that it can be predicted and that departments should work with Deans to determine this. AP levels provide evidence that point us in the right direction and such data must be turned into useful information.

Vice President Brown turned to an overview of graduate enrollment, noting opportunity for expansion in entry points. Currently graduate enrollments are 40% full time and 60% part time. Graduate enrollments are trending upward.

Emphases for 2013 include the visit experience which is the primary driver in student enrollment. This will include personalizing visits from the beginning, taking full advantage of the new Visitor’s Center and enhancing Northeastern’s messaging; more fully advertising the Plus One pilot to increase yield on highly talented students; and integrating marketing and recruitment efforts.

Professor Lefkovitz suggested that there be opportunities for faculty engagement in recruitment efforts and optimizing visits by students with special interests. Senior Vice President Mantella indicated that it is important to work with and through the deans on specialized interests so as to be aligned with overall goals. But there are mechanisms to address this and if a faculty member knows of a candidate, s/he should contact the admissions office.

Professor Strauss noted the high quality honors students enrolling and the Senior Vice President noted the collaborative effort with the Provost’s Office was very successful. Admissions will be meeting next week to assess the results.
Senior Vice President Mantella responded to Professor Board’s inquiry by stating that numeric scores for other categories have been created.

Professor Gaffney inquired about enrollment at satellite campuses and was assured that Charlotte is performing well and that specific questions would be answered at the November Senate meeting where satellite campuses will be discussed.

IV. Professor Daynard read the following and it was seconded.

*BE IT RESOLVED That* it is the sense of the Senate that the Faculty Giving Initiative demonstrates and strengthens the commitment of the Northeastern faculty to the University and its ongoing pursuit of excellence.

The Professor explained that SAC had initially discussed the initiative, suggested by Professor Peterfreund, following their election in April 2012. The idea was to think about faculty members’ commitment to the University. Their first commitment is to teaching and scholarship, the second to departments and colleges, and the third to University-wide efforts. Part of the entire picture is a commitment to financial support where monies could make a difference within the units or colleges. Advancement has committed assistance and will provide lists of opportunities.

Professor Peterfreund noted that many years ago, when workloads were onerous and salaries poor, he would not have thought of supporting the University in such a manner. However, Northeastern has changed for the better for faculty and the University has been supportive.

Professor Gaffney supported the initiative and noted the importance of mentioning the successes. Professor Daynard noted that the intention is an entirely faculty-driven initiative which is not motivated by the upcoming five-year campaign but will be a continuing activity into the future.

The floor recognized Professor Grabel who has taken part in two major initiatives to garner faculty support. He supported this initiative as a way of showing what is important to faculty.

*VOTE in favor of the Sense of the Senate resolution: PASSED, 33-0-1.*

A motion to adjourn was seconded and the Senate adjourned at 1:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Daynard, Vice Chair,
Faculty Senate