Present: (Professors) Basagni, Board, Carrier, Craig, Fitzgerald, Fountain, Fox, Gouldstone, King, Kruger, Lee, Lefkovitz, Metghalchi, Nelson, Noubir, Ondrechen, Parekh, Rabrenovic, Rappaport, Sceppa, Stepanyants, Yang

(Administrators) Aubry, Courtney, Director, Finkelstein, Fulmer, Loeffelholz, Ronkin

Absent: Professors Cokely, Daynard, De Ritis, Garcia, Makriyannis, Piret, Strasser, Strauss, and Deans Costa, Gibson and Poiger.

The Senate convened at 11:48 AM

I. SAC report. Professor Ondrechen reported that SAC met twice in regular sessions since the last Senate meeting.

The School of Nursing Dean Search Committee has been staffed as follows:

Elected members from Bouvé School of Nursing:
Professor Pam Burke
Professor Rachel Jones
Professor Mary Carney
Professor Tiffany Kim

Appointments:
Clinical Professor Jenny Van Amburgh, BCHS-Pharmacy Practice
Professor Stephen Intille, CCIS
Professor Judith Hall, COS-Psychology

The Senate Committee for Research Policy Oversight has been additionally charged as follows:

The Senate Agenda Committee respectfully requests that the Committee work with administration to re-examine the policy on access to labs by undergraduate students engaged in research projects and to recommend appropriate revisions.

II. Provost Director reported that faculty and staff may now use their preferred name rather than their legal name. Resolution of the matter was more difficult than originally imagined because of data structure issues.

III. Director of Athletics Peter Roby reported another successful year last year. The strategy and perspective continues its emphasis on Leadership and integrity, the Student Athlete
Experience, and Competitive excellence. The Athletics Department is committed to being a national model.

Six sports are targeted for national prominence in the long-range plan and the Department remains committed to broad-based excellence as well. Competitive excellence in men’s basketball, hockey, and rowing has resulted in championships and very high rankings. Women’s basketball saw the most wins in ten years; women’s ice hockey won the Beanpot Championship again; and rowing took second place CAA.

Club sports include 45 programs with 1,200+ participants. Twenty-one teams competed in their respective National Championships. It is hoped that additional facilities will meet the needs of these sports.

Director Roby reported that the Department has worked hard at the fan experience with resulting record crowds, alumni events, and more faculty and staff appreciation events.

Academic accomplishments show eleven consecutive semesters with at least an overall term GPA of 3.0. NU has been on the cutting edge of providing classes to travelling athletes through electronic media as a result of suggestions made by the Faculty Senate several years ago.

Huskies Scholar-Athletes consist of 42 student athletes with GPAs over 3.8. The Director noted that APR scores for last year averaged 988 and the previous year averaged 981.

Next steps are to upgrade to facilities within the institutional master plan and the continuance of excellence in the classroom and on the fields. Solomon Track in Dedham has been upgraded to allow field hockey giving the field hockey team a home thanks to an anonymous gift.

Director Roby acknowledged Professor Fred Wiseman, NCAA faculty representative who has provided support and leadership.

Professor Fox inquired about the ability to attend games and the Director responded that the Department is committed to providing shuttle bus service to allow easy access for students. There has been good attendance at the Dedham facility and the local community is attending as well.

Professor Kruger reported that Director Roby was a member of the NCAA men’s basketball selection committee last spring which is an honor for both Peter and for NU. Director Roby said that it is a five-year appointment and a wonderful experience. His ultimate dream is to leave the room when an NU athlete is discussed!

IV. Dean Aubry read the following and it was seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the University establish the Department of Bioengineering in the College of Engineering.

The Dean reported that the proposal has been strongly and enthusiastically endorsed by COE faculty. In its favor, it will enhance the reputation of COE and the University; it will be on the ground floor of the great contributions that are expected within the field; and the new department will build upon successful existing minors. Students are excited to receive
strengthened education in this area. Bioengineering programs are known to produce students of the highest quality. And finally, the proposal promotes collaboration within NU, regionally and nationally.

Professor Makowski was recognized and reported that a committee has been investigating the possibility for two years within both academia and industry. The department will integrate the current Ph.D. program in Bioengineering. The committee addressed various questions which it undertook to answer in the proposal. A great deal of activity already takes place [in this area] at NU but needs to be assembled in one place to attract students. Bioengineering programs elsewhere attract women and pre-med students, among others, and one-third of those students will consider graduate school. A Bioengineering Department at NU will be extremely competitive with other programs because of Co-op. As well, it provides a means to access the bioengineering community in Boston, which is the best in the country.

Several senators voiced strong support. In addition, a statement of strong support by College of Science Dean Gibson was read in his absence at his request.

Professor Asthagiri was recognized and averred that the theme captures the imagination to pursue an area that can engineer a subset of biology. Bioengineering needs NU's voice in this young discipline. The proposal presents the opportunity for a unique new model and a unique number of colleagues with whom to work on campus.

Professor Ruberti was recognized and added that highly skilled and educated workers – practical engineers – will be needed and NU is engaging at exactly the right time.

VOTE to establish the Department of Bioengineering in the College of Engineering: PASSED, 27-0-0

V. Dean Finkelstein read the following and Professor Rappaport seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed new Faculty Handbook module on tenure and promotion procedures for jointly appointed faculty as set forth in Appendix A of the October 2013 Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure/Promotion and Annual Performance Evaluation for Faculty Members with Joint Appointments.

Professor Madison, chair of the Committee, was recognized. The Committee consisted of several jointly appointed faculty and several administrators that employ such faculty. The approach was to begin with the existing Faculty Handbook procedures to ensure that traditional processes work within the context. Resulting procedures must be both the same and different: the same in that interdisciplinary faculty are expected to contribute to service, teaching, and scholarship and also the same standards whereby they achieve tenure and promotion in a single unit. They should be different with respect to teaching and service as these are split between units. As well, scholarship is performed in several units so there needs to be understanding and broader thinking. The goal was to create policies to address differences while preserving the basic framework.

The resulting proposal seeks to facilitate primary units to integrate views and to promote discussions with the candidate throughout the tenure track. Secondary unit input includes
participation on tenure and promotion committees at the primary unit with the right to vote, and an integrated secondary stage of evaluation. While this can be complicated because of different structures within the units involved, the same goals apply. The Committee achieved remarkable consensus. The floor was opened to questions.

Professor Kruger thanked the Committee for its work on a complicated matter. He expressed several concerns. Page #12, A. External Reviews presents a procedural matter wherein the Provost’s Model Tenure Dossier states that external reviewers must be approved by the Dean. This is a modification of the Tenure and Promotion section of the Faculty Handbook regarding how external reviewers are selected. Such a change should be agreed upon by the Senate, administration and the Board of Trustees. Professor Kruger urged the SAC to take up this issue and bring a solution forward as faculty cannot have a document outside the Faculty Handbook that supersedes current practice.

Professor Kruger continued that another concern may be located on page #15, E.2. The Faculty Handbook states that all members of Tenure and Promotion Committees are elected by faculty colleagues. This should be the same for the secondary unit. He proposed a friendly amendment stating that: The faculty representatives from secondary units shall be elected by the tenured faculty in the secondary units.

Dean Finkelstein said that a faculty member [from the secondary unit to sit on the Tenure and Promotion Committee] must have specific expertise and administration is in the best position to make those choices. Professor Kruger disagreed.

Dean Finkelstein did not accept the proposal as a friendly amendment and so Professor Kruger moved to amend and was seconded by Professor Ondrechen.

Professor Kruger reported that the rationale for the amendment is shared governance and faculty rights. There will be more and more of these committees and there is no one in a better position than faculty [within the secondary unit] to choose who is best to serve on the committee.

Dean Finkelstein asked if the intention is that the elected faculty member must have tenure in the secondary unit. Section 2.b. says not. Professor Kruger took note but did not change his proposed amendment.

Professor Madison explained that the Committee discussed this issue and decided that, due to the nature of the Tenure and Promotion process and who is involved each year from the beginning of that process, i.e. unit heads, those unit heads would have a special level of knowledge. It is presumed and hoped that in most instances the same individual would be chosen that would have been elected.

The amendment reads: The faculty representatives from secondary units shall be elected by the tenured faculty in the secondary units.

VOTE to amend Section E.2. of the proposal: PASSED, 17-9-1.

Professor Ondrechen inquired whether Professor Kruger recommended an amendment for the section on external reviewers. Professor Kruger responded that this is not part of the proposed change for the Faculty Handbook. He expressed uneasiness that the language does not accurately reflect Faculty Handbook procedures wherein nowhere is it stated that
external reviewers must be approved by Deans. He requested that the Senate Agenda Committee examine the matter and seek modification of the Model Tenure Dossier.

VOTE to accept the proposed Faculty Handbook section describing Tenure and Promotion Policies for Jointly Appointed Faculty, as amended: PASSED, 27-0-0.

A motion to enter into committee-of-the-whole was made and seconded. Discussion took place on the subject of preparing associate professors for promotion to full professor. Following discussion the committee-of-the-whole was moved to close.

A motion to adjourn was seconded; the Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Ondrechen, Secretary
Faculty Senate