TO: Faculty Senate  
FROM: Mary Jo Ondrechen, Secretary, Faculty Senate  
SUBJECT: Minutes, 14 November 2012

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

(Administrators) Costa, Director, Finklestein, Gibson, Loeffelholz, Ronkin, Van Den Abbeele, Aubry, Fulmer

Absent: Professors Adams, Daynard, Nelson, Rappaport and Dean Courtney

The Senate was convened at 11:49 AM

I. The minutes of 31 October were approved as written.

II. SAC Report. Professor Ondrechen reported that SAC met twice since the last Senate meeting and four times since the last SAC report. SAC also met once with the Provost.

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

2012-13 Senate Standing Committee for Information Technology Policies

Committee members:
Professor George Alverson, Chair, COS-Physics
Professor Arun Bansil, COS-Physics
Professor Paul Champion, COS-Physics
Professor Ryan Cordell, CSSH-English
Professor John Devlin, BCHS-Pharmacy Practice
Professor Deniz Erdogmus, COE-Electrical and Computing
Academic Specialist Leslie Hitch, CPS-Graduate Program
Professor Terrence Masson, CAMD-Creative Industries
Professor Gene Smotkin, COS-Chemistry
CCIS Representative, TBA
Mr. Zach Shaw, SGA Representative
GSG Representative, TBA
Vice President Rehan Kahn, Information Service, Ex Officio member

Charge:
1. Make recommendations regarding plans for the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC).
2. Evaluate and report on the size of the budget and the number of staff members of the IT department, relative to those of peer and aspirant institutions.
3. Evaluate the research computing services at peer and aspirant institutions and make recommendations for changes to research computing services at NU.

Department of Mathematics Chair Search Committee

*Elected members:*
Professor Egon Schulte  
Professor Jayant Shah  
Professor Petar Topalov

*Appointed members:*
Professor Arun Bansil, COS-Physics  
Professor Laura Lewis, COE-Chemical Engineering

2012-2013 Senate *Ad hoc* Committee to Assess the Role of Full-time, Non-Tenure-Track Faculty

*Committee members:*
Assistant Academic Specialist Rick Arrowood, CPS  
Professor Javed Aslam, CCIS  
Professor Neil Alper, CSSH-Economics  
Professor Jeff Born, CBA-Finance and Insurance  
Senior Academic Specialist Melinda F. Drew, Law  
Professor Thomas R. Gilbert (Chair), COS-Chemistry and Chemical Biology  
Professor Dale Herbeck, CAMD-Communication Studies  
Clinical Instructor Sonya L. Larrieux, BCHS-Physical Therapy  
Associate Dean Peter H. Wiederspahn, CAMD  
Professor Ronald Willey, COE-Chemical Engineering

*Charge*
1. Provide an overview of the utilization of full-time, non-tenure-track faculty at NU over the past decade and how this utilization compares to NU’s match-mate institutions.  
2. Provide an overview of the longevity of full-time, non-tenure-track faculty on the Northeastern faculty;  
3. Provide an overview of full-time, non-tenure-track faculty compensation, benefits, and titles;  
4. Examine the rights and roles of full-time, non-tenure-track faculty in the governance of the units (department/program/school and college).

Finally, regarding the recent Senate resolution regarding the Faculty Giving Initiative – letters have been sent to faculty and all are urged to consider and give.

III. Provost Director reported that Dean Van Den Abbeele of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities will be stepping down for a new position.

The Institute of International Education, which publishes reports on international students at US institutions, has ranked Northeastern University number seven, which is up from sixteen last year. Nationally, Chinese students consist of 26%, followed by India, and South Korea. Northeastern’s international undergraduate population shows China with the largest percentage followed by Saudi Arabia, India, South Korea, and Canada. International undergraduate students represent 18% of incoming students. Northeastern University shows the largest number of international graduate students.
IV. Professor Stepanyants read the following and it was seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate support the recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee for a merit pool of 4% in the fiscal year 2014 effective 1 July 2013.

The Senate recognized Professor John Kwoka, chair of the Senate Committee for Financial Affairs who thanked its members, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of Institutional Research. He reiterated the Committee’s charge concerning the faculty raise pool and proceeded to a presentation of raise pool considerations.

NU continues to face uncertainties; however the University possesses financial and academic strength. Undergraduate enrollments have risen modestly but steadily for the last twelve years while tuition has increased significantly leading to a strengthened financial situation.

Academic strengths are the US News and World Report (USNWR) rankings and strong median SAT scores. Faculty salaries are an important ingredient in NU’s strengths which have direct and indirect benefits. Salary increases are essential to retaining high quality faculty and to hiring high profile new faculty. Faculty salaries play a significant role in USNWR rankings.

The Committee examined recent and median increases relative to inflation and noted no real increase last year which was not an atypical year and so the Committee looked back to 2005 and computed the average increase to be 0.8%.

The Committee also made comparisons to 17 matchmate institutions with figures procured from AAUP. While calculations by those institutions are somewhat different, they remain valid. NU stands slightly above the median. These numbers are not adjusted for cost of living.

A comparison of NU dollar salaries and matchmate salaries by rank show NU above the median for Assistant Professors, less so for Associate Professors and at median for full Professors.

AAUP salary data since 2005 show 3.8% for NU. The matchmate median is 3.9% giving a cumulative shortfall amounting to 1.0% for NU since 2005. The average merit increase at NU since 2005 is 3.1%. FAC recommends an increased raise pool of 4.0% to address the long-term salary gap relative to matchmates.

Professor Fox asked if comparative data exist for increases by rank. Professor Kwoka replied that it does but it was almost exactly the same. Professor Fox suggested that an explanation for that is the different manner in which merit is distributed and Professor Kwoka agreed.

Professor Peterfreund asked if those institutions with medical schools were disaggregated. Vice Provost Zoloth was recognized and noted that the comparable institutions salary information does not include medical schools.

Professor Gaffney urged administration to commit to closing the gap.
VOTE to support a faculty merit pool of 4% in the fiscal year 2014 effective 1 July 2013: PASSED, 30-0-4.

V. Prof Katula read the following and it was seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Design for Sustainable Urban Developments in the College of Arts, Media and Design as approved by the Graduate Council on 3 October 2013 (6-0-0).**

Dean Costa explained that the program aligns with the College mission and provides a central step in the effort to develop in the sustainability area. He recognized Professor Jane Amidon who elaborated further, as follows: The proposed program has two tracks — a one-year, 36-SH track and a two-year, 64-SH track. The program responds to the increasing relevancy of the intersection of urban design with landscape architecture and planning in the face of environmental and economic change. It focuses on the built environment, with particular attention to the spatial, organizational and programmatic impact of urban ecosystem services. Core curricular topics include design and maintenance of sustainable streets; open space networks; green infrastructure; brownfield revitalization; urban wilds and urban habitat; and recreational and scenic environmental assets. The program hopes to attract applicants from three cohorts: a) internal NU students with a first-professional degree in landscape or architecture (for the one-year track); b) external students with a first-professional degree in landscape, architecture, urban design or planning (for the one-year track); c) internal and external students without a first-professional degree (for the two-year track).

Professor Gaffney asked whether security issues would play a role in this program, for instance in the design of an airport. Professor Amidon agreed that it would and called attention to the design of Pennsylvania Avenue where streets were changed with security in mind as well as all the other factors. Professor Peterfreund pointed out that a number of electives were specifically directed to security issues.

VOTE to establish the Master of Design for Sustainable Urban Developments: PASSED, 33-0-0.

VI. A motion to move to Committee of the Whole was made, seconded, and passed by acclamation.

Vice Provost Zoloth was recognized and made a presentation on online education and the graduate campuses. Part of the effort to engage faculty in discussions of these topics has included presentations to Colleges, departments and faculty groups. An intranet site has been provided as well at [www.northeastern.edu/graduatencampusintranet/](http://www.northeastern.edu/graduatencampusintranet/)

NU has a history of innovation and leadership in online education. Today there are over 6,900 online students in 49 degree programs across 48 states making NU one of the largest online providers.

The institution-wide strategy includes a broad portfolio which is focused of high demand professional masters programs and tailored to align to the needs of the region and its industries.
The next generation of online education is based on research and captures the knowledge and skills of expert faculty. Experience informs the courses and the course environment guides students through the learning process using real world problems.

Hybrid delivery allows interaction, reinforces learning, and is preferred by working professionals.

Steps for online courses development begin with faculty providing the academic core, proceeding to a designer who translates that to the online environment, and then proceeding to production, which designs the final interface for course delivery. Assessment and quality control take place at every stage. Assistance is provided for faculty development and support in using new techniques and tools.

The graduate campuses enable NU’s online strategy and expand NU’s impact. Cities with strong economies and demands for high quality professional education are selected based on extensive research. The courses are tailored to regional industry which benefits the region and creates a portal for NU. Vice Provost Zoloth noted that the application pool for North Carolina has increased.

The Vice Provost listed the graduate programs currently online, those due in January, and those due in the summer of 2013. Most all the Colleges are offering online courses.

Questions

Professor Peterfreund asked how adjustments are made for very different student bodies who may feel they require concierge assistance. Vice Provost Zoloth responded that student services in each city are provided as well as video links to student service on campus.

Professor Basagni noted that implementation seems to differ from college to college and wondered if University-wide attention will be given to more uniform implementation. Vice President Zoloth noted that the College of Engineering is at forefront of moving courses online.

Professor Strauss asked for the projected monetary yield per student to which the Vice Provost responded that it is the same as on campus. Professor Strauss surmised that the yield should be greater to which the Vice Provost responded that this is not necessarily so and that online courses do not save a lot of money. Provost Director added that, as on campus, tuition is allocated to units that are teaching the programs. Central costs are then allocated as well as tax. Different allocated costs are realized as infrastructures are different. The tax rate starts at zero and then increases. It is a source of income.

Professor Strauss asked if some estimate of cost return by student is available to which the Provost replied that Colleges sustain different costs and the conversation should take place in the Colleges.

Professor Gaffney noted the importance of ensuring that resources allocated to regional campuses and online courses are not detracting from the main goals of the University. Dean Fulmer agreed that this is an absolute necessity and is not negotiable. She expressed excitement at being at the front of the mainstream.
Professor Gaffney then asked if enrollments are matching projections to which Vice Provost Zoloth replied that they are slightly exceeding projections.

Professor Muftu noted the similarity to the rise of web pages to introduce NU some years ago. Even without satellite campuses, students like to attend class and then go home and listen again.

Professor Peterfreund recalled that the University made a commitment ten years ago to build a strong portfolio of professional masters programs and this is an extension of that outreach. Other regions may be leveraged by a completely online format rather than hybrid.

A motion to exit the Committee of the Whole was made, seconded, and passed by acclamation.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. The Senate adjourned at 1:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Ondrechen, Secretary
Faculty Senate

Presentations made at today’s Senate meeting may be found at https://sharepointportal.nunet.neu.edu/NEUSites/Faculty%20Senate/default.aspx