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

(Administrators) Aubry, Costa, Courtney, Director, Finklestein, Fulmer, Gibson, Loeffelholz, Poiger, Ronkin,

Absent: Professors Alshawabkeh, Bansil, Fox, Lee, Nelson, and Yang

The Senate convened at 11:46 AM

I. The minutes of 30 January were approved as amended.

II. Professor Daynard reported that SAC met twice since the last Senate meeting and once with the senior leadership team. SAC also met with senate committee chairs over lunch to discuss their committee work.

Professor Daynard also reported that Vice Provost Loeffelholz has suggested that, in addition to the Conflict of Interest policy being added to the Lecturer description by unanimous consent at the last Senate meeting, the Conflict of Commitment policy be added as well. SAC has discussed this and agreed, provided there are no objections by the Senate. [There were no objections and so the Conflict of Commitment policy will be added to the legislation pertaining to titles for Lecturers, as passed by the Senate on January 30, 2013.]

A reminder was given to the Colleges who have not scheduled Senate elections to do so soon.

Finally, the 13 March Senate meeting is cancelled. The week of spring break precludes our ability to finalize an agenda immediately following the 27 February Senate meeting.

III. Provost Director reported that the women’s hockey team won the Beanpot last night with a very exciting game. He also reminded all that the first Diversity Inclusion event comes up on 24 February and everyone is encouraged to attend.

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

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the PharmD-MPH Dual Degree in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and the Department of Health Sciences in the Bouvé College of Health
Sciences as approved by the Graduate Council on 12 December 2012.

Professors Edwards and Mohammed were recognized to speak to the motion. A move among pharmacy schools to include more public health in programs has been undertaken in the last ten years. This proposal combines University strengths. There is a national focus on prevention which is addressed by adding the MPH for upcoming professionals. In addition, the combination of multiple professions in this manner offers an enhanced “tool kit”.

Professor Peterfreund added that the proposal extends the range of health care professionals and builds solidly on 4+1 Programs.

Responding to Professor Gaffney’s question, Professor Mohammed noted that the public health arena, concerned about prevention, is hiring more pharmacists. This proposal enables pharmacists to look at wide population issues. A practicing pharmacist’s knowledge is enhanced by the ability to look at the broad picture. Since no one knows what the health care industry will look like even next year, the proposal positions graduates with enhanced maneuverability.

Larger state universities, such as University of Georgia, are already offering such programs and many more are showing interest. NU will have a geographical advantage by offering it now.

VOTE to accept the PharmD-MPH Program proposal: PASSED, 30-0-0.

V. Dean Fulmer read the following and it was seconded:

WHEREAS, any exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful as well as annoying.

AND WHEREAS, smoking occurs throughout the campus, but especially near building entrances, exposing nonsmoking students, faculty, staff and visitors to secondhand smoke, as well as littering the campus with carelessly discarded smoking materials,

AND WHEREAS, nicotine is highly addictive and smoking is deadly, taking an estimated ten years off of life expectancy, Northeastern has an obligation to send a clear message to the University community that it should be avoided,

AND WHEREAS, Northeastern has embarked on a "Ready to Quit" Campaign and other vigorous efforts to assist students, faculty and staff in quitting,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate urges the administration to proceed expeditiously with a campus-wide smoking ban on all University property.
The Dean explained that the proposal provides the opportunity to build on the examples of 1,100 non-smoking campuses across the country. A robust committee is underway including faculty, students and staff to initiate dialogue and prompt action. It is not the intent of the University to become policemen. The Committee wishes to move forward with the support of Senate.

Professor Strauss spoke in favor noting that, in a recent survey, some students found the situation outside the library distressing.

Dean Fulmer confirmed that a representative from Public Safety serves on the committee and Professor Peterfreund noted that lack of follow-through by Public Safety has failed to emphasize strong disincentives to smoke in public.

Professor Daynard, who serves on the committee, added that policies [such as this proposal] tend to be self-enforcing with clear signage and the understanding that it is not condoned. This should not be an enforcement issue.

Professor Lefkovitz expressed mixed feelings in that the proposal seems paternalistic by dictating how adults must behave. It appears to add a rule that is not enforceable in such a public arena. Also, the impact could go beyond current faculty and staff as it sends a message to those considering employment concerning adults making their own decisions.

Professor Strauss wondered about penalties for smoking on campus and asserted that enforcement issues must be addressed.

Professor Ondrechen opined that smokers have brought this upon themselves by congregating in certain areas, particularly building entrances. Others have right to clean air. She also reminded senators that NU is private property.

Many senators spoke strongly in support of the proposed motion. Professor Strauss reiterated that she wishes a response on the enforcement issue which has not been forthcoming.

Dean Fulmer then stated that she would not preempt the committee by discussing details but that the issue of enforcement had been discussed.

Professor Muftu spoke in support of the motion but questioned whether merely banning smoking will work for those who are addicted. Might they not be driven underground?

Ms. Madeleine Estabrook, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, was recognized and reported that the committee has already identified available programs and has also created a new program called ‘Ready to Quit’. The message will be sent via social media.

Professor Poriss, while appreciative of Professor Lefkovitz’s comments, noted that freedom from secondary smoke also a right. She noted, too, that the University cannot enforce non-smoking on Forsyth Street.

Professor Lefkovitz averred that it is irresponsible to vote without more information regarding enforcement and reiterated that she is averse to creating rules that will be broken.
Several senators reiterated their support adding that smoking is the leading preventable cause of deaths in the United States; that it is important to make the symbolic statement that NU is anti-smoking; that the public health aspect is an institutional responsibility; that NU’s core constituency, the students, are most at risk; and that a strong message that NU is not only banning smoking but ready to assist the addicted is necessary.

Professor Cokely offered a friendly amendment by replacement, as follows: BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate urges the administration to proceed expeditiously with programs, processes and policies needed to make Northeastern University a smoke-free campus.

This was accepted by both Dean Fulmer and by Professor Peterfreund as seconder. As amended, the resolution reads:

WHEREAS, any exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful as well as annoying,

AND WHEREAS, smoking occurs throughout the campus, but especially near building entrances, exposing nonsmoking students, faculty, staff and visitors to secondhand smoke, as well as littering the campus with carelessly discarded smoking materials,

AND WHEREAS, nicotine is highly addictive and smoking is deadly, taking an estimated ten years off of life expectancy, Northeastern has an obligation to send a clear message to the University community that it should be avoided,

AND WHEREAS, Northeastern has embarked on a "Ready to Quit" Campaign and other vigorous efforts to assist students, faculty and staff in quitting,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Faculty Senate urges the administration to proceed expeditiously with programs, processes and policies needed to make Northeastern University a smoke-free campus.

VOTE to accept the proposal to support a smoking ban on Northeastern’s campus: PASSED, 32-0-0.

Motion to move to Committee-of-the-whole was made and seconded.

VI. Faculty initiatives. The following is a listing of suggestions by Senators for items that could be considered which would enrich faculty life and community across the campus and facilitated outside the college budgets.

- Provide a quiet place for faculty to have lunch on this side of the tracks to increase colleagues’ quality of life and interdisciplinary dialogue.

- Provide more office space and programs for grading, especially for online courses. The latter suggestion engendered agreement and a discussion on the availability of materials from publishers.
• Provide charging stations for electric cars and better quality labs. Some universities provide charging stations in their garages. The Provost encouraged that the latter be addressed within the colleges.

• Explore how to get class resources into the hands of students. Publishers are changing their model by approaching individual departments to purchase licenses for a course array which might be better approached at the college level. Exploration of a fee structure where students purchase books through the University could benefit the students. The Dean of Libraries noted that much of the primary course materials are available at the library.

• Address the possibility of benefiting from retiring faculty; parameters to make use of their skills at a central level rather than making these decisions department by department.

• Change the carbon footprint of NU, which currently promotes driving, by offering a discounted T-pass to faculty and staff. This is done by many Boston institutions and corporations. Several senators agreed. It was noted, too, that a shuttle connecting the Burlington and Boston campuses has been suggested by the Kostas Center.

• Reinstate some type of NU publishing which was a caveat of the recently passed legislation to sever ties with University Press of New England. This would offer faculty a University-sponsored venue.

• Reinstate activity periods in order that faculty may engage in activities outside their own discipline and improve the intellectual ambience.

• Provide user liaisons as part of IT resources. User liaisons help new users to become familiar with the use of hardware and software and help experienced users to become more sophisticated users. Our competitors have such user liaisons; the liaisons greatly expand campus research capabilities and sometimes serve as co-authors of user publications.

• Improve the working environment for the faculty by repainting and carpeting public use corridors in the UR complex.

A motion to move out of committee-of-the-whole and adjourn was made and seconded.

The Senate adjourned at 1:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Ondrechen, Secretary
Faculty Senate