



# NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Council

March 2, 2018 Minutes

*The mission of the Northeastern State University Faculty Council is to promote communication and cooperation among the faculty and between the faculty and the administration. The Council serves as the faculty's collective voice in shared governance in order to achieve excellence in the academic endeavors of the university. Toward this goal the Council seeks to enhance the university's pursuit and dissemination of knowledge by promoting and preserving academic freedom and integrity, encouraging creative inquiry, and recognizing scholarly achievement. The Council further serves to foster the professional development and economic well-being of the faculty ~ Adopted by the Council, February 6, 2004.*

The meeting was called to order by Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Burkhead Whittle in CASE 134 at 3:00 p.m. on March 2, 2018. There was Zoom access in Tahlequah to Broken Arrow 276, and Muskogee 201.

Guests (Time is typically set aside for administrators who wish to address the council):

Richard Reif and Chad McLane addressed the council. The remaining ITV rooms are large and very cost prohibitive and will be phased out on all three campuses. Zoom Rooms are the alternative to having video conferencing technology available. Statistics were shared from Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 of ITV classroom usage and classroom sizes with Polycom rooms, costing approximately \$120,000 a piece. Webb 614 details were shared, which seats 100 and cost \$50,000 to update to include hanging microphones and digital controls through the computer. Bagley 201 cost less than \$100,000 and includes a microphone bar, two monitors, two cameras, a document camera, new USB technologies, and an existing Smart Board in a room measuring 20' x 30'. This kind of smaller room design allows more funding to be spent in more locations and is the style that looks to be the model for converting other rooms. IT is looking to decommission "gently used" ITV rooms in BASC 219, BALA114, SL 129, and Synar 141. Budgeted monies need to be spent this fiscal year towards this effort and the time it takes to convert a room to this technology is usually only a couple of days. In Muskogee, the OT conference room and Dr. McElroy's conference room are set up for Zoom rooms and IT is looking to convert Synar 220. Appreciation was expressed from council members for the assistance and progress that has been given from the IT department. Further questions can be passed along to Dr. Reif.



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Chad McLane addressed the council. He shared that faculty funds remain available from the Immersive Learning Fund and Technology Innovations for Teaching & Learning (TILT) Fund, which may be used for hardware or software. The maximum for each funding request is \$1,000 and the deadline for both is April 2, 2018, with all funding being spent by the end of the fiscal year. A new initiative from CTL is supporting the development of faculty who incorporate Open Educational Resources into classes, which includes quality online educational materials that defray the costs students pay in purchasing expensive textbooks. A tiered structure is in place for awarding OER grant funding, spanning \$250 for incorporating existing OER content into a course, up to \$1000 for building as much as 75% of new open resource content. All of these submitted applications are evaluated by members of the CTL Advisory Committee before funding is awarded. The older forms for Immersive Learning and TILT funds are being converted to Google Forms for easier submission for applicants. More information can be found at <https://academics.nsuok.edu/teachingandlearning/FundsAwards.aspx>

Karen Carey addressed the council. The Honors Program is expanding opportunities for 50 new students to conduct undergraduate honors research beginning in Fall 2018 and they have until March 10 to apply (October 10 for the Spring 2019 semester). NSU currently has 131 students in the Honors program, based on high ACT scores and GPA, and who are engaged in 5-7 undergraduate honors, general education courses. During students' junior year, they begin their research project, which is 6 credit hours spread out over 4 semesters with a faculty research advisor, and upon completion of their degree, they receive a medallion to wear at graduation and a designation of this achievement on their transcript. These 50 new students would not receive the scholarship from the Honors program, but would have the opportunity for the same scholarly rigor and recognition at commencement. These qualifications include a 3.5 GPA, no Ds or Fs on their transcript, and have completed 60 credit hours. Sophomores are currently being targeted as the best audience for this program. Students must enroll with the Honors program, as this is an arranged course, with signature approval from their research advisor. The culmination of their research must be demonstrated via presentation (ex. Oklahoma Research Day or any professional conference) or submission to a national or international peer-reviewed publication. These guidelines were written by the Honors Advisory Council. Questions were asked if juniors/transfer students would be eligible and they are able, if they can fit the required 6 hours into their schedule.



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Other suggestions were to list this as a major elective course in a given degree plan and for there to be a way for faculty to be paid who partner with undergraduate research students. Suggestions were also given for this to be listed as "undergraduate research" versus "honors research" for the course title.

Eloy Chavez and Julie Lackey addressed the council. The LeadLearnLive Program allows students with intellectual or developmental disabilities to attend college classes, earning a certificate of accomplishment. This program is currently adopted in 48 other states, has already been presented by Provost Landry to the Executive Council, and would be housed in Continuing Education. These are traditional, college-aged individuals and NSU would bring 4 students from the region to begin this program in Fall 2018. This is a 503c program with donated funding. The four pillars of the program are:

- 1.) **Independent living** – students live on campus, have a student mentor to assist them
- 2.) **Social skills** – students are required to join a campus club or organization and engage with routine physical fitness
- 3.) **Academic** – personal, financial management on their level, social and media safety, and transportation and communication skills.
- 4.) **Career development** - setting up a plan and following through, being equipped to later enter the work force to earn a meaningful wage. This is modeled after best practice programs, including the College of Charleston. The goal is for this to earn the federal designation of a Comprehensive Transition Program, which would then receive federal aid. This would begin with a planning period and 3 years of operation, then become self supporting in the 4<sup>th</sup> year, which could later generate revenue for NSU. This program has already received support from campus administration, which includes examples of on-campus housing and food services. Students could transition and become an enrolled college student, but they would have to complete the application process beforehand. Older students could be considered at some point, but this would require a different evaluation process, and best practice programs are targeted at students ages 18-26. NSU students from our Special Education, Counseling, and Health Kinesiology programs, in particular, would have opportunities to gain experience and compassion when working with LeadLearnLive students.



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- I. Call to Order:
- II. Quorum Check: There was a quorum present.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the February 2 meeting were approved.  
<http://offices.nsuok.edu/facultycouncil/FacultyCouncilHome.aspx>
- IV. Old Business Items:
  - A. None
- V. New Business Items
  - A. **Schedule concerns/questions (Delegate Bekkering)**
    1. Publish the finals schedule on the academic calendar before the semester starts so we can include the day and time of the final in the syllabus.
    2. Make midterm grades due the Tuesday after week 8 (in week 9). With a 16 week semester (finals week being the 16<sup>th</sup>), these are the scenarios:
      - i. Courses with two tests will tend to schedule the midterm exam in week 8
      - ii. Courses with three tests will tend to schedule the tests in week 5, 10, and 16
      - iii. Courses with four tests will tend to schedule the tests in weeks 4, 8, 12, and 16

If we make midterm grades due after week 8, we have more opportunity to include scores on tests in week 8 in the calculation of midterm grades.

Vote on proposed suggestions shared by Delegate Bekkering. The motion passed.

- B. Salaries (Delegate Bekkering)

There is a concern about how faculty are growing frustrated by salary limitations and if funding could be re-appropriated from other line-items on campus. Discussion included how faculty could be brought into conversation about better using the resources we have available, including tenured faculty,



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professors emeritus, alumni, donors, and administrators. A motion was made for the council to empower Delegate Bekkering to gather a group of faculty to discuss this further. The motion passed.

C. Policy Update (Handout) - Graduating with Honors

D. **LeadLearnLive**

A motion was made for the Faculty Council to voice its support of this program as presented to the council by Dr. Chavez. The motion passed. The council requests Dr. Chavez to share additional information with the Council so delegates can pass this along to their departmental colleagues.

VI. Committee and Standing Reports:

A. **Faculty Welfare Committee: John (Chair)**

Some zero level courses are being phased into a 1xxx course with a lab. The problem is with midterm reporting when faculty have to enter separate grades into separate locations for the same course. Vice President Diamantopoulos inquired with Julie Sawyer to see if these could be combined and it is currently impossible, but it might be available after an upcoming Banner update.

B. Faculty Awards Committee: Renee (Chair)

C. Ad hoc Strategic Plan Committee: Sarah (Chair)

D. Ad hoc Budget Committee: Sarah (Chair)

E. HawkTalks: Pamela Louderback (Chair)

F. University Committee Reports

To remember: President Turner's e-mail with a focus of recruiting and retaining students, in light of further cutbacks. "This is a shared responsibility of all NSU employees on all three campuses."

Meeting adjourned 5:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Burkhead Whittle, Secretary/Treasurer  
March 9, 2018