



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Council

September 2, 2016 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 President Renee Cambiano in Bagley 121 at 3:00 p.m. on September 2, 2016. There was ITV access in Tahlequah, Broken Arrow and Muskogee.

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

Tom Jackson addressed the Council. He has been working with Cambiano on the RTP Task Force. They are working on clarifying and giving extra flexibility to the C1 Appendix of the Faculty Handbook especially with regard to Scholarly activities. They are looking at changes in definitions of scholarly activity. There is difficulty with consistency with regard to defining scholarly activity across Colleges and Departments. We need to recognize all of the talents of our faculty. The process needs to be clear for all reviewers at all levels. So far, the Task Force has gathered criteria from each Department and conducted focus groups with the Deans.

The Task Force report will not be ready for the Handbook and the September deadline for submission of Promotion and Tenure documents. All changes proposed by the Task Force will come before Faculty Council for approval before being added to the Handbook. Delegates are encouraged to ask for feedback from their colleagues. There were questions about how the new definitions would be followed across campus. The Task Force is currently looking at where the current policy is not being followed. Academic Affairs will support Colleges being consistent with the new guidelines. Previous inconsistencies of practice have led to low morale, surprises and grievances.



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The desire is to have simple, straight-forward and collegial processes in the future.

Stephanie Goad addressed the Council. She brought a proposed policy for allowing Study Abroad students to take classes for credit or no credit (not pass/fail) if they decided in advance. This proposal was based on a few instances where very good students were in courses where they struggled and the result jeopardized their scholarships. These could be language courses or other courses. By allowing this option the student could take more risks and have better study abroad experiences. These students are our better students and we vet them, so this option would probably be used on a limited basis. Several scenarios were discussed. It was pointed out that two improvements would make this compare to the way students at NSU are usually treated. They should have the option of picking which courses are for credit/no credit versus letter grades. They should also be able to decide this after the class has started. They would use the "W" dates that are in existence. Students should also talk with their advisors to be sure they understand how these credits might affect core courses.

The policy was accepted with the two additions above. There is a study abroad fair on September 21st. Classes are encouraged to attend. There is an extra credit exercise available.

- I. Call to Order: Delegates introduced themselves. Linda West was presented to the Council as Secretary/Treasurer for the 2017 academic year. The Council voted to approve the appointment.
- II. Quorum Check: There was a quorum present.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were not approved.
- IV. Old Business Items:
 - A. RTP Task Force Report – See above.
 - B. Delicious Dialogues
Louderback has volunteered to take the lead on these. It was suggested that we form a committee to provide a peer review process for the presentations and solicit Faculty Development grantees to present their research. It was also suggested that the presentations be recorded and published. We could have two tracks and have some peer reviewed and some not. We do want to



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maintain these events and all delegates are asked to promote the events. There will be a call for proposals.

C. Homecoming – September 24, 2016 – Parade.

Everyone was invited to come walk with the College of Education student float. They distribute books every year at the parade.

V. New Business Items

A. Faculty Council Budget – There was discussion about whether it would be a good idea to present a budget in advance each year. There are questions about whether the expenses are predictable. We do have some ideas about how to spend our funds and a budget could show our ongoing need for funds. A budget will be developed.

B. Opening Enrollment – Figures were distributed to delegates.

C. New Faculty – Mentorship – Tabled for next meeting.

D. Faculty Handbook

1. C1 and C2 Combination (See above)

2. Appendix B Review

The Faculty Council Constitution was discussed (Appendix B). There were two motions made and both passed. One motion was to change the election dates for officers back to April of odd numbered years. The second motion involved removing names of University Committees from the Constitution and including them in the By-Laws. Related By-laws were changed by a vote of the delegates. The changes to the Constitution will now go to a vote of the Faculty Association.

E. Delegate Responsibility

West looked for examples from other Universities' policies and read a few to the Council. It was decided to form a small group to write a statement for the By-Laws. Tom Salmon, Brad Montgomery-Anderson and Pamela Louderback volunteered to help West with the wording.



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F. Survey Administrators

There was a short discussion of previous Administrator evaluations. It was decided to ask John Yeutter to visit with Council to go over the history and status of Administrator evaluations.

G. Committees (tabled for lack of time)

1. Faculty Awards Committee.
2. Nominations Committee.
3. Faculty Welfare Committee
4. Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Committee
5. Ad Hoc Budget Committee

VI. Committee and Standing Reports:

A. Faculty Welfare Committee: (John, Chair) Needs membership

B. Faculty Awards Committee: (Chair) – Needs membership

1. Circle of Excellence Awards & Lunch.

C. Ad hoc Strategic Plan Committee: Linda West (Chair) – Needs membership.

D. Ad hoc Budget Committee: Linda West (Chair) Renee, Needs membership.

E. Academic Council Update (tabled for lack of time)

VII. Reminders and Announcements:

- President's Brown Bag Lunch-BA - September 12, 2016 (Annex noon-1:00)
- President's Snack Chat-Muskogee - September 12, 2016 (Sunroom 3:00-4:00)
- President's Brown Bag-Tahlequah - September 16, 2016 (Redbud Room noon-1:00)
- Homecoming -September 23-24, 2016
- Promoting Undergraduate Research - September 30, 2016

Respectfully submitted, Linda West, Secretary/Treasurer
September 6, 2016