



Nov 5, 2021 Faculty Council 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.

Meetings: First Friday of the Month - 3:00 - 5:00 pm

<https://nsuok.zoom.us/j/98709179683>

Call to Order: 3:02pm

Quorum Check: 14 out of 22 and 8 guests

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

- Dr. Kelly Jo Larsen, Assistant VP Enrollment Management - NSU App and Retention Day
Rolled out app during Welcome Week. When Covid first started, people were overwhelmed with email. How do we provide venues so that students can get targeted information, and move other communications, that are not vital, to another platform. The app does much more including due dates from Blackboard.
Tiles that students, faculty, and staff need at a finger-touch. The most popular tile is the dining services tile. Put events directly in the app or from other website links in NSU. Communications feeds for all of the main campus. Anyone can post on that feed. Can set up private channels, such as for COLA. Can invite all majors so that we can target our own students. Can only put people in the channel unless they are in the app. Everyone can choose what notifications they want. Still in the onboarding process, Kelly Jo Larsen can give granular control to individuals who can create groups. Owners, Moderators, and users. If every faculty member can, is that too granular?
Training may be coming. The app is from a vendor "Ready Education." Went through a competitive process. They built it and the university has control over it's personalization. We will have a Faculty Council tile in the app. Terms of use we can read? "Right to Use" was part of the competitive bid process and went through legal. When you sign up you can see the terms of use. Who are the third parties who have access to the information on the app? She doesn't remember, but she can find it. What about identity theft? It's behind the single-sign-in authentication server.
Retention: Save the date - invited to attend Retention Retreat in the UC Ballroom Dec. 7 from 1:30 to 4:30. Pre-identified concerns, ideas, etc. please send. Theme them and discuss at the retreat. Nub
- Briana Clifton, NSU General Counsel - HB 1775: CRT what everyone talks about. The bill never uses the words CRT, instead it sets out explicit items that can't be taught. A section to higher ed: students can't be required to participate in diversity training. It's in onboarding for freshmen, but we don't require students to take any classes on the subject. Drafted poorly and vaguely. Counting on folks taking a broad interpretation of the language. Students can enroll even if they don't attend the diversity section. No infringement of academic freedom. They use the language "higher

education” in section A but not in section B. Section B focuses on public grade school. Some people are worried about teaching about race, ethnicity, and gender, but it’s not something we have to be worried about. Suppose there’s a required course with some material and a student asks not to take it, can we say that they have to? Of course, sometimes a student or parent may complain. There is a complaint mechanism if necessary. Generally you don’t have to revise your curriculum. As long as we don’t teach that one race is better than another, the university will have our backs.

Approval of Minutes: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/facultycouncil/Minutes> motion: Stephen S. second Kathy Siebold. Motion to amend the minutes to strike a statement. Stephen is amenable to amending the motion and she’s in favor of that. Approved. No abstentions and no nays.

Approval of Agenda: motion to approve: Stephen S., second: Luke Foster. All in favor 15.

Old Business Items:

- HB 1775

New Business Items:

- Executive Council Updates
 - Have had 2 meetings since the last Faculty Council meeting. The purpose is to make sure that information is shared university-wide and we have a seat at the table.
 - Sarah Whittle : Pre-enrollment report last Tuesday afternoon. We are one-week off from where we usually are. We are down 23.5% in enrollment compared to a week shy of last year appr. Only 38% of freshmen have enrolled for spring semester. Retention initiative coming up. Longitudinal effects for the last 5 years or so? Impacts on faculty. Some budget adjustments coming for this fiscal year. We can’t raise tuition and fees, and can’t hide behind COVID. We don’t require students to fill out the exit survey to find out why students are or aren’t returning. Continue with the good things we’re doing and work we’re doing with our students.
 - HLC Accreditation: Very early positive feedback: Official report in March. Tentatively, three touch-points: 1. Seen a culture of assessment 2. A culture of interaction and not just communication, 3. A culture of community both internal and external.
 - Athletics: Some solid motion to get our tailgating back together. Dr. King leads the charge. This Saturday is RiverHawk Rally (10 - noon) and a chance to tailgate with Staff Council at The Landing at 10am to 1pm. Kickoff is at 1pm. Staff Council has tents. Bring your own food. Please share the message.

Higher Education Network Symposium on November 12th at 8am.

- Budget: Budget Retreat coming up \$2mil budget shortfall before the enrollment report came out. Adjustments will have to be made. Decisions about mid-month. Alarming, but we’ve dealt with serious financial situations before. We need to focus on retention and get students to remain.
 - Downward trending enrollment is nationwide and perhaps we need to have conversations about higher education and what students want, among other things. Two issues: the immediate budget and the long-term trend.
- Commencement: some minor changes to commencement. We will be in person in Tahlequah in December. No limits to guests. No faculty procession. Sat. Dec 18th

Committee and Standing Reports (as needed):

- Faculty Welfare Committee: Ms. Sarah Whittle
- Faculty Awards Committee: Dr. Nathan Green
- Ad hoc Strategic Plan Committee: Dr. Nathan Green
- Ad hoc Budget Committee: Dr. Cheryl Van Den Handel
- HawkTalks: Dr. Pamela Louderback
- University Committee Report
 - Enrollment Correction Committee: Dr. Das Bradoo
 - Faculty Development: Dr. Pamela Louderback

- Faculty Research: Dr. Pamela Louderback and Dr. Farina King
- Healthy Campus: Dr. Cheryl Van Den Handel
- Strategic Planning: Dr. Nathan Green
- University Advising : Tom Rink
- University Committee Reports by Dr. Nathan Green and Ms. Sarah Whittle
- Faculty Advisory Committee at OSRHE. New members will be elected on 11/6 and Nathan Green will be there. If anyone would like to be on the committee or if Dr. Lauderbach would like to stay on the committee. It's a monthly meeting. Kathy Siebold is interested. Catherine Davenport is interested.
- It's Native American Heritage Month. It's important to all of us. Please encourage others and join in the activities. It's in email.

Important Dates:

- Veterans Monument Ceremony (Thursday, November 11th 11:30)
- Riverhawk Rally- Saturday (11/6)
- Tailgate with Staff Council 10:00-1:00 Saturday (11/6)
- Emerald Ball Reimagined (March 26th, 2022)
- Holiday Open House (UC Ballroom, Dec 2nd 1:30-5:00)
- OEC 1 November enrollment currently open

November 16th at noon Hawk Talk. Dr. Martin. Relative effectiveness of virtual vs face to face. There isn't one in December, but three in the spring.

Anything else for the good of the order?

NSU plans to handle the Federal Vaccine Mandate? Conversations ongoing about it. No mandate at NSU presently. No appetite for that to happen. RUSO is meeting on Tuesday and they will discuss it then. We follow the governing board.

Motion to dismiss Luke F. Stephen S. seconds. 4:42pm