

Faculty Council

February 2, 2024

Agenda

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/91383954220>

Call to Order: 3:01 p.m.

Quorum Check: A quorum was present.

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

- Dr. Cari Weaver Keller, Dean, Graduate College/ Executive Director, Planning & Assessment - Proposal to update [Degrees of Excellence](#)
 - The Degrees of Excellence articulate expectations for undergraduate students in a competency format. The two guiding bodies are NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) and 21st Century Skills, where we are mostly in alignment, except with some technology outcomes. Their need from Faculty Council is to provide feedback if the proposed changes are acceptable.
- Dr. Elaina Ross, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Gen Ed Council Survey
 - In 2023 OSHRE enacted policy changes to decrease the minimum number of state required general education credit hours from 46 to 40. The NSU General Education committee has been asked by Academic Affairs to make a recommendation regarding this policy change and will soon distribute a survey via Academic Affairs, which will be open for two weeks, with hopes of getting feedback from faculty and others on General Education skills, student experiences, and potential revision recommendations. After data analysis they will hold a "town hall" style meeting with a recommendation draft, then in late spring will officially propose recommendations to Academic Affairs.
 - Once it becomes available, faculty members are encouraged to share the survey with current students, alumni, employers who hire our students, and other invested parties to gather the most robust data possible. There will also be opportunities for Faculty to share their thoughts via the survey.
 - Additional discussion centered around OSHRE changing the required number of credit hours to graduate from 124 to 120. This is addressed in Section 3.15
<https://okhighered.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-12-Policy-Chapter-3.pdf>

Approval of Minutes: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/facultycouncil/Minutes.aspx>

A motion and second were given. The motion was approved.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion and second were given. An amendment to the agenda was made from Gen Ed *Council* Survey to Gen Ed *Committee* Survey. The motion was approved with these changes.

Old Business Items:

- Title IX training (Due by March 15th)
- OSRHE [Annual Faculty Survey](#) (Due by Feb 28th)
- Investiture (Friday, March 1st - 1:30 p.m. at Center for Performing Arts)
 - Faculty are encouraged, but not required, to attend. For all faculty who wish to attend formally they should wear regalia and should gather in Jack Dobbins Field House at 1:00 p.m.

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- Processional RSVP - Dr. Green will soon send out a survey to gauge interest in attendance to ensure ample seating space for faculty members. Faculty who wish not to wear regalia are also welcome to attend and sit elsewhere in the CPA.
- There will be a reception afterwards in the UC Ballroom, which is open for all participants to attend.
- Faculty Council gift - Dr. Green is working with Peggy Glenn to pursue an endowed scholarship in celebration of this event through the NSU Foundation. This scholarship would potentially support students who are close to graduating, but lack funding to fully complete their degree. There is some funding in the Faculty Council Foundation account that can be used toward this scholarship, but some additional funds are needed for this to become endowed. Further discussions will need to take place at a later date about how to replenish this account for future projects.
- A speech by Dr. Green will be shared during the investiture and he is currently working on these talking points.

New Business Items:

- Vote on Proposal to update [Degrees of Excellence](#).
 - A motion and second were made to approve the changes shared by Dr. Keller. The motion was approved.
- [Center for Faculty Support and Advancement--Director search](#)
 - No applicants have yet applied, but the search remains open. This group will be faculty led, which used to be a part of the former Center for Teaching and Learning (now NSU Online).
- No Faculty Council meeting will be held on March 1, allowing faculty to attend President Hanley's Investiture. The next Faculty Council meeting will be Friday, April 5.
- SGN - Some Good News
 - There is small growth in spring enrollment!
 - Dr. Jericho Hobson shared there were over 100 high school students and their sponsors on the BA campus celebrating teaching on Friday, February 2!

Committee and Standing Reports (as needed):

- Faculty Welfare Committee: Dr. Renée Cambiano
- Faculty Awards Committee: Dr. Nathan Green
- Budget Oversight Committee: Dr. Nathan Green
- HawkTalks: Dr. Pamela Louderback and Dr. Renée Cambiano
- University Committee Report
 - [Enrollment Correction Committee](#): Dr. Das Bradoo
 - [Faculty Development](#): Dr. Sapna Das-Bradoo
 - [Faculty Research](#): Dr. Dianne Kirk and Dr. Fariba Ehteshami
 - [Healthy Campus](#): Dr. Cheryl Van Den Handel
 - [Strategic Planning](#): Dr. Nathan Green
 - [University Advising](#): Tom Rink
- University Committee Reports by Dr. Nathan Green and Dr. Renée Cambiano

Important Dates:

- President Hanley Investiture - March 1st @1:00 p.m. (Center for Performing Arts)

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Burkhead Whittle