



**NORTHEASTERN**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
**Faculty Council**

**Minutes**  
**Mar 4, 2022**

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: 16/16 and 2 alternates, 3 guests

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

- DropIn Guest: Dr. Steve Turner: Uplifting Centurion Luncheon. Legislative agenda is rather robust. Outstanding faculty and staff doing wonderful work. Wants to say thank you to those who are engaged and love their students and jobs. Please focus on the outcome, but not the obstacles. It will be a combination of things listed in the letter. Let's get this done and change the enrollment in the fall. Thank you for coming to the Brown Bags.

Approval of Minutes: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/facultycouncil/Minutes> Luke and Pam motioned and seconded and approved.

Approval of Agenda Motion to approve Lucas, second Sapna.

Old Business Items:

- **Budget:** In the piece from Academic Affairs, adjustments have been made in cuts to the budget. Q: because we are open-record where our funds go, is there any way to get transparency on each college? Maybe not down to the departments, but at the college level, how much is being cut? Nathan can ask Dr. Landry about that. There might be some sensitivities because each college will have different cuts. Maybe she can tell us the areas that were being cut if not the college-level. Nathan will check with Dr. Landry.
- Applications from freshmen and international students are up. Hopefully, many of these will accept and enroll. There's cautious optimism.
- **Guns on Campus:** Student Council has written a resolution. Staff Council has it on their agenda to vote on it. Feedback: kind of split in one college, so the delegate can't vote, he'd have to abstain. Library: Very few responded. Most were supportive of the law. The majority is in favor of a new Resolution. Faculty in another college was split 50/50. Nathan supports the current law. We should bring this to a vote. A Resolution is a formal statement by this body.
- Tom Rink moves to retain the original Resolution (and not write a new resolution) and seconded by Lucas Foster. There are 16 yays and no nays. Nathan will send a copy of the Resolution with a note to Dr. Turner that we still support it.

New Business Items:

- **Retention priorities:** Following on Dr. Turner's letter. 16 priorities in the letter. April and May have deadlines. Course Shells for Blackboard and for midterm grades. We should have a faculty member on the course shell committee. They want faculty to be involved. Faculty are an important part of this. Some specific issues: A Delegate has a list from her faculty and not a single person thinks that there should be a common course shell. Nathan: these are considered to be the important things to be addressed. Q: Is it the charge of these committees to make policy? Are these new policies go through the University Policy Committee and then come to the Faculty Council? Nathan: The committee charges on the letter say: *Develop a Plan or write a White Paper*. Response: one of the reasons that the Faculty Council is here is to review new policies and recommend that any new policies go through Faculty Council. Q: The way it's worded it sounds like it's going to be done quickly - not necessarily thought of getting feedback and input. Nathan: with speed, quality lacks but with speed things get done and the fall is coming up. Let's make improvements that we can and help move the needle a bit. Q: Do we honestly have the data and feedback that says that students are complaining about the Blackboard. Why is the focus on this instead of the many other things that people are complaining about? Nathan: Cabinet aggregated the lists to their best ability. They asked themselves what can be done by the fall semester? For instance: the lack of hot water during the winter. Infrastructure requires a lot of money and that may be a real issue. Can we get with our Departments and share Blackboard formats? Response: It doesn't make a ton of sense that they want to focus on the format Blackboard for say, a chemistry class compared to a business class. From one program to another there's a difference. Nathan: By Departments. Jerol: students didn't come here to struggle with Blackboard. So no, we don't want students struggling with Blackboard and the committee is well-represented by faculty. Quality Matters is not about design or delivery. When you talk about a course shell, you're not talking about delivery. Your autonomy of what you teach is still yours. Response: One delegate expects students to become more and more facile with what is given to them - they need to be able to adapt. The real world isn't structured like that. They have to adapt to new scenarios. Q: Does TCC use Blackboard and does University Strategies introduce Blackboard. The answer is yes to both. New students get exposed to using Blackboard and University Strategies has them use all of the functionalities. Q: Why did we not receive a list of the Chairs? Ans: They were just put together this week and they are supposed to be putting committee members this week.
- **Midterm Grades:** Is this really a point of contention? Why? Nathan: putting in hundreds of students by clicking on so many buttons. Q: If there are individuals who aren't updating their grades and students don't know, it should be a department-level concern and not a university fix. It's an oversight that should be happening within the department. There are some folks who need to be addressed, but most of us are doing what we need to do. The policies shouldn't be strictly prescriptive for everyone and without them being punitive. Utilize the departments to take care of the problems. You can send comments to Nathan, Sarah, and Cheryl, and we will send them to the committees.
- **SomeGoodNews:** Nathan's been thinking a lot about morale. We are a group of educators and we're here with common ground. He's asked us for student kudos. He's going to read some of these. Send him notes from students about how faculty have impacted their students. Leave the student names off. He's going to take these to Academic and Executive Councils. Please share notes. If you don't like this, he'll stop doing it. He's hopeful.

#### 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 The HawkTalk is on the 8th at 3 pm. They've been going well.
- 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
- Faculty mentoring committee: Grant Alexander: A survey is coming out in the next few days.
- University Committee Reports by Dr. Nathan Green and Ms. Sarah Whittle
- Please pay attention to when important things are going on and show up to support each other. We'll begin populating a list.

Motion to adjourn 4:27 pm