

**November 3, 2023**  
**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 p.m.

<https://nsuok.zoom.us/j/91383954220>

Call to Order: 3:03 p.m.

Quorum Check: A quorum was present.

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

- Dee Gerlach, Associate Professor and Faculty Athletic Representative - Student Athletes
  - This non-paid position is required by the NCAA and is directly appointed by the NSU President. Dr. Gerlach works with the certification officer for student rosters, attends conferences in June and December, and votes on processes for eligibility and transfer waivers. Dr. Gerlach is the chair of the NSU Athletics Committee and a large portion of this position is dealing with student absences. Students should not miss class, if at all possible, and are still responsible for submitting assignments, even if they are traveling with a sports team. Faculty will be alerted by Academic Affairs about a student's absence, but if faculty have trouble with a student attending class, please email Dr. Gerlach - [gerlach@nsuok.edu](mailto:gerlach@nsuok.edu)

Approval of Minutes: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/facultycouncil/Minutes.aspx> There was a motion and second. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

Approval of Agenda: There was a motion and second to approve the agenda.

Old Business Items:

- Blackboard access notification
  - Requests need to be made to the IT Department from the Chair level for someone to be added to a Blackboard course. Provost Swearingen and President Green have communicated about this and President Green will speak to the Chairs Council on November 6, about this concern, then pass along this information to Provost Swearingen. Should another faculty member be added, this role is designated with a guest identification and is hidden from students. Some faculty members are troubled by how audio translations have been added to slideshows by others, with incorrect pronunciation. Conversation centered around the need for the faculty member to be notified in advance of when their Chair requests to be added to their class.

New Business Items:

- Google Bard
  - This is Google's open AI equivalent to Chat GPT. Conversations have been made with President Green and Dr. Richard Reif about this tool. The current issue centers around Computer Science students not having to log in to two Google accounts (NSU and personal) for assignments. President Green will reach out to the Computer Science Chair to see if they are in agreement of using this tool and also contact Dr. Reif about this Google suite tool.
- SGN - Some Good News
  - The Broken Arrow campus clock tower is being fixed!
  - The first week of the Library Scavenger Hunt for University Strategies has gone well!
  - The Green Country Children's Book Festival reached over 660 area students and 65 educators!
  - A new multi-million dollar NASNTI Grant has been awarded!



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- A couple of student presentations were shared at the regional criminal justice association, SWACJ, and two of our students joined a group who won a CSI competition at the event!

**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. Sapna Das-Bradoo
  - [Faculty Development](#): Dr. Sapna Das-Bradoo
  - [Faculty Research](#): Dr. Dianne Kirk and Dr. Fariba Ehteshami
    - Reviewing faculty research applications in Spring 2024.
  - [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
  - Executive Council updates:
    - A new business card has been designed with a QR code on the back that can be customized. Requests can be made via <https://offices.nsuok.edu/communicationsmarketing/Stationery/default.aspx> and 250 cards can be made for each employee per fiscal year with no cost to the department.
    - The Campus Lighting walk will take place Wednesday, November 8, at 6:30 p.m. and participants will meet on the steps of Seminary Hall.
    - The emergency alert that was sent to Tahlequah last month was not sent to some employees, such as the Sodexo staff. Revisions will be made for contacting necessary employees. To update your contact information, please visit <https://eas.nsuok.edu/>.
    - There are all new recruiters on the Tahlequah campus, and one & a half new recruiters in Broken Arrow.
    - Direct admission is going to be extended for students with a certain ACT and GPA threshold to increase enrollment.
    - There is a new, direct marketing campaign from ReUp (<https://reupeducation.com/>) to reach students who have been away from NSU for 3-21 years to return and complete their degree. The company's aspirational goal is to regain 1,000 students/year in 4-5 years.
    - The new e-sports lounge in UC basement has been well received.
    - A new campus profile is updated - <https://academicaffairs.nsuok.edu/nsucampusprofile.aspx>
    - A Provost search committee has been established and President Green is one of the members serving on this committee. A search is also underway for a new Dean for the College of Science and Health Professions.
    - News from Dr. Ron Cambiano - Cherokee Nation has 1,000 vacancies in their workforce and Chief Hoskin has stated his desire for the Cherokee Nation to be a strong leader of employers.
    - Dr. Hanley has submitted a \$10 million request to the Oklahoma Legislature for deferred maintenance for campus buildings regarding heating and cooling systems.
    - Jon Sizemore - Athletics updates include the tennis and golf teams successes, the women's soccer team advancing to the post-season, and the Hall of Fame induction ceremony taking place tonight at the Cherokee Casino.
    - The Emerald will take place Friday, April 26, at the Chota Conference Center. Student video submissions for the talent contest will open in January.
    - RiverHawk Roundtables will take place February 7, March 6, and April 3, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the UC Morgan Room. Contact President Green if you are interested in participating in one of these events.



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- NSGA has a new program to loan regalia to students for graduation. Pay it Forward is the new parking ticket forgiveness program where NSGA pays for the parking fine but the student completes community service in exchange.
- A RUSO Meeting will take place at NSU on November 10, at 9:00 a.m. The main concern of Drs. Hanley and Swearingen is the state of the budget, more so than a need for a certain faculty to student ratio.
- Homecoming was well received, especially the Faculty Teach-Ins. Next year will be NSU's 100th homecoming with more details to come.
- NSU is #3 in the state for being awarded grant money!

**Announcements:**

- Seminary Hall Lights On - November 28th, 5:30 p.m.
- Holiday Reception at the President's House - December 6th
  - Faculty/staff 2:00-4:00 p.m.
  - Community 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Commencement -Saturday, December 9th
  - CBT and CSHP - 9:00 a.m.
  - CoE and CoLA - 1:30 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn at 4:48 p.m. and a second was added.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Burkhead Whittle