

**April 5, 2024**  
**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/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):

- Justin Chase, Director, Riverhawk Scholar Program - The Riverhawk Scholar Experience

The RiverHawks Scholar Program is an Inclusive Post Secondary Education (IPSE) program for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This certificate-seeking program began in 2018 at NSU and was the first program like this in Oklahoma. Students are enrolled in RSP program classes as well as two NSU classes, plus also receive instruction on independent living and social skills. Supportive testimonials were shared by Delegate Corcoran, Professor Flavin, and Secretary Whittle. If anyone has additional questions, please contact Justin Chase.

- Dr. Janaki Iyer, NSU Mentorship Committee - Mentorship Microcredential

The Mentorship Committee is looking at creating a microcredential for faculty who work with undergraduate students. The committee is evaluating and seeking input on what criteria would be implemented to earn this badge. At this preliminary stage, they are looking to align the microcredential with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) goals. Discussion centered around if this would be a part of the RTP process, the nature of how mentorship looks different across different programs and departments, and how successful mentorship has become since a survey was administered and a stronger emphasis was placed on this several years ago. Feedback to Delegate Iyer would be appreciated as she speaks with Academic Affairs administration to better define faculty mentorship.

Approval of Minutes: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/facultycouncil/Minutes.aspx> A motion and second were made. The motion was approved.

Approval of Agenda: A motion and second were made. The motion was approved.

Old Business Items:

- NSU Online Policy Committee

A policy needs to be developed for accreditation and other purposes, but would need to be in place by Fall 2024. Vice President Cambiano has agreed to chair this committee and needs volunteers to serve alongside her. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Vice President Cambiano or President Green.

New Business Items:

- Chair Policy Discussion - Faculty Welfare Committee

The concern is that non-tenured chairs are mentoring and evaluating faculty through the RTP process, when they have not gone through this process, making recommendations for non-renewal of faculty contracts, and also how they are evaluating tenured faculty. The committee has decided to approach the Deans Council and Chairs Council about this and now solicits input from Faculty Council. Members from the College of Business and Technology shared their concerns about how this process has affected them. The Faculty Handbook states that Deans ultimately appoint Department Chairs and conversation arose regarding if this component needs to be revised in the Handbook. The consensus is that the department chair should be tenured and if they are not, clearly delineate how the division of power is distributed.

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- College of Business and Technology RTP proposal review

Changes are being made for the College of Business and Technology to move from Single A accreditation to Double A accreditation, putting NSU on-par with OSU and other larger institutions, but this means substantive changes. CBT has now submitted an RTP proposal for review but many questions surround this proposal. There are incongruencies with how RTP processes are being conducted, compared to the guidelines in the Faculty Handbook. There is now a legitimate concern about how this has come about, how this impacts faculty members in the College of Business and Technology, and how this could potentially impact faculty members in other colleges. If delegates, or any representative from across the University, are interested in assisting with this need, please contact President Green.

- Delegate appreciation - Thank you to those [delegates whose terms are expiring](#) and have served from 2022-2024.

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:

- Employee Appreciation and Recognition - April 25th, 2-4pm, UC Ballroom
- [Lavender Convocation](#) - April 27th, 3-5pm. UC 302
- Circle of Excellence Luncheon - April 30th, 12-1:30pm, UC Ballroom
- Commencement ceremonies:
  - NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry - May 10, 4:00 p.m. @ Center for Performing Arts
  - College of Science and Health Professions - May 10, 6:30 p.m. @ Event Center
  - College of Education - May 11, 9:30 a.m. @ Event Center
  - College of Business and Technology and College of Liberal Arts - May 11, 1:30 p.m. @ Event Center
  - NSU Broken Arrow - May 13, 6:30 p.m. @ ORU Mabee Center

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Burkhead Whittle