

NWOSU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2024

Dr. Riegel called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Those in attendance: Dr. Jennifer Mahieu, Dr. Mary Riegel, Dr. Piper Robida, Dr. Roxie James, Dr. Garret Lahr, Dr. Steven Mackie, Dr. Christie Riley, Dr. Jennifer Sattler (Absent: Dr. Taylor Randolph, Ms. Dana Roark and Prof. Kimberly Weast)

Voting to approve previous meeting minutes happened via email.

New Business

- Student Engagement Vision Statement:
 - All faculty worked on developing draft vision statements during the 2024 Faculty Development Day on Friday, August 16th. These drafts were used as a place to begin the Senate's discussion.
 - Draft statements were evaluated and senate members worked on a final draft to submit to administration.
 - A proposed statement "**Northwestern cultivates an environment where students demonstrate active learning, curiosity, and engagement in the classroom, campus, and community.**" was accepted by the members present.
 - The proposed statement was sent to senate members who were absent so they could provide additional input prior to sending to administration.
- Faculty request for meal reimbursements:
 - Faculty seek to ask administration for permission for certain meal expenses to be reimbursed from departmental funds. These would include meals purchased during departmental interviews or required field trips or conferences that keep faculty away from Alva for more than 4 hours. This would not include per diem meals granted for overnight travel.
 - Concerns:
 - Currently, several chairs are paying out-of-pocket for meal expenses during on-campus interviews. Typically, departments plan a meal with the interviewee, which chairs habitually cover out of pocket. Depending on the number of interviews and vacant positions within a department, these expenses can quickly add up.
 - Other faculty have voiced concern that they are not allowed reimbursement for meals on days of department required travel greater than 4 hours, but less than an overnight stay.

Next faculty senate meeting is planned for mid-November, unless need arises to meet sooner.

Seeing no further new business, Dr. Riegel called the Faculty Senate meeting to an end at 12:19 pm.

NWOSU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024

Dr. Riegel called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Those in attendance: Dr. Jennifer Mahieu, Dr. Mary Riegel, Dr. Piper Robida, Dr. Roxie James, Dr. Garret Lahr, Dr. Steven Mackie, Dr. Christie Riley, Dr. Jennifer Sattler, Dr. Taylor Randolph, and Ms. Dana Roark (Absent: Prof. Kimberly Weast)

Voting to approve previous meeting minutes happened via email.

Old/Continuing Business

- At our September 20th meeting, the faculty senate worked on a draft student engagement vision statement to submit to administration for final approval. After some minor revisions, the final vision statement for student engagement will read:
“Northwestern cultivates an environment where students demonstrate active learning, curiosity, and engagement in the classroom, on campus, and within their communities.”
- Regarding faculty request for meal reimbursements for interviews and during short-term faculty travel:
 - Meals reimbursement for interviews: University budgets cannot be used for this, but Dr. Pecha’s office will provide passes so that department members and candidates can eat as a group at no cost in Coronado Café.
 - Meals during faculty travel: The university cannot reimburse meals for travel that doesn’t require an overnight stay. This is both State and Federal policy.
 - These policies will be reiterated at Chairs meeting.

New Business

- Holiday schedule and Academic Calendar for 2025-2026 was emailed to senate members prior to this meeting – no concerns were raised.
- Call for senate elections will be made in the next few days with voting happening after Thanksgiving Break. We will be electing our 5 designated members this year:
 - 2 members from School of Arts & Sciences stationed on Alva campus,
 - 2 members from School of Professional Studies stationed on the Alva campus, and
 - 1 member from the extended campuses
 - As always, only those members of the faculty eligible to be elected can vote in each of these elections, so we are having three separate elections. The election is to be administered by an ad-hoc committee formed by Dr. Riegel, Dr. James, Dr. Mackie and Dr. Sattler.
- Faculty/Staff Recognition: members of the faculty senate will receive certificates and gather for a group picture at the Faculty/Staff recognition ceremony.
- Should Ranger Connection curriculum be revamped to better prepare students for degree programs? Should there be discipline-specific Ranger Connection sections or should the revised curriculum be more skill-based based, e.g. should students learn things like email etiquette, accessing Blackboard, learning about course rotations and prerequisites relevant to their degree program? Some departments have implemented their own credit-bearing courses within their degree programs to help better prepare students. Faculty senate members agreed that some revisions to Ranger Connection’s curriculum would be good. We will meet with Dean Mosburg to discuss options. Included were requests that specific skills be addressed including but not limited to navigating Blackboard, understanding course rotations, and using self-service. Mentioned was the desire to see Ranger Connection become a more “professional development” style course where students would learn life-skill such as time management, writing professional/appropriate emails, and making good decisions with issues such as social media. The Senate also discussed the possibility of reconsidering the format of the course: ideas included increasing the credit hours as students don’t seem to take a one-hour course seriously, nor are they coming out prepared, considering an 8 week format that meets multiple times per

week rather than the current 16 week format, including more immersive experiences like multi-day camp-style events that would get the students prepared before the semester even begins. The Senate agreed that this topic would take some more work, and collaboration with Student Services to implement, and they would like to revisit this as a project in the spring semester.

Next faculty senate meeting will be in January 2025 when the new members will join and officer elections will take place, unless need arises to meet sooner.

Seeing no further new business, Dr. Riegel called the Faculty Senate meeting to an end at 3:32 pm.