Minutes
Northwestern Emeriti Organization
Executive Council Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2023, 1 pm
1800 Sherman, 5th floor conference room and via Zoom

In attendance:

Executive Council Members:
Jeff Garrett (President)
Steve Carr (Vice President and President-elect)
Charlotte Crane (Secretary)
Rick Cohn (NEO representative to Faculty Senate)
Holly Clayson
Bernard Dobroski
Erv Goldberg (Immediate Past-President)
Emile Okal
Mary Poole
Bob Tanz

Ex-Officio:
Gina Prokopeak, NEO Admin. Asst.

Absent:
Mary Dedinsky (Treasurer)
Sandra Richards

Ex-Officio:
Celina Flowers, Asst. Provost for Faculty

Minutes

The minutes from the December Executive Council meeting were approved without comment.
Reports and Old Business

Faculty Senate

Rick Cohn reported on the Faculty Senate meeting held on January 11. The University budget was presented by Provost Hagerty and University Treasurer Mandy Distel. The University endowment was down from $16 billion at the end of FY ’21 to $15.3 billion at the end of FY ’22; total assets were down by roughly the same amount, from $19.3 billion to $18.6 billion. Revenue was up for FY ’22 (from $2.55 in FY ’21 to $2.9 in FY ’22) by slightly more than expenses (from $2.47 in FY ’21 to $2.7 in FY ’22), producing a margin slightly greater than that projected when the FY ’22 budget was announced.

The University has undertaken to make substantial renovations on Mudd Hall and the Jacobs Center.

The Faculty Senate has begun the process of surveying the faculty, a process that was last done in 2015.

Mobile Hybridization Project

President Garrett was pleased to report that the equipment purchased as part of the Mobile Hybridization Project was used to great success at the Mini-course presented live at the Evanston Public Library, and broadcast as a Zoom Webinar, on January 18. Mike Curtis from NUIT came to troubleshoot. Although there was a minor unexplained glitch (the instream transcription shifted to Spanish in the middle of the session), the setup worked well.

Six people have received training on the equipment (Steve Carr, Erv Goldberg, Jeff Garrett and Gina Prokopeak). Mary Poole has recently joined the Tech Team. There is some concern that not only are more trained NEO members needed, but also that we may need to anticipate paying for NUIT support on a regular basis. Not all of the $10,000 grant has been spent, but the amount remaining after this start-up period will not be enough to pay for a NUIT presence at all events where the equipment will be used.

Mike Curtis has prepared some written materials diagramming the setup and providing step-by-step instructions.

President Garrett will investigate to make certain that there are no outstanding issues regarding insurance coverage for the equipment.

President Garrett indicated that he and Gina Prokopeak would prepare a final report to be sent to the appropriate representatives of The Alumnae of NU.
NEO community events - Mini-Courses:

Deal and Devries, Heart Health. The first of the two sessions by Barbara Deal and Stephen Devries entitled Diet, Heart Health, and Living a Full Life, was held on the evening of January 18. As noted above, the new Mobile Hybridization equipment was used. Although there were some challenges regarding the interface with the Evanston Public Library equipment, in the end the system worked well. The second session will be held on January 25.

Kieckhefer, Sacred Places. Two sessions are scheduled for the evening of April 18 and 25, at the Evanston Public Library. Jeff Garrett shared the preliminary mock-up of the poster for the event.

NEO Membership events

Ottino event. Thirty-three participated in the Zoom-only presentation on December 15 by Julio Ottino entitled Art, Technology, and Science: Intersections, Bifurcations, and Opportunities. This session has been made available for viewing through a link provided in the NEO newsletter.

In the past, the type of presentation (live, live zoom, and zoom recording) has been the choice of the presenter, and these preferences may be indicated by the presenter in a relatively informal way. It is unclear whether the University has specific policies either about securing permissions from presenters or about distribution of university-sponsored content through outlets such as YouTube. Gina Prokopeak and Jeff Garrett will explore these issues.

Mesulam event. Forty-one attended the in-person luncheon event, part of the Memory series, with Marsel Mesulam entitled Memory Capacity in Health and Disease.

March event. There is uncertainty about whether there will be a March event in the Memory series.

May 4 event. Arrangements have begun to be made for a visit to the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago. Twenty people can be accommodated for a 30-minute tour; a social gathering will be arranged in conjunction with the tour.

May 11 event. Jeff Garrett will present the last part of the Memory series, Monasteries, Memory, and Modernity: The Violent End of Monastic Libraries in Europe.
Newsletter editor search

Steve Carr, Joan Linsenmeier and David Zarefsky have compiled a list of candidates for editor of the NEO newsletter. Various reconfigurations of the tasks involved are under discussion.

NEO Meeting with President Schill

Jeff Garrett will be working with Celina Flowers and the Provost's Office to arrange a meeting with President Schill and the NEO leadership. The goals of such a meeting include making President Schill more aware of the continuing contributions of the NEO and its members (numbering over 700) to the University community.

The group acknowledged that some advance preparation for this meeting will be necessary.

Remarks

President Jeff Garrett noted that the next Council meeting will be on February 27 at 1 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.