Minutes  
Northwestern Emeriti Organization  
Executive Council Meeting  
Monday, February 27, 2023, 1:00 pm CST  
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)  
Mary Dedinsky (Treasurer)  
Erv Goldberg (Immediate Past-President)  
Rick Cohn (NEO representative to Faculty Senate)  
Emile Okal  
Mary Poole  
Bob Tanz

Ex-Officio:  
Celina Flowers, Assistant Provost for Faculty  
Gina Prokopeak, Administrative Assistant

Absent

Holly Clayson  
Sandra Richards

Minutes

The minutes of the January 23 meeting were approved without comment.

Reports and Old Business

At the outset of the meeting Jeff Garrett noted the passing on February 19 of Bernie Dobroski, former Dean of the Bienen School of Music and current member of the NEO executive Council. A memorial service will be held at the Kenilworth Union Church at 10:30 am on April 1.
Faculty Senate

Rick Cohn reported on the February 8 meeting of the Faculty Senate at which a discussion of security at both University campuses was led by Luke Figora, VP of Operations and Bruce Lewis, Chief of Police and Senior Associate Vice President of Safety & Security.

The Senate is hoping to conduct a survey of the faculty at large in the near future.

Mobile Hybridization Project

Jeff Garrett prepared a report for the NU Alumnae on the progress and success of the Project. A dedicated laptop and an owl camera remain to be acquired.

It is likely that NEO will continue to need support for AV, when using the mobile hybridization equipment, and should expect to budget for this support after the original grant funds are exhausted.

Newsletter Search Committee for New Editor

Steve Carr has agreed to serve as Executive Editor and will write a President’s column. Editors have been enlisted for the In Memoriam (previously titled Passings) section (George Harmon), and for two other regular contributors (Joan Linsenmeier and Al Telser). Several other potential contribution writers have been identified.

Upcoming Events


Shirley Ryan Ability Lab Tour. This event has been firmly scheduled for March 23, with a somewhat larger capacity (up to 20 with a possibility of even more) than had previously been announced.- Attendees will be responsible for their own transportation; information about transportation, including regarding the use of the NU shuttle, will be provided to registrants. Arrangements for a lunch at the attendees’ expense have been made at Woodwind.
**Meeting with President Schill**
Jeff Garrett has been in communication with President Schill, who has indicated that he would prefer to postpone interaction with NEO that involves its issues and concerns until after his June meeting with the Board of Trustees. At this meeting, he will be outlining for the Board his priorities for the university.

It remains probable that he will attend a dinner meeting of the NEO membership. Although no firm date has been set, this event is likely to occur sometime in late May or early June.

**Memory Series Event**
Jeff Garrett, May 11, presenting on “Monasteries, Memory, and Modernity: The Violent End of Monastic Libraries in Europe” will be the last speaker in the NEO membership Memory series.

This event was originally planned as a luncheon, but may be rescheduled as Zoom only, if necessary to accommodate a membership event with President Schill.

**New Business**

**Survey of Membership**
A survey has been drafted that will collect input from NEO membership regarding their expectations regarding NEO and the benefits it can provide them. It was suggested that some questions be asked about both the time zone in which the member lives and the preferred time for the holding of events.

Other comments should be submitted as soon as possible.

**Appointment of Nominations Committee**
Jeff Garrett reported that steps are nearly complete in the formation of the Nominating Committee for this year.

**Change to Charter Language**
The NEO charter currently ties various actions, including nomination and selection of officers to the holding of meetings at particular times of the year. Given the recent trend away from live meetings, and the possibility that broader participation in governance can be obtained if the act of meeting is made less important, it is likely that some of the language of the NEO charter should be amended.

Jeff Garrett, Rick Cohn, and Gina Prokopeak will work on proposed amendments with this end in mind.
Credit Card Only Policy

The NEO currently allows, but does not require, payment for events to be made in advance, online, with credit cards. Allowing payment at the event, through cash or check, may result in more no-shows than is desirable. Cash payment is also troublesome for security reasons. It is therefore likely that in the future the default method of payment will be by credit card only in advance, with other payment arrangements made only on special request.

Executive Committee Meetings Date Change

A recurring conflict has arisen that requires a change in the meeting date for the remainder of this year, beginning with what would have been the March 27 meeting.

Gina Prokopeak will poll the executive committee to determine the best options for the remainder of this academic year.

Adjournment at 2:25 pm.