Minutes
Northwestern Emeriti Organization
Executive Council Meeting
May 24, 2023, 1:00 pm CDT
In-person and Zoom

In attendance

Executive Council Members:
Jeff Garrett (President)
Steve Carr (Vice President and President-elect)
Charlotte Crane (Secretary)
Mary Dedinsky (Treasurer)
Holly Clayson
Rick Cohn (NEO representative to Faculty Senate)
Mary Poole
Bob Tanz
Victor Yampolsky

Ex-Officio:
Gina Prokopeak, Administrative Assistant

Absent
Sandra Richards
Erv Goldberg (Immediate Past-President)
Emile Okal

Ex-Officio:
Celina Flowers, Assistant Provost for Faculty

Minutes
The minutes of the April 26 meeting were approved.
Reports and Old Business

Faculty Senate
Rick Cohn reported on the May 10 meeting of the Faculty Senate. The new Vice President for Student Affairs, Susan Davis, was introduced. Six nominations for honorary degrees to be awarded in 2024 were made. Jill Wilson of Industrial Engineering & Management Sciences was nominated President-elect. An amendment to the Senate bylaws was proposed.

The Senate has completed a survey of its members regarding the Senate itself, with 67% percent responding. A survey of the full faculty is contemplated.

Rick Cohn also reported on the Northwestern Alumnae awards luncheon, which he attended. He was able to extend thanks to many of the alumnae attending for the grant that allowed the purchase of the remote equipment.

Nominations Committee
Bob Tanz discussed the progress made so far by the nomination committee (which also includes Susan Lee and Michal Ginsburg). Candidates have been identified for two of the three general council member vacancies, Steve Sawyer from Law and Joe Schofer from Engineering; candidates for the two officer vacancies (Treasurer and President-elect) remain to be identified.

There was discussion of whether nominations “from the floor” (as anticipated in the existing charter) would be read to include nominations and self-nominations through the chat function in Zoom. To avoid any ambiguity, the following motion was made, seconded and carried that:

At the June 15, 2023 meeting, nominations and self-nominations can be made in person or virtually.

The possibility of solicitation of further nominations from NEO membership generally was discussed, and generally met with approval.

Events
Prof. Kieckhefer’s Mini-Course presentations, “Sacred Places: What Gave London, Paris, and Florence Their Allure?” on April 20 and May 4, was attended by a total of 200 persons, slightly more via zoom than in person at the Evanston Library.

There was some discussion of the factors that may affect attendance, especially the starting time. The relatively early closing time of the Evanston Library (8 pm) has been thought to operate as a constraint when events are held there, although the possibility of some special arrangements may not have been fully explored. Although those participating remotely may prefer a relatively early
start time so that they are eating dinner while they listen, an early start time may deter those planning to attend in person.

There was discussion of the possibility that our remote equipment be made available for other groups with similar functions, including LACS (Latin American and Caribbean Studies) and MENA (Middle Eastern and North African Studies). Concern was expressed about insurance, technical support, and the need to limit the groups with which we shared our equipment. It was generally agreed that further information would be necessary before a decision could be made.

Jeff Garrett will remain the liaison for the NEO with the Evanston Library.

Pres. Jeff Garrett presented the last NEO event, “Monasteries, Memory, and Modernity: The Violent End of Monastic Libraries in Europe,” remote only at 7 pm on May 11, with 38 attendees.

There was discussion of the length of time that recordings are visible and the means of distribution of recordings of NEO events. Gina Prokopeak indicated that in the past the question has been left to the speaker, with some wanting to limit the availability to a relatively short period of time, while others would prefer longer. There was general agreement that this question, and the related questions regarding publicity and logistics for availability, should be explored further.

**Spring Meeting with guest President Schill June 15**
11:30 In-person lunch and Zoom

Forty-one NEO members so far have registered to attend in person, with eleven additional planning to attend through Zoom.

The conduct of the brief business meeting to be held at this event was discussed. The NEO bylaws effectively require the presentation of nominees for the Executive Council and the acceptance of nominations from the floor at this meeting.

Approval of the change in the charter regarding the timing of the election will be sought through email prior to the meeting. The language of the amendment and the provisions to be altered will be circulated in advance, as required by the provisions in the charter regarding its amendment, along with a concise description of the change.

After the business meeting, Pres. Jeff Garrett will present a short slide show highlighting the recent activities of NEO. (This presentation was reviewed by interested council members after the meeting was adjourned.)

President Schill will then offer remarks. He will be asked several questions, solicited from NEO membership prior to the meeting.
Membership Survey

The survey committee met to continue reviewing the results. Pres. Jeff Garrett will prepare a summary.

NEO Representation to BTRA (Big Ten Retirees Assn) and AROHE (Assoc. of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education)

Representatives to these organizations remains to be identified.

It was noted that it may be appropriate to solicit interest in these positions at the same time NEO members are asked about their participation in interest group activities.

Adjournment at 2:30

The next council meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2023, 1pm CDT, in-person and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Crane Secretary to Northwestern Emeriti Organization