Minutes
Northwestern Emeriti Organization
Executive Council Meeting
April 26, 2023, 1:00 pm CDT
In-Person and via Zoom

In attendance

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

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

Absent
Sandra Richards

Minutes
The minutes of the March 29 meeting were approved with minor amendment.

President Garrett welcomed Council member Victor Yampolsky, newly appointed in the stead of Bernie Dobroski. At the time of his retirement, he was Carol F. and Arthur L. Rice Jr. University Professorship in Music Performance at the Bienen School of Music and had long served as director of Northwestern’s orchestras.
Reports and Old Business

Faculty Senate

Rick Cohn reported that Peter Barris, the new Chair of the Board of Trustees, addressed the April 12 meeting of the Faculty Senate. A resolution was passed regarding the problems associated with birds flying into windows on campus. Two surveys are contemplated, one involving the operations of the Senate itself, one a survey of the full faculty measuring the faculty sense of well-being, similar to that conducted seven or eight years ago. Several other matters are to be considered by the appropriate Senate committee before being brought to the full Senate.

Gina Prokopeak will take steps to ensure that emeriti faculty are included in the distribution of the survey.

Nominations Committee

The nominations committee, led by Bob Tanz with Susan Lee and Michal Ginsburg, have identified a number of prospects. They expect to be able to present a full slate of candidates to the Council at its May meeting.

Upcoming Events

Mini-Course


The first session of Prof. Kieckhefer’s presentation, on April 20, was attended by 73 on zoom and 38 in person. Roughly 80 others had registered, but many were probably deterred by the inclement weather that evening. Mary Poole served as host for the meeting, with the technical aspects handled by Gina Prokopeak. Both Tyler Works (EPL) and Mike Curtis (NUIT) attended and were available in case any technical problems arose, but none did. Susan Markwell, Interim Manager of the EPL’s Lifelong Learning and Literacy Department, thanked NEO for developing the minicourses and introduced the speaker program.

The second session has been rescheduled from April 27 to May 4. Although Prof. Kieckhefer had asked that the public posting of the recording of the first session be postponed until after the second session, Jeff Garrett will explore with him whether the rescheduling changes the situation.
Memory Series
“Monasteries, Memory, and Modernity: The Violent End of Monastic Libraries in Europe” by NEO President and emer. Jeff Garrett. May 11, 7 p.m. Zoom only.

Spring Business Meeting
June 15th with guest President Schill; 11:30 CDT In-person lunch and Zoom.

The link for registration has been available since mid-March, but a new invitation to the entire NEO membership will be sent.

A brief business meeting is likely to be included in this event, at a minimum for the election of new members of the Executive Council. Other business, including the approval of the change in the charter regarding the timing of the election, may also be necessary. 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.

Jeff Garrett will organize a special meeting of the Executive Council to consider the agenda for this event.

Membership Survey

The Survey Committee has begun analysis of the NEO membership survey. About 19% of the membership responded.

Of those responding, 79% live in the Chicago area, even if they spend substantial amounts of time elsewhere; 64% have been to NEO sponsored events; only 31% have ever visited the NEO website. Nine members indicated that they would be willing to lead interest group activities.

There was some discussion of the reasons for the lack of use of the website, including the fact that much of its content is not searchable, either from within the site or from without. At least some of the problems are related to the fact that a large percentage of the posted material is in PDFs that are not themselves searchable given the available search engines. Jeff Garrett has been working with Kevin Leonard, the University Archivist, to determine the nature of the problem; Celina Flowers will also explore the problems and the possible solutions.
NEO Representation

BTRA (Big Ten Retirees Assn)
NEO should identify, by June 25, its representative(s) to BTRA and for the conference to be held in Madison, Wisconsin on July 26. NEO members David Zarefsky and Al Telser were deeply involved (along with Celina Flowers and Gina Prokopeak) in the organization of the 2022 meeting held at NU last August. David will attend this year’s conference, as one of two possible NEO representatives. If another NEO representative is not identified by the conference, Jeff Garrett said that he would be willing to attend. Jeff will ask David and Al for recommendations for future representation to BTRA.

Additional information on this event can be found at https://uwramadison.org/event-4851532.

AROHE (Assoc. Of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education)
With the passing of Bernie Dobroski, Northwestern no longer has a liaison with AROHE.

New Business

Emeriti Status for Retired Senior Staff Member
The procedures associated with the election of a retired senior staff member to NEO were discussed. Additional information about the process and the candidate will be circulated to the Council before its next meeting.

NEO representation at The Alumnae of Northwestern University 2023 Awards Luncheon
Rick Cohn volunteered to represent NEO at the May 15th event at the Norris Center in Evanston.

Adjournment at 2:20

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Crane
Secretary to Northwestern Emeriti Organization

The next council meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2003, 1pm CDT, in-person and via Zoom.