Minutes
Northwestern Emeriti Organization
Executive Council Meeting
June 28, 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)
Holly Clayson
Rick Cohn (NEO representative to Faculty Senate)
Emile Okal
Mary Poole
Sandra Richards
Victor Yampolsky

Ex-Officio:
Gina Prokopeak, Administrative Assistant

Absent
Charlotte Crane (Secretary)
Mary Dedinsky (Treasurer)
Bob Tanz

Ex-Officio:
Celina Flowers, Assistant Provost for Faculty

Minutes
The minutes of the May 24 meeting were approved.
Reports and Old Business

President Garrett noted that the draft of the newsletter was being circulated for proofing.

Faculty Senate

Rick Cohn reported on the June meeting of the Faculty Senate. Julia Davis was elected President-Elect of the Faculty Senate. Two significant reports were presented and discussed.

The first report dealt with salary and benefits. On average, faculty received a 4% raise, which it was noted did not keep pace with inflation. President Schill attended the meeting, and indicated his intent to make changes in the way that raises were determined but offered no specific proposal.

The second report dealt with the survey the Senate conducted of its members regarding the Senate itself. 67% percent responded. There was considerable interest expressed by the respondents in making the Senate meetings more interactive; perhaps, for instance by distributing slides for Senate members to review before the meeting so that more time was available for discussion.

The Senate also considered a change in its bylaws that would allow each of its 10 committees to choose its own chair, rather than having a chair designated by the Senate Executive Committee. Despite the popularity of the proposal among those present at the meeting, it failed to receive the necessary vote of two thirds of the full Senate.

A Faculty Senate survey of the full faculty is contemplated.

Past Events Report

The June 15 NEO Business Meeting and Meeting with President Schill

Gina Prokopeak reported that 60 NEO members and guests attended in person, with an additional 10 participating through Zoom.

There was some discussion of the content of the President’s speech, in particular whether his stated priorities were in line with those stated in his inaugural address.

There was additional discussion of the recording of the meeting that will be sent to the President’s office. A single recording will be sent, but with designation of the portion that includes the NEO President’s slide show depicting the recent activities of NEO (for some of which President Schill was not present), and the portion that includes President Schill’s remarks.
Executive Council Elections

The ballots in the election for members of the Executive Council are due in two days. 106 members have voted so far. There will be no reminder sent, since it is feared that a reminder might trigger some members to vote twice, and the system used cannot identify those who have already responded.

The Council members whose terms are expiring include Sandra Richardson, Mary Poole, Mary Dedinsky, and Victor Yampolsky. The last two (Dedinsky and Yampolsky) appear on the ballot and thus may remain on the Council. Erv Goldberg’s term as past president is ending, with Jeff Garrett assuming that position.

New Business

Executive Council Designations

Rick Cohn agreed to continue as the NEO representative to the Faculty Senate.

A motion was made and passed to endorse pursuing Babette Sanders’ interest in representing Northwestern in the BTRA, and Council Member Holly Clayson’s interest in representing NEO to AROHE.

Summer Events and Projects

A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of holding NEO events in the summer. One possibility might be simply to have NEO facilitate luncheons, with NEO managing reservations, but with each attendee paying their own bill.

Gina Prokopeak will be working on revisions to the website.

President Garrett’s Closing Remarks

President Garrett reported that he and incoming President Carr had sent a welcome message to those joining NEO at the close of the fiscal year.

President Jeff Garrett listed three goals that remain for the Executive Council to continue to work on.
First, to rethink the catering budget so that it is less of a constraint on NEO’s activities. Jeff believed that Mary Dedinsky may have some ideas. Gina Prokopeak offered that she had discovered several ways to make events using NU catering less expensive and was not certain that other providers would be as flexible or less expensive.

The Council very briefly discussed not only ways to make events themselves cost less, but the possibilities of, first, increasing the charge to attendees, and second, charging dues for membership.

Second, the Council needs to continue to explore possibilities for offsite technical support. Although council members have been present at mini-courses, it is clear that technical support is important, but Mike Curtis will no longer be in a position to provide such support.

Third, work needs to be done to make it easier to find information about NEO on the website, especially the content of old newsletters.

Finally, President Garrett is still in the process of preparing a report on the NEO Survey.

**Words of Appreciation and Thanks**

President Garrett expressed his appreciation for the work of the Council, with special thanks to those certain to be leaving the Council (Erv Goldberg, Mary Poole, and Sandra Richardson).

Steve Carr expressed his appreciation for all of Jeff Garrett’s help in his transition and accepted several items signifying the transition (including but not limited to the keys to the NEO offices).

Adjournment at 2:10 p.m.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 26, 2023, 1pm CDT, in-person and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Crane Secretary to Northwestern Emeriti Organization
*prepared from a video recording of the meeting.*