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

In attendance

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

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

Absent
Joe Schofer

Minutes
The minutes of the June 28 meeting were approved.

Reports and Old Business

Introduction of new Executive Council members. President Carr introduced the new Council members, who then offered some information about their careers: Steve Sawyer served at the law school teaching public international law after having served as counsel for a large public corporation and as a prosecutor; Kathy Rundell (a veteran of the NEO Executive Council), was involved in teaching and researching immunology at the medical school.
**Process for Nomination and Selection of the Executive Council.** The nomination and election process were briefly discussed. It was suggested that some mechanism be introduced so that there was more continuity in the nominating committee’s work, and that the process begin earlier. It was suggested that the NEO Charter’s provisions that the nominating committee consist of two members from the NEO membership and a chair from the Executive Council, to be nominated each year by the then president may have contributed to a lack of continuity in the process. No specific change was recommended, and it was noted that several practices could be introduced without an amendment to the charter.

**Welcoming event for new NEO members.** A general discussion was held about the welcoming event for new NEO members. Although in response to Covid concerns the practice was different for the last two years’ new members. Historically, new members have been invited to a dinner sponsored by the President held in connection with Commencement, and to which honorary degree recipients were also invited. Celina Flowers offered that each President of the University has been free to fashion their own events related to Commencement. President Carr indicated his intent to consider whether a direct contact with the President’s office regarding the plans for a new NEO member event would be appropriate.

**Newsletter.** The newsletter is in process for publication at the end of September, under new leadership and with a changed approach to the creation of content. There was a brief discussion about whether the newsletter should contain content that would help NEO members understand the recent events regarding the athletic department, but it was generally felt that it was probably too early to make an assessment of the need to do so.

**Events for the coming year.** The discussion of the events being planned for the coming year began with a discussion of audiences and publicity for NEO-sponsored events. Two general types of events have been held in recent years. First are membership events, open to NEO members and only very select other individuals (e.g., the Alumnae of NU leadership), generally but not always held at NU locations, often accompanied by meals, and publicized only through the newsletter, NEO website and emails to the NEO membership. Second are the minicourses, often including several sessions, held at and with the sponsorship of the Evanston Public library. Both types of events have been available for remote participation, and it is the intent to continue to do so.

There was discussion about whether NEO should organize events that would allow participation from the larger Chicago area. There was also discussion about whether NEO should sponsor more membership events with no meal, only snacks and coffee, or a meal paid for by participants.

Steve Carr indicated that he had begun, with the help of Jeff Garrett and Michal Ginsburg, discussions with mini-course identified speakers: Steve Lubet (retired from the law school, perhaps dealing with abolition or with Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*), Carl Smith (retired from Weinberg, on the emergence of modern Chicago, and for the general NEO lecture series, Karen Smilowitz (McCormick, on humanitarian aid) are among the possible speakers.
There was discussion of organizing a collaborative event with HR. Discussions with Anne Fish, Executive Director of Benefits, regarding the nature of such an event are underway.

Adjournment at 2:04

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 23, 2023, 1pm CDT, in-person and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Crane Secretary to Northwestern Emeriti Organization