Minutes
Northwestern Emeriti Organization
Executive Council Meeting
November 29, 2023, 1:00 pm CDT

In attendance

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

Ex-Officio:
Gina Prokopeak, Administrative Assistant

Called to order at 1:02 p.m. after a brief social gathering.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved, with one minor amendment.

Reports: Faculty senate
Rick Cohn summarized the regular meeting of Faculty Senate on November 15. Regan Thompson presided at his first meeting of the Senate since he became President. Luke Figora, Vice President for Operations and Chief Operating Officer of the University discussed the plans for the replacement of the football stadium, expected to be finished for the Fall 2026 season. He assured the group that this project would have no effect on the University budget.

The Faculty Assembly, of which all NU faculty members, both tenured and untenured, are members, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at the Allen Center.
Reports: NEO member events.

Upcoming events

March 14, 2024. 11:30 a.m. CT, Lunch and Lecture. Prof. Emer. Holly Clayson presents *The Dark Side of the Eiffel Tower.* Guild Lounge at Scott Hall and Zoom.

April 8, 2024. 11 a.m. CT, Music Presentation followed by Lunch. Snr. Lecturer Stephen Alltop, Bienen School of Music, presents from the organ in Alice Millar Chapel followed by lunch in adjacent Parkes Room.

May 8, 2024. 2 p.m. CT. Appetizers and presentation. *Evanston and the History of the Automobile.* Double Clutch, 2121 Ashland Avenue, Evanston. In person only.

There was a brief discussion of new venues for events, especially those not held in conjunction with the Evanston Library. Parking is problematic, especially for events held at Norris, even for those NEO members who have taken advantage of the arrangements for free parking. Parking at sites near the campus bus route might solve the parking problem for some participants, but not for everyone. Accessible parking is especially limited.

Ensuring that there are no obstacles to enabling remote participation is a challenge to using some venues since in general this requires sending a tech assistant to the venue in advance. A recurring problem in using off-campus venues is the need to connect to a speaker system. Further research is needed to determine the cost for a speaker.

High praises were given to the technical assistant for the last event, and hopes were expressed that similar assistance will be available for the Millar Chapel event.

Other logistical challenges involve the disparities in the cost of the venue itself (Norris is less desirable in several respects but can be used at no charge, while Guild Lounge at Scott Hall costs $324); limitations on and costs of catering at various venues.

There was consensus that non-University options be explored, including local houses of worship at which mid-day parking is less likely to be problematic.

Interest was expressed in the possibility of a NEO member event dealing with some aspect of the federal elections, especially given that there is a potential calendar opening in June.
Reports: Mini-courses

Past events:

Wed. Oct. 25, and Wed. Nov. 1, 2023, 6 p.m. CT.
Prof. Emer. Henry Binford replaced Prof. Emer. Carl Smith (who was ill) in the presentation of *The Emergence of Modern Chicago.*
Both sessions had live audiences of about 40 at Evanston Public Library and online audiences of about 70.

Future events:

Tues. Feb. 6 and Feb 13, 2024, 6 p.m. CT.
Evanston Public Library and Zoom.

Thurs. April 18 and April 25, 6 p.m. CT.
Prof. Emer. Peter Hayes, Title TBD.
Evanston Public Library and Zoom.

Reports: The Newsletter

President Carr indicated that planning was underway for the winter edition of the newsletter. A likely new feature will highlight interesting activities, including charitable service, undertaken by NEO members.

Other topics

AROHE retirement counseling. Babette Sanders, NEO’s liaison with AROHE, mentioned the three webinar programs dealing with retirement planning to be offered in late January and February 2024 by AROHE. There was discussion about the difficulties associated with identifying those who have not yet become NEO members because they have not yet actually retired.

NU Cares. Babette Sanders brought the activities of NU Cares to the attention of the group and suggested that NEO consider developing a closer relationship to the organization. NU Cares provides monetary grants to employees of Northwestern facing catastrophic circumstances. There was a consensus that increasing NEO member awareness of NU Cares should be explored.

Future event planning. There was discussion of the process by which events and topics for NEO member events and community events are generated. In the past, the current President, with the help of past presidents (especially Michal Ginsburg) has been responsible for exploring options and finalizing the schedule. Several current executive committee members expressed interest in helping to develop a process with broadened participation.
Next Executive Council meeting will be on January 24 at 1 p.m. CT.

Adjournment at 1:56 p.m. CT.

Future Executive Council meetings are scheduled for 1 p.m. Chicago time on
Feb 28
Mar 27
May 1
June 26

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Crane, Secretary to Northwestern Emeriti Organization