Minutes
Northwestern Emeriti Organization
Executive Council Meeting
January 24, 2024, 1:00 p.m. CT

In attendance
Executive Council Members:
Steve Carr (President and Newsletter Editor)
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
Joe Schofer
Robert Tanz

Guest:
Babette Seligmann Sanders (NEO liaison with AROHE and BTRA)

Ex-Officio:
Gina Prokopeak, Administrative Assistant

Absent
Jeff Garrett (Immediate Past-President)
Victor Yampolsky

Minutes
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. CT after a brief social gathering.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: REPORTS

Faculty Senate
Rick Cohn reported on the January 10 regular meeting of the Faculty Senate.

After discussion with the leaders of the Faculty Senate, President Schill has decided to attend Faculty Senate meetings only when specifically invited.
Provost Hagerty and Mandy Distel, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, gave a report on the University budgeting process. The University set its 2022-2023 annual operating budget at about $3 billion, and ran a surplus of only $8.6 million, representing 0.3% of the budget. Its endowment stands at about $13.7 billion, with debt of $2 billion. Tuition (after scholarships) represents about 24% of annual revenue; and $250 million in scholarship is awarded to over 60% of the student population.

Additional details can be obtained in the minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting, available at https://www.northwestern.edu/faculty-senate/meetings/minutes_fs_1.10.24.pdf, and the links to various University documents that can be found there.

**Member Events**

**Past**

*President Steve Carr had originally been scheduled to host this event but was ill; Holly Clayson served in his stead. 27 attended in person and 13 online. The recording should be available online soon. David Zarefsky’s summary of the narrative will appear in the newsletter.*

**Upcoming**
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, will present from the organ in Alice Millar Chapel followed by lunch in the 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.

June 4, 2024. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CT. NEO Spring Business Meeting. Guild Lounge at Scott Hall and Zoom.
Community/Minicourse Events


April 18 and April 25, 6 p.m. CT. Prof. Emer. Peter Hayes, *Misconceptions about the Holocaust*. Evanston Public Library and Zoom.

Winter Newsletter
A draft containing 12 pages has been circulated and is about ready to send to the general membership. There was a brief discussion of the extent to which the newsletter has been sent beyond the 700 or so members of NEO. Gina Prokopeak indicated that the newsletter has in the past been sent to some administrators, some but not all deans, and perhaps to a few outside organizations, including BTRA and AROHE.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning For Future Events

Visit to Northwestern’s Program on Plant Biology and Conservation.
President Steve Carr is planning to develop a grant application for a specific event in the spring of 2025. His proposal allows up to 100 persons (comprised of NEO members and their guests and NU Alumnae) to become more familiar with the research being conducted by Northwestern’s Program on Plant Biology and Conservation. The event would involve a field trip to two sites, the McCormick Education Center (next to SPAC), and the Plant Conservation Science Center at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. Funds would be sought from the Alumnae of Northwestern, particularly to cover the costs of transportation to the CBG.

Other possible events.
Steve Carr mentioned the possibility of a tour of architecture on the NU campus, particularly as it reflects significant eras and events in the University’s history.

There was also a brief discussion, prompted by Steve Sawyer, regarding the possibility of sponsoring content related to current social issues, including the ongoing debates about academic governance.

Nominating Committee 2023-24

As required by our bylaws, President Steve Carr has begun the process of establishing a Nominating Committee, to identify candidates for the officers and members of the NEO Executive Council to present as a slate at the spring meeting to be held on June 4. The bylaws indicate that the Nominating Committee should be comprised of three members, one of which is a continuing member of the Executive Council. Kathy Rundell (VP/President-elect) will chair this year’s Nominating Committee.
Prior Nominating Committee members have suggested that some ways must be identified to provide more continuity in the nominating process. Apparently, the details of the efforts of prior committees have not always been available to new committees.

Robert Tanz, who previously chaired the Committee, has suggested that the function of the Nominating Committee might be improved if the Nominating Committee were expanded. He has agreed to explore the possibility, and if appropriate, draft language for a bylaw amendment to do this.

Kathy Rundell indicated her strong belief that the Council should include more members associated with Weinberg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Carr reminded the group to post (or update) the bios contained on the NEO webpage. The form for submitting a new bio can be found at https://emeriti.northwestern.edu/members/.

Adjournment at 2:07

The next EC meeting is Wednesday, February 28, 1 p.m. CT.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Crane Secretary to Northwestern Emeriti Organization