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

In attendance
Steve Carr (President)
Kathy Rundell (Vice President and President-elect)
Rick Cohn (NEO representative to Faculty Senate)
Charlote Crane (Secretary)
Mary Dedinsky (Treasurer)
Holly Clayson
Steve Sawyer
Robert Tanz

Ex officio and guests:
Babette Sanders (guest, NEO liaison with AROHE and BTRA)
Celina Flowers, Assistant Provost for Faculty
Gina Prokopeak, Administrative Assistant

Absent:
Jeff Garrett (Immediate Past-President)
Emile Okal
Joe Schofer
Victor Yampolsky

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.
The minutes were approved with minor typographical corrections.

Reports

Faculty Senate
Rick Cohn reported on the April 3 meeting of the Faculty Senate. Peter Barris, Chair of the
Board of Trustees, attended the Senate meeting through Zoom. He noted that included among
the challenges the University faces currently are the continuing controversy over the Athletic
Department and issues of free speech. His summary of the financial plan adopted for the next
seven years included discussion of major capital projects (including the renovation of Jacobs
and the new football stadium, scheduled to open in October 2026.) He acknowledged that the
size of the current board—at 60 members—was large compared to peer institutions, but that
the only changes contemplated was the recent committee restructuring.
Emily Babb, Associate Vice President for Civil Rights and Title IX compliance also gave a report on Title IX compliance.

NEO President’s Report
Steve Carr reported that NEO did not receive the funding requested in the grant application made to the Northwestern Alumnae last February. There was a brief discussion of the fact that the grant process was highly competitive, with requests totaling more than eight times the available funds, and of the ways in which NEO might improve its position in future requests. There was general agreement that a committee be established to further these efforts.

Past and Upcoming Community Events
The first of two sessions presented by Prof. Emer. Peter Hayes, entitled Misconceptions about the Holocaust was held at the Evanston Public Library and Zoom on April 18. Fifty-seven appeared in person and 68 on Zoom. Advance registration for the second session on May 2 is strong, with more than 80 registering to attend in person and 144 remotely. Arrangements had been made for extra security at the event, including notifying the Evanston Police, but this proved unnecessary.

Steve Carr noted that Jeff Garrett has mentioned that the Evanston Public Library is interested in continuing these community events.

Upcoming Membership Events

Evanston and the Automobile
The program on Evanston and the Automobile will be presented in two parts, a Zoom session on Tuesday, May 7 from 2 pm to 2:45 pm presented by NEO President Steve Carr and automobile historian and NU grad Bill Siegfriedt, and an in-person event on Wednesday May 8 at Double Clutch Brewing Company, 2121 Ashland Avenue, Evanston, featuring both a private collection of vintage cars and a tour of the microbrewery ($20 per person).

Spring Business Meeting
The general meeting of the membership will be held June 4. Provost Hagerty will speak to the group briefly.

The Nominating Committee’s proposed slate for new Executive Council members (see below) will be presented, to be voted on by the membership over the following two weeks.

Future Programs
There was a brief discussion of possible future programs. President-elect Kathy Rundell is in the process of organizing a series of programs on Artificial Intelligence, possibly with separate programs, for instance, on AI and Journalism, AI and the Arts, AI and Medicine.

There was also a brief discussion of resuscitating the interest groups organized in affiliation with NEO in the past. Suggestions were made regarding a photography group, a walking group, a
restaurant sampling group, an arts event attendee, or a music attendee group. It was unclear which topics and what formats were most successful in the past.

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee (Kathy Rundell (chair), May Finn and Ken Seeskin) has proposed the following slate for election by the membership to the Executive Council, with terms beginning July 1, 2024:

VP and President-Elect (vice president and president-elect, president, and immediate past-president, for a total of three years):
Barbara Deal/Feinberg
Pediatrics

Secretary (2-year term):
Donna Jurdy/Weinberg
Earth and Planetary Sciences

Councilors (2-year terms):
Robert Gundlach/Weinberg
Linguistics; Writing Program

Phyllis Lassner/Weinberg
Writing Program; Jewish and Israel Studies; Gender Studies

Babette S. Sanders/Feinberg
Physical Sciences and Human Movement Studies

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Charlotte Crane Secretary to Northwestern Emeriti Organization*