Northwestern University
Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences
Minutes of the February 22, 2017 faculty meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM in Harris Hall by Dean Adrian Randolph

I. The minutes of the Faculty Meeting of February 22, 2017 were approved as submitted.

II. Associate Dean Mary Finn presented for discussion the second reading of the Proposed Adjunct Major in Global Health Studies. Finn noted that since the creation of the Global Health Studies minor, there has been consistent student interest in and demand for an adjunct major. Building on the success of the minor over the last 12 years, the committee believed that the program was positioned to offer an adjunct major in Global Health Studies.

Professor Jorge Coronado asked if there would be a language component to the major.

Professor Bill Leonard responded that there was not a language component, however, being that the Global Health Studies major was adjunct, it would leave room in the student’s schedule for other endeavors.

Professor Jorge Coronado then asked whether there would be room to add an elective in languages, and Academic Advisor Michael Maltenfort echoed this question. Professor Bill Leonard responded that it might be possible to expand the number of options. Assistant Professor of Instruction Noelle Sullivan noted that there was a language incentive with certain study abroad programs, but remarked that she would be cautious about making language a requirement, as students from other schools might not have space in their academic portfolio. Associate Professor Laura Brueck suggested that the College continue its commitment to languages by partnering with language departments to signify the important of language to students taking this major. Professor Galya Ruffer commented that in her experience, there have been ways to integrate language into the program without making it a requirement.

Professor Ken Alder remarked that he supported the change, but was concerned about staffing capabilities and noted that oversight of senior thesis projects could make for an enormous demand on faculty time and labor, particularly with teaching track faculty. Professor Bob Gundlach and Associate Dean Monica Russell Rodriguez echoed this concern. Professor Leonard responded that staffing has been previously reviewed and considered and noted that having an adjunct major would allow for more clear accountability and control of faculty time.

Dean Randolph moved for a vote and majority approved.

III. Dean Randolph gave an update on travel restrictions in the wake of the recent executive order out of the White House. He noted that the College has been monitoring the impact of the order on students, faculty and staff. He ceded the floor to faculty to share concerns, input, and advice on the situation.

Professor Galya Ruffer advised faculty to suggest to concerned students that they might carry a record showing residency in the United States for two or more years, and noted that faculty, staff, and students are not required to respond to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
agents who approach them or their classroom. She also noted that other institutions have been setting up an emergency phone line for individuals to call should they have any questions.

Professor Jaqueline Stevens noted that Chicago Public School system recently sent an advisory about the situation to their students, faculty, and staff; stating they do not need to allow agents into their classrooms, and students do not need answer questions from ICE agents. She suggested that the College and faculty disseminate this information to their students to empower them and guide them on how they might respond, should they encounter agents.

Dean Mary Finn wondered if there was an alternative way to pay students who might be undocumented without going through Payroll/E-Verify. Professor Jacqueline Stevens echoed these questions, and requested that the College look into an alternative to E-Verify, noting that many other institutions do not require the E-Verify program.

Professor Noelle Sullivan asked what the process for a plan of response was for the University. Dean Mary Finn noted that the University might look to Chicago Public School system, as they recently convened a committee to respond.

Professor Galya Ruffer mentioned that there was not currently sufficient funding for ICE to organize agents to visit Universities, and warned about possibility of instilling fear across campus. Professor Jacquelyn Stevens noted that the executive order radically expanded the scope of individuals who could be targeted.

Professor Jorge Coronado wondered if the College had an accurate estimation of how many students might be affected by the executive order, so it could be communicated to the community. Dean Mary Finn remarked the University did not have an accurate number since students self-identify, but noted that as the College grows, there will be many more students who could be affected by the executive order.

Professor Jacquelyn Stevens remarked that the executive order could affect faculty who were not greencard holders, stating that in some cases, their social media and online activities could be monitored upon their return to the country, which might constrain their scholarship. She noted it would be worthwhile for the College to make a statement of support for academic freedom and suggested the University work with the Office of General Counsel to offer support in the event scholars are apprehended. The Dean agreed that there was a great deal of uncertainty, and noted that his role was most productive in pursing a response at the University level rather than at the College level, as faculty across the University deserved equal protections. Professor Stevens wondered if there would be support through the Office of General Counsel for any faculty who might be turned away at the border. Dean Randolph responded that this was a question for the College to look into, and encouraged faculty to report any instances of faculty or researchers being stopped at the border. Dean Randolph noted that the College would take the thoughts and concerns expressed into consideration and escalate to the University level when appropriate.

IV. Dean Randolph reminded faculty that incoming Provost Johnathan Holloway would begin his tenure in July and reported that that the new Provost shared the same values as the College, and the noted College would assist in making the transition smooth for him.

V. Associate Dean Ann Bradlow updated the faculty on the status of the Committee on Degree Requirements (CDR), noting the CDR would likely have a report for dissemination at the end of the academic year.
VI. The Dean thanked the faculty in attendance, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.

Respectfully submitted by Courtney Essenpreis, Assistant to the Dean.