

**Minutes for NWOSU Faculty Senate Meeting
September 5, 2025**

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Roxie James at 10:04 AM on Zoom.

Members present: Ms. Teri Allen, Dr. Roxie James, Dr. Garret Lahr, Dr. Jennifer Mahieu, Dr. Mary Riegel, Dr. Christie Riley, Dr. Heidi Ritchie, Dr. Jenny Sattler, Dr. Mark Zadorozny

Absent: Dr. Eduardo Moreira, Prof. Kimberly Weast

Updates on Old/Continuing Business

- Updates from Admin—Language of Diversity: Senators discussed the name change for the Diversity Committee due to federal and state regulations. Dr. James explained that Dr. Bell planned to reach out to the university attorney to see whether the existing strategic plan must also be changed. Also, Drs. James and Riegel discussed changes to the NWOSU hiring statement with admin. An update to the statement has been made and is in place.
- Updates from Admin—FEAD discussions: FEAD will be reaching out to faculty about upcoming changes to the portfolio. Dr. Riegel explained that a potential update may be the adding of another “random” reviewer. She explained that the third reviewer may be from the opposite school of the faculty whose portfolio is being reviewed. Dr. Riegel also explained that a survey will be sent out to faculty to obtain feedback on the addition of another reviewer. This survey will be sent after the October 1 deadline for AY24-25 portfolios. Dr. Riegel then explained that she and FEAD will be working on additional changes to the current rubric in ALCA to clarify any confusion. The changes will also be made after AY24-25 portfolios have been assessed.
- Updates from Admin—University Closure Statement: Senators discussed the newly crafted University Closure Statement. The statement is now on the syllabus template.
- Updates from Admin—Ranger Connection: Dr. James explained that a meeting was held at the end of July between Dr. Bell, Dr. Maier, Dr. James, Dr. Riegel, Dr. Clark, Mr. Mosburg, Ethan Sacket, and Ms. Rose to discuss possible changes to Ranger Connection. Faculty Senate had raised concerns about students being unprepared for basic college logistics such as how to access Blackboard, Self-Service, and Email, in addition to other academically related skills and tasks. Faculty Senate’s recommendations and requests were presented to the group at the July meeting. Drs. James and Riegel made sure to stress that while some Ranger Connection instructors were covering this information, not all were, and the need for consistency was important. Drs. James and Riegel then announced the following updates to Ranger Connection that were discussed at the July meeting:
 - o There is now on a common syllabus to make sure that all topics are covered.
 - o Instructors have a required training with VP Mosburg before the semester begins.
 - o Ranger Connection Handbook will be updated to include important resources/links.Senators were receptive to the requested changes. Drs. James and Riegel also noted that many of the changes would begin happening this fall, but further updates to the handbook would need to be finalized in the Fall 2026 Ranger Connection Handbook. Faculty willingness to teach sections and/or do guest presentations were also discussed and may be implemented in the future. Senators noted that they would see how the changes work this fall, and another meeting could potentially take place in Spring 2026 to discuss if further changes need to be made for next year’s course and handbook.

New Business

- Academic Success Center Survey: Dr. James explained that a survey was sent to

faculty during the first week of classes to answer questions about the ASC and possible ideas for improving the ASC, and that the results of the survey were sent on September 4th to department chairs to pass to faculty. She also explained that Aleya Rose is willing to come discuss with faculty any questions they may have.

- All-Faculty Meeting Feedback: Senators discussed the Friday, all-faculty meeting.
 - o Dr. Sattler noted that faculty would like shorter times meeting all together so that there was more time for longer department meetings.
 - o Dr. James noted that some faculty members suggested possibly eliminating some discussion time or time leading up to activities.
 - o Dr. Riegel indicated that a full day was required due to the Professional Development grant Northwestern received, but suggested the flow could be better designed, discussions could be better structured with sharing groups, and that grouping people together that teach in similar fields, or by general education courses compared to upper-level major classes, might lead to a more beneficial sharing of ideas and techniques.
 - o Dr. Lahr suggested moving the all-faculty meeting earlier in the day and moving the allotted department/committee meeting time to after the all-faculty meeting to allow for a longer meeting to take place.
 - o Dr. James suggested still meeting at 9:30, but maybe finishing all faculty meetings by 1:00 or 2:00 PM, therefore allowing more time for department/committee meetings.
 - o Dr. Zadorozny wanted to know the actual requirements for that Friday and suggested keeping the departments together for student engagement.
 - o Dr. Riley asked if anyone met at the 8-9 hour, and several members indicated that they met at that time either for a department meeting or for their department picture.
 - o Dr. Lahr suggested having more guest speakers talking about specific topics in more depth (such as previous sessions on FERPA and OER's), which seemed very useful for faculty.
 - o Drs. James and Riegel ideas to administration for them to consider for next year.
- Parking Issues: Senators discussed the beginning of semester parking issues, and although faculty acknowledge that parking problems get better as the semester goes along and students settle in, there are still some issues to discuss. One large issue is that faculty are expected to dress professionally, and walking across campus while holding their teaching materials and looking professional can be problematic.
 - o Dr. James suggested thinking about what could be done immediately, in the short term, and in the long term.
 - o Dr. Sattler mentioned that there were people parking in handicapped parking spots that did not have a handicapped parking pass/tag.
 - o Dr. Lahr mentioned that there were people parking in the Vinson Hall parking lot in the fire lane.
 - o Senators noted that an immediate goal may be to have more aggressive ticked in noted "big picture" areas—i.e. Fire Lanes and Handicapped Spaces.
 - o Dr. Zadorozny noted that moving the football coaches to Vinson meant that there were more players and coaches parked in the Vinson Hall lot. He then explained that this is contributing to several of the problems in that lot, and suggested designating

the main part of the Vinson lot be designated as faculty only, but leaving the places along the south end of the lot (along the retaining wall) be designated for commuters.

- o Senators then discussed that there was a problem with student athletes leaving their cars parked in the Vinson lot while traveling.

- o Dr. Riegel suggested proposing all athletes leave from the 8th street lot where it is not a problem if cars park overnight. Senators noted that the students could drop off their travel materials in the Vinson Hall lot, but then they should move their vehicles.

- o Dr. Zadorozny suggested having a conversation with VP Franz and administration with recommendations to help suggest solutions.

- o Dr. Riley asked if the university owned the parking lot where the food truck is parked. Senators confirmed via the campus map that it does, but perhaps students aren't aware of that being available parking.

- o Senators noted that a short-term goal could be to have better communication with students about where they can park, and some of the consequences of parking illegally.

- AI Detection: Senators discussed AI on Northwestern's campus, and noted that faculty are interested in finding more robust methods to detect AI use by students.

- o Dr. James explained that AI detectors are not reliable because as soon as a detector is built, existing AI are updated to get around the detector. She suggested changing course assignments so that it is harder for AI to provide answers.

- o Senators raised questions about looking into AI programs that the university could invest in.

- o Dr. Lahr suggested faculty be firmer with consequences when students are caught cheating/plagiarizing. Dr. James reminded about the Academic Dishonesty form that can be filled out and suggested this might be something that faculty are underutilizing.

Seeing no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. James at 10:58 AM.