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Faculty Senate Minutes August 2021

UNO Faculty Senate

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2021-2022 Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Present: Ammons, Batton, Beneson, Blackman, Bragg, Carroll, Circo, Clinkinbeard, Cliver, Edwards, Eikenberry, Fox, Gandhi, Germonprez, Gift, Harbour, Jawed-Wessel, Jenkins, Jones, King, Kopp, Krause, Li, Melanson, Meza, Moore, Nero, Ostler, Perkinson, Qureshi, Rech, Robinson, Sample, Sanchez, Schulz, Shaw, Siy, Smith-Howell, Strasser, Volkman, Wessling, Wisneski

Absent: Chalecki, Feng, Helm, Maher, Park, Sim, Vnuk

I. Official Call to Order at 9:02 a.m.

II. The Minutes of May 12, 2021 (Attachment 1), June 2, 2021 (Attachment 2), and July 7, 2021 (Attachment 3) were approved as submitted.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report: Senator Wessling

1. SVC Kopp elaborated on DEAI Search Advisory Committee plan. "Our plan is two-fold for the initial launch: (1) assemble a recruitment committee from across the campus. It will have disciplinary, professional, and other forms of diversity in its representation; (2) interview several and hire one search firm to facilitate the process. Search firms recruit pools of qualified candidates, organize the evaluation process for the committee, and manage the calendaring of interviews for those ultimately selected by the committee. They also run reference and background checks. I am interviewing search firms now looking for those with a strong record of placing CDO's, and in parallel working up a possible list of committee members for the chancellor's consideration. The search firm will support the committee in writing a prospectus that not only lays out the position but also the positive qualities about UNO and Omaha." If you are interested in being part of the DEAI Search Advisory Committee please let me know or contact SVC Kopp directly.
2. From the Office of Conduct and Community Standards Trent Fredericksen, Assistant Dean of Students for Conduct and Housing, has shared the Academic Integrity Annual Report. 27 total violations: 16 Plagiarisms, 10 Cheating, and 1 Complicity in Academic Dishonesty. His Observations and Recommendations:
 - a. The most frequent consults between the Office of Conduct and Community Standards and faculty involve issues of academic integrity. There have been instances when an instructor does not afford the accused student a "reasonable opportunity to explain the matter" as described by the policy. A student's right to due process throughout resolution is a critical component to the process and provides the opportunity to explain what occurred as well as the opportunity to appeal to a department chair/dean as well as a hearing within the college.
 - b. It is likely that instances of academic misconduct remain unreported to SCCS. This Office serves as a repository for any misconduct reports and would be responsible for appropriately adjudicating any repeat offenders

- c. Resources regarding the academic integrity policy should be shared annually with all instructors (particularly adjuncts) to ensure consistency in response and procedure.
- d. The Academic Integrity Policy can be viewed reviewed at <https://www.unomaha.edu/studentlife/student-conduct-and-community-standards/policies/academic-integrity.php> Please contact Trent Fredericksen (tfredericksen@unomaha.edu) regarding any questions

3. Other Updates

B. Secretary's Report on EO&A Meeting: Senator Siy

1. Attendees: Li, Kopp, Smith-Howell, Batton, Meza, Ewald, Nero, Ostler, Shaw, Siy, Nero, Wessling
2. Convocation on Aug 22. This serves as a welcome back event for faculty and staff to kick off the new academic year and show appreciation for working through a difficult year.
3. Returning to in-person on-campus activity. Chancellor Li sent out a message with guidelines regarding UNO employees returning to on campus activities starting Aug 23. She explained that the decision to resume normal operations was based on available information about vaccination and CDC guidelines. She wishes to stress that UNO cares about people, and are aware that there are some who will be unable to return to campus, e.g., immuno-compromised people, or being the primary caregiver for one, etc. Those who cannot physically return to campus should work with their supervisors following the alternative work arrangement agreement process.
4. NU statement on Critical Race Theory. Regent Jim Pillen has indicated that he will place a resolution regarding critical race theory on the Aug 13 BoR agenda. NU President Carter and the chancellors sent out a joint statement reiterating the university's strong commitment to academic freedom. The university is awaiting the BoR agenda, which will be finalized on Aug 6.
5. Vaccination location at UNO. Chancellor Li is open to the idea of having a vaccination station on campus, to encourage vaccinations. The administration can work with UComm to set a campaign in motion.
6. BS Black Studies review. SVC Kopp explained that all standalone (not interdisciplinary) undergraduate academic programs have to meet a minimum threshold of 7 graduates a year. The threshold is set by CCPE. Programs not meeting the threshold are reviewed, and Academic Affairs work with the deans to develop a plan to remedy the situation.

The meeting went into recess at 9:33 a.m. and resumed at 11:14 a.m.

7. Change in summer scheduling scheme. FS expressed their appreciation for the new summer scheduling scheme, which reduced the number of standard sessions from 5 to 3, while allowing colleges to retain the ability to schedule special sessions when there is a justifiable pedagogical rationale. SVC Kopp also added that this brings UNO closer in sync with the summer schedules of other campuses.

8. Perception of unilateral decisions made during summer. Related to the change in summer scheduling scheme, Pres. Wessling brought up a concern of an increasing number of academic decisions being made during the summer when faculty are not under contract. The administration does its best effort to avoid decisions in summer, but cautions that unanticipated issues like this one do come up occasionally and cannot be pushed back.
9. Summer roadwork update. VC Ewald reported that there is preliminary discussion about creating a roundabout at the intersection with Elmwood Park and will update when there are new developments. Roadwork continues to be hampered by lack of drivers to bring in concrete.

| Res.# | Date Senate Passed | Title | Admin Reply | Status |
|--------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------|---|
| 4439 | | Faculty Senate Presidential Appointments (a-e) | | Incomplete (appts a&e resolved) |
| 4434 | | Standing Committee Chairs | | Incomplete (PD Chair still needs to be elected) |

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Circo

1. **No meeting; no report**

B. Committee on Educational Resources & Services: Senator Shaw

1. **No meeting; no report**

C. Faculty Personnel & Welfare Committee: Senator Gandhi

1. **No meeting; no report**

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Jones

1. **No meeting; no report**

E. Professional Development: Senator Ammons

1. **No meeting; no report**

F. Committee on Committees: Senator Nero

Senator Nero made a motion to amend his committee report to include the following three resolutions. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. **RESOLUTION: Faculty Senate appointments to Campus Committees (a-b)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following be appointed to Campus Committees as designated:

a. Education Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward as three-year appointments, from 08/01/21, through 07/31/24, to the Education Policy & Advisory Committee (EPAC) to replace Heidi Blackburn (Lib), whose term will expire:

Omer Farooq (Lib) to replace Heidi Blackburn (Lib);

b. Technology Resources, Services & Planning

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as three-year appointments, from 08/01/21, through 07/31/24, to Technology Resources, Service & Planning to replace Miriam Kuhn (CEHHS) whose terms will expire:

Sarah Churchill (CEHHS) to replace Xiaoyue (Zoe) Cheng (A&S);

2. RESOLUTION: Faculty Senate appointments to University Committees (a-b)

BE IT RESOLVED that the following be appointed to University Committees as designated:

a. University Committee for the Advancement of Teaching

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as three-year appointments from 08/01/21, through 08/01/24, to the University Committee for the Advancement of Teaching, to replace those completing their terms:

Melissa Cast-Brede (CEHHS) to replace Bridget Franks (CEHHS)

b. University Committee on Research & Creative Activity (UCRCA)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name goes forward as three-year appointments, from 08/01/21 through 08/01/24, to replace a member who is completing their term on the UCRCA (University Committee on Research & Creative Activity):

Angela Eikenberry (CPACS) to replace Nancy Kelley (CPACS)
James Clark (A&S) to fill the Humanities vacancy.

3. RESOLUTION: Faculty Senate Presidential Appointments

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate President appoints the following as designated:

a. Alumni Association Board of Directors

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate President appoints the following UNO alum as the senate representative for one year, 08/1/21, through 07/31/22, to the Alumni Association, Board of Directors, to replace Janice Rech, whose term has expired:

Derrick Nero (CEHHS).

b. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate President appoints the following to be the Senate representative for a one year appointment, through May 2022, to the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON):

Zhigang Feng (CBA).

c. Budget Advisory Committee (Faculty Senate Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate President has appointed the following faculty member to the Faculty Senate Budget Advisory Committee as a three-year appointment, from August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2024, to replace Carol Ebden, whose term will expire:

David Volkman (CBA).

V. Other Faculty Senate Committees

VI. Non-Senate Committee Report(s)

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Election of the Professional Development Chair

Janice Rech was elected to be the chair by the committee.

B. Election of the fifth Executive Officer

RESOLUTION: Fifth Executive Officer

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accord the Article V.A.2 of its Bylaws the Faculty Senate elects

Senator _____ as a 2021-2022 Executive Officer.

Senator Nero nominated Senator Jones, who accepted the nomination, and was approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting when into recess at 12:00 p.m. and resumed at 3:10 p.m.

VIII. Adjourn at 3:36 p.m.