

2006

Faculty Senate Annual report 2005-2006

UNO Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2005-APRIL 2006

President Hollis F. Glaser

Senate Resolutions:

The following are the resolutions the faculty senate passed this year, excluding those from the Rules Committee and the Executive Committee appointing faculty to a variety of committees. The full text of each resolution can be found at: http://www.unomaha.edu/facsen/archives/resolutions.index/2005_2006.htm

#2780: Be it resolved that the week before finals, now called "Dead Week," be changed to "Prep Week," while keeping the emphasis on no major tests be given that week.

#2794: Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate supports the establishment at UNO of a Center for ePortfolio-Based Assessment.

#2806: (From Academic and Curricular Affairs) The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha strongly discourages the public posting of student social security numbers or any portion thereof in any form by faculty, staff, or administrators; and the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha supports the Chancellor in taking appropriate measures necessary to end this practice, and we specifically encourage the use of Blackboard to communicate assessment and evaluation information to students.

#2807: (From Goals and Directions) The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha strongly encourages the University of Nebraska to offer in-state tuition to residents of the three aforementioned Iowa counties [Harrison, Pottawatomie, and Mills] for matriculation at UNO.

#2808: The UNO Faculty Senate encourages UNO campus funding sources such as UCAT that any NU faculty member who holds a tenured or tenure-track position at UNO should be considered eligible for funding support.

#2811: The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha salutes the 2005 soccer team and Coach Don Klosterman, wishing him and the soccer program continued athletic and academic success.

#2813: (From Academic and Curricular Affairs) The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha approves the proposal for a School of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service.

#2814: (From Academic and Curricular Affairs) Recommend that the colleges make every effort to prominently display college-level policies and procedures governing academic and student affairs.

#2815: The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha salutes the 2005 wrestling team and Coach Mike Denney and his staff, wishing them and the wrestling program continued athletic and academic success.

Summary by committee:

A. Academic and Curricular Affairs--Chair, Debra Anderson:
Center for Afghanistan Studies

This committee responded to Sam Walker's missive regarding the Center for Afghanistan Studies by reviewing the past two academic reviews on this unit, and looking at how "centers" are reviewed. The committee reported the following:

The CAS is up for review next year. The committee is attempting to determine whether there are specific policies in place by either the Board of Regents or another administrative body that dictate reviews of centers. The committee is concerned about making recommendations about whether or not to review centers when the term "center" seems to be

concerned about making recommendations about whether or not to review centers when the term "center" seems to be used loosely and without standardization. In other words, UNO has centers, offices, academies, and agencies that have different purposes and goals. Some of the questions we are wrestling with are: Should centers and non-academic programs be reviewed as part of the regular academic review process? Should specific criteria be established for them? Should faculty or administration be responsible for oversight of these entities?

The definition and criteria for these entities will occur at two levels: (1) Board of Regents and (2) campus. First, the Board of Regents passed a policy defining centers, bureaus, and institutes, including relevant criteria. Each of the four campuses has begun to inventory entities that meet these criteria. These centers will be reviewed every five years and are accountable to the Board of Regents and the President. Centers connected to academic units will undergo an additional review as part of the Academic Planning Council's review process. Second, UNO will continue to use the term "center" for entities that do not meet the Board of Regents' criteria, e.g., Speech Center, Writing Center, Milo Bail Student Center. A campus process with set criteria and guidelines will be developed soon.

Dual Enrollment

This committee also monitored the dual enrollment program and reported that the data indicates students are more likely to come to UNO if they have had involvement with faculty and if students indicate overall satisfaction with the Dual Enrollment program. The number of students participating in dual enrollment has increased steadily since its inception in 2003-2004. The latest data indicates 500 students have taken almost 800 dual enrollment courses.

Passed Resolution #2806 (see above).

Passed Resolution # 2813 (see above).

Passed Resolution #2814 (see above)

B. Committee on Education Resources and Services--Chair, Marsha Watson:

This committee selected a number of undergraduate and graduate students to receive scholarships.

They also monitored and engaged with the administration regarding best uses of ePortfolio, AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program), and ITS in general. They facilitated a meeting between the ITS administrators and Mac users on campus to solve problems about Mac compatibility. They also held focus groups about the possibility of having a standardized course evaluation system across campus and investigated concerns about the library serials budget.

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare--Chair, Andris Skreija:

The focus of this committee was faculty diversity and why faculty leave. They looked into exit interviews and how they are conducted. They discovered that the ombudsperson only has one faculty exit interview. They then moved into the possibility of forming focus groups on campus to ascertain how minority and female faculty feel about their jobs. In this vein, they encourage faculty to look at the following website, given to them by the Director of Institutional Research.

<<http://www.unomaha.edu/instres/oir/surveys/data/facultysurvey2001.pdf>>,
<<http://www.unomaha.edu/instres/oir/peerinstitutions/peercomparisons.html>> and
<<http://unoportfolio.unomaha.edu/portfolio/institutional/goal2.php>>

The committee is planning to conduct focus groups of diverse faculty in the fall of 2006 to more deeply understand the campus culture, as it specifically feels to women and faculty of color.

D. Committee on Goals and Directions--Meredith Bacon, Chair.

This committee's focus was student diversity. They looked at how to implement quality assurance and improve the public image of UNO. Regarding the latter, they met with representatives from University Affairs and encourage faculty to use the resources of that unit when speaking in the media.

Passed Resolution #2807 (see above).

E. Committee on Professional Development--Bill Corcoran, Chair:

This committee looked carefully at the issue of faculty mentoring and felt that the informal approach would work best. They also looked at the new FacConnect portal and encourage all faculty to take advantage of the website. They are currently looking at the need for UCR, sponsored projects, and grant writing workshops.

Passed Resolution # 2780 (see above).

Passed Resolution #2808 (see above).

F. *Committee on Rules*--Amanda Randall, Chair:

Although this is the briefest part of my report, this committee was (arguably) the hardest working one, filling over seventy positions on senate and university-wide committees. Thanks to this committee, faculty are participating in the governance of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

G. *Ad-hoc Committee on Faculty Grievance Committee Procedures*

This committee reviewed and clarified procedures for the Faculty Grievance Committee. It still needs to be passed by the entire faculty senate and then ultimately approved by the Board of Regents.

Speakers at Senate Meetings:

August Retreat speakers:

- Chancellor Belck
- Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Christensen
- Associate Vice Chancellor Rogers

September:

- Steve Shorb, Dean, UNO Library, gave an update, including the current library construction.

October:

- Yano Jones, Assistant Director, Recruitment Services, gave a ten minute presentation of how he recruits multicultural students and answered questions.

November:

- Dr. Kim Sosin, UNO Faculty Senate representative to the U-Wide Fringe Benefits Committee gave a short presentation and took questions.

December:

- David Cicotello, Director, Enrollment Systems, gave a presentation on recruiting new students to UNO.

March:

- Dr. Sam Brown gave a presentation and took questions regarding the Final Report of the NU President's Health Care Committee.

April:

- Chancellor Belck gave an overview of the UNO Ten Year Master Plan.

May:

- President Milliken addressed the faculty on the strategic plan.