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Faculty Senate Minutes April 2020

UNO Faculty Senate

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2019-2020 Faculty Senate**Minutes**

Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 2p.m.

Virtual

Present: Adidam, Anderson, Barone, Cast-Brede, Davidson, DeSanti, Hale, Helm, Kelly, King, Logsdon, Maher, Nero, Ostler, Paine, Podariu, Qureshi, Randall, Rech, Rogers, Schaffer, Schoenbeck, Sharif-Kashani, Shaw, Sim, Siy, Surface, Volkman, Wessling, Walls

Excused: Lee, Woody

Unexcused: Brownlee, Huq, Kilinc, Zhong

I. The meeting was Called to Order by President Hale at 2:01 p.m.

Temporary rules of order

This meeting will be conducted via Zoom, consistent with state, local, and university guidance regarding social distancing.

With this large group, I will share my screen via Zoom and host the meeting presentation slides. I ask all senators to connect to Zoom using a webcam (if available) and a microphone. I will also ask everyone to mute their microphones when in the meeting. If microphones are not muted, I will use my discretion to mute microphones to ensure audio quality.

As we proceed through the reports and other elements of the agenda, I will use the following procedures to ensure everyone has voice and agency and is able to engage in the meeting.

- Individuals delivering a report will be asked to unmute, I will mute my microphone
- After a report, I will ask senators if they have questions, comments, or otherwise. I ask all senators that wish to speak, to please use the zoom chat feature – typing out “I have a comment/question.”
- For senators without access to a computer, I will ask them to mute their phone microphone and only unmute to request time for comment/questions.
- I will acknowledge each senator to speak and unmute their microphone in the order I receive requests to comment.
- For all non-resolution votes, I will ask “Is there any objection to approval of this item” – anyone can unmute or type in chat to object – at which point, I will send out a shared zoom poll to collect and count votes. If no objection is raised, I am told by Jim that we may approve items of business without a vote count.
- For resolution votes, I will send out a shared zoom poll to collect and count votes.
- If there are secondary motions, I will ask the senator proposing the secondary motion to please type it out in the zoom chat. I will then read the secondary motion and, when it comes time to vote, use a zoom poll to collect and count votes.

II. The Minutes of March 11, 2020 were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Hale

- **Comments from SVC Kopp**

SVC Sacha Kopp thanks the faculty and staff on the preparation and transitions that have occurred during this time.

President Carter issued a work from home order for the NU System, which is demonstrating a real leadership role for the state. Sacha Kopp's office sent a letter to all faculty and staff that are considered essential. The letter should be carried in their car, in case a police officer pulls you over in the future. Sacha Kopp has made it flexible for faculty and staff to come into campus. Speak to your dean if you need a letter. Faculty that need to televise labs and other situations that need the use of on campus resources are still permitted.

Junior faculty have put a lot of time into the creation of online materials. He knows limited access for different activities is presenting issues for faculty. All faculty will have an additional year to go for tenure. Everyone will get an extra year unless they ask to not have it. This is not meant to make you have another years of extra work, only extra time for those who need it. His office will be releasing a memo soon.

Faculty are encouraged to communicate care for their students. 250 students living in dorms are moving into other dorms this week. Faculty are expected to be understanding during this disruption.

Students are thinking about their future. 1 in 6 students are contemplating taking a gap year from high school into college right now. For UNO, this would be losing about 1/6 of enrollment. We are thinking about offering free course to high school seniors going into the Fall. We are thinking about a modified policy on academic suspension for current students.

Questions:

Are there any plans to keep the dorms open for the international students during the summer? Yes, the majority of the students in the dorms are international students. Students can choose to continue to live in the dorms or go home. We are making every accommodation available to them during this time.

Is assistance being provided to students that are currently moving the dorms? The housing team has been contacting people with trucks. Students are receiving the needed resources.

How will classes be taught in the Fall Semester and when will that decision be made? There have not been any meaningful discussions regarding the Fall Semester. We hope this outbreak will be remediated by Fall. Currently our plans are to return to normal operations for the Fall. We are in active conversations about Fall enrollment and are in talks of incentivizing students to enroll at UNO.

Several students who have left Nebraska to attend college are now back at home. Are there efforts to attract these students? The marketing team has media efforts in place to attract students.

Are there efforts at the college or department level regarding increasing enrollment? Conversations have started on many levels. Think about re-enrollment. In a typical year, 35% of students leave every year and never return to UNO. Faculty should maintain intimate and interpersonal connections with their students. Check-in with your students and do outreach with your students. If re-enrollment of students can be maintained, that is a massive budget stimulus to the campus.

Will there be a Summer Bridge Program for high school seniors? This is on hold for now. We are offering new students and transfer students a free class this summer. We are teaching 10% more classes this summer than previous summers. Currently we are up 10% of credit hours then last year.

Are there any updates about open faculty lines? When will we know about the requests that were submitted to Academic Affairs? 60 recruitments have taken place this year and offer letters are out. Recruiting is still continuing on.

- **Barbara Weitz** is attending the Regents meeting on April 17th. If there is anything that you would like to be discussed at the meeting, contact Barbara directly at bweitz@nebraska.edu .
- **Updates from President Hale**
 - www.keepsteaching.unomaha.edu and distance education
 - If students are not receiving the resources they need, contact Jaci Lindburg.
 - Campus Safety Committee
 - They are focused on training for staff to ensure proper cleaning is happening. If you have any safety concerns, feel free to reach out to the committee.
 - Conflict of interest disclosure
 - This is now at the NU level. It should be released in the coming months.
 - Chancellor's Sustainability Committee efforts
 - The group is looking at solar feasibility and biking around campus. These efforts are now on hold. However, they are looking to roll out targeted campaigns around sustainability.
 - cHarmony, elections, virtualized governance
 - We have over 200 people who have enrolled with the app.
 - Holistic teaching evaluation committee delayed until fall
 - Senator Woody requested an ad-hoc committee be established. This will roll into the fall under Senator Ostler's leadership.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Report: Senator Davidson

1. EO&A Meeting:

- a. EO&A Attendees: Kopp, Smith-Howell, Surface, Qureshi, Hale, Kamm, Pettid, Davidson
- b. COVID-19 Response procedures were discussed and the impact on university faculty, staff and students. SVC Kopp acknowledges all of the great work, many faculty around campus are doing to keep things running.

c. Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.

| Res.# | Date Senate Passed | Title | Admin Accept | Sent for Senate Action | Denied/Deferred/In Progress | Final Action/Resolved |
|-------|--------------------|---|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4399 | 3/16/20 | Temporary Emergency Attendance Policy | 3/17/20 | | | Acknowledged |
| 4400 | 3/16/20 | Professorship Committee | 3/17/20 | | | Acknowledged |
| 4401 | 3/16/20 | Temporary Arts & Sciences Replacement Senator | 3/17/20 | | | Acknowledged |

IV. Executive Council: Senator Surface

A. RESOLUTION 4402: Recording of Classroom Activities

WHEREAS All courses are moving temporarily online; and

WHEREAS Students are adjusting to a different modality of learning online and may struggle to take notes on synchronous video calls or class lecture;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Faculty Senate recommends that all faculty make course audio/video materials available to their students when available. As part of this recommendation, faculty are encouraged to record and make available their zoom sessions and other synchronous class content.

Faculty are also encouraged to advise their students about digital etiquette, or “Netiquette”, best practices for the responsible and respectful use of class-related audio/video materials. Netiquette is important for protecting academic freedom and the privacy of other students in the class.

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT Faculty Senate endorses the attached temporary policy on recorded audio to be adopted by the UNO campus to protect faculty intellectual property and ensure proper online etiquette procedures are followed by students.

Interim Policy: Recording of Classroom Activities

Assistive Note Taking Device Agreement

Senator Siy asked how long this policy will be effective. The administrative understanding is this policy will be in place during the temporary online learning mode. Senator Hale will relay this to Jaci Linburg and Drew Nielsen to make sure there is a common understanding.

The policy is to be used as a recommendation to faculty.

Senator Surface motioned to move the resolution. 21 For. No opposed. Resolution passes.

V. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic & Curricular Affairs: Senator Woody

1. No meeting. No report.

B. Committee on Educational Resources & Services: Senator Schoenbeck

1. The committee worked via e-mail this month. We reviewed 63 applicants for the Paul Beck Memorial Scholarship. Given the funds available, we decided to award eight applicants – six undergraduates and two graduate students – at the amount of \$500 each.

- Undergraduate awardees:
 - Sydney Bonta
 - Sofia Cormack
 - Isaac Hiebert
 - Justin Krug
 - Claire Redinger
 - Margarita Rodriguez
- Graduate awardees:
 - Brittany Kohl
 - Zachary Smrcina

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel & Welfare: Senator Helm

1. Restroom Issues

a. In the weeks prior to the two-week spring break, the Committee was contacted by several UNO faculty regarding the cleanliness and upkeep of campus restrooms. The specific reports were forwarded from the Committee to Custodial Services. Following a discussion with the Manager of Custodial Services the specific issues were immediately addressed. The Committee was also educated in how the University has implemented a Covid-19 plan for cleaning the Campus. As of the week of March 9th, restrooms were being cleaned early in the morning and “Touch Points” were being cleaned repeatedly throughout the day.

2. HR, Ombuds and BRT

a. Following information received from several faculty concerning outcomes related to personnel complaints filed with Human Resources, the Behavioral Review Team and the Ombuds Service, the Committee agreed to research the related procedures and solutions.

D. Committee on Goals & Directions: Senator Ostler

1. Ongoing/Pending Items

a. With the broad responsibility and response to the COVID-19 university issues, the members of the Goals and Directions Committee have suspended looking into options for the advancement of Non-tenure track faculty as it relates to collective bargaining. We will continue to explore options for advancement outside the contract agreement for adjunct faculty, as well as full time faculty to the extent that those options are allowed within the current contract structure. This suspension includes the parallel work with the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Advancement.

2. Solar Feasibility

a. The Solar Feasibility study conducted by Dr. Bing Chen has been forwarded to the Chancellor’s office and is under review as time allows.

E. Professional Development: Senator Cast-Brede

1. Student Health Insurance Plan: We will continue to monitor next year as a new committee is formed.

2. Campus Policy Regarding Bringing Children to Work:

- Committee solicited feedback on the draft policy from Staff Advisory Council.

Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, and WiSTEM Pro^2.

- Incorporated feedback into the policy (attached / changes are in red) (agenda attachment – pg. 15)
- Committee plans to continue looking into emergency daycare services
- Committee is awaiting feedback from other campus stakeholders. The resolution is expected to come forward to senate in the May meeting.

3. Lactation Policy:

- Committee solicited feedback on the draft policy from Staff Advisory Council. Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, and WiSTEM Pro^2.
- Incorporated feedback into the policy (attached / changes are in red) (agenda attachment – pgs. 16-17)
- Committee is awaiting feedback from other campus stakeholders. The resolution is expected to come forward to senate in the May meeting.

(Letter: CCSGE Faculty Senate Policy Endorsement March 2020 – agenda attachment – pg. 18)

F. Committee on Committees: Senator Qureshi

1. This committee would like to thank Matt for his hard work on the cHarmony app and for walking us through the admin section of the App. Further to our meeting, here are the selections of committee categories per committee member:

- Academic and curricular Affairs Committee – Amy
- Educational Res and Services- Timi
- Faculty Personnel and Welfare – Tej
- Goals and Directions- Howard
- Professional Development –Derrick

2. Here is what we will be doing:

- a.** Now – April 1st – Each member will check the committee membership for the committees in their category. See: <https://www.unomaha.edu/faculty-senate/faculty-committees/index.php> . Please add the members of the committees to the committees on the App. Matt will be sending an email out to all the committee members to ensure that they are on the App.
- b.** April 1st-22nd For vacant positions or for the positions with terms ending, Committee members will add people who have expressed interested in serving on the committees in their list/category. They will email the new committee members letting them know that they have been selected to serve on the committee for the term that is indicated for the vacancy. We ask that they respond to our emails by confirming their intention to serve on the committee you assigned them. This committee will meet over zoom on April 22nd to wrap up any remaining vacancies or issues that may remain.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. with announcements.