

1-16-2019

Faculty Senate Minutes January 2019

UNO Faculty Senate

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Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 2 p.m., CEC 230/231

Members: Adidam, Anderson, Arbelaez, Barone, Bereitschaft, Boron, Cast-Brede, Davidson, DeSanti, Hale, Johnson, Kealey, Kelly, Kilinc, Logsdon, MacArthur, Nash, Peterson, Podariu, Prisbell, Qureshi, Randall, Rowe, Schaffer, Sharif-Kashani, Stacy, Surface, Tiller, Tisko, Winter, Woody, Zhong

Excused: Garcia, Huq

Absent: Cooper, Guerra, Lee

Presentation: Barb Pickering, Professor in Communication (“Engaged Scholars Transcript designation”)

I. The meeting was called to order by President Kelly at 2:19 p.m.

II. The Minutes of December 12, 2018, were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Kelly reported

Faculty colleagues,

Hello again! I hope all of you enjoyed a happy and restful holiday break and I wish all of you a successful start to 2019. This is an important time at UNO as our university is amidst major decisions concerning our leadership and future direction. I would like to provide you a brief update on what has been an eventful month; once again, I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

On December 20th, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents named Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold as UNO Chancellor effective December 21st with an anticipated end date of June 30th 2022, and removing the title of Interim Chancellor. Dr. Gold will continue to serve as Chancellor of UNMC. President Hank Bounds stated that this joint chancellorship does not mean that a merger between UNO and UNMC is in the works (and any such change would be a decision that rests not with President Bounds, but with the Board of Regents). President Bounds also stated that UNO and UNMC will each have its own chancellor after the conclusion of Chancellor Gold’s current term at UNO in 2022.

The search process is underway for UNO’s next Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to replace B.J. Reed, who retires in May. The announcement for the position has been posted in the Chronicle of Higher Education; UNO is working with the firm Witt-Kiefer to evaluate candidates for the position. The goal is to identify four finalists and to begin on-campus interviews by mid-March.

UNO will be partnering with Gallup in conducting focus groups with students, staff, and faculty to discuss ways to improve the climate on campus. Unlike previous surveys of the NU system, these focus groups are specific to UNO. The faculty focus group is scheduled for Thursday January 24th, 1-2:30PM in CEC 209. If you are interested in participating, please email me at cmkelly@unomaha.edu.

I am pleased to report that the Faculty Senate approved the creation of the BA/BS Degree in Medical Humanities. From here, the degree proposal goes to the Chancellor’s Cabinet, and ultimately to the Board of Regents. I am excited about the potential of this program, which will expand opportunities for our undergraduate students, particularly those who are pursuing graduate or professional studies.

The Faculty Senate also approved a proposal from faculty in the College of Business Administration to create a Center for Professional Sales at UNO. This Center will enable UNO to become an accredited member of the University Sales Center Alliance, which will help expose our students to the most current research, broad resources, and unique learning opportunities.

In addition, the Faculty Senate requested Central Administration to increase the number of providers of retirement account service that are more cost effective in their stock mutual fund fee structure. I spoke with Doug Ewald, Vice Chancellor for Business, Finance, and Business Development. He told me that he would take up this issue with the other CBOs in the NU system at their meeting next week.

Finally, the Faculty Senate received several complaints and a signed petition to protest the cancelation of classes by President Bounds on December 5th for the National Day of Mourning in Honor of former President George H.W. Bush. I requested further information from the President to clarify whether a precedent had been set. Since 2000, the University has closed to honor each former President who has died. University of Nebraska Board of Regents Bylaw 3.4.2 states “...all members of the professional staff are entitled to all legal and University holidays”. To determine legal holidays, the University mirrors Neb. Rev. Stat. [§ 84-1001\(3\)](#), which defines “paid holiday” as all enumerated days (see table below) and all days declared by law or proclamation by the U.S. President or Governor to be holidays.

	Federal	State	University
New Year’s Day	January 1	January 1	January 1
MLK Day	3 rd Monday in Jan.	3 rd Monday in Jan.	3 rd Monday in Jan.
President’s Day	3 rd Monday in Feb.	3 rd Monday in Feb.	FLOATING
Arbor Day		Last Friday in April	FLOATING
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May	Last Monday in May	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4	July 4	July 4
Labor Day	1 st Monday in Sept.	1 st Monday in Sept.	1 st Monday in Sept.
Columbus Day	2 nd Monday in Oct.	2 nd Monday in Oct.	FLOATING
Veterans Day	November	November	FLOATING

	11	11	
Thanksgiving Day	4 th Thursday in Nov.	4 th Thursday in Nov.	4 th Thursday in Nov.
Day after Thanksgiving		4 th Friday in Nov.	4 th Friday in Nov.
Christmas Day	December 25	December 25	December 25

The National Day of Mourning meets these guidelines as a legal holiday, on which all members of the professional staff are granted administrative leave. Given that the heading for Section 3.4 of the Bylaws reads “Conditions of Employment of the Professional Staff”, the term “professional staff” is clearly meant to include the academic-year staff discussed in Section 3.4.3 (i.e., full-time faculty). The University of Nebraska Human Resources Handbook for Policies states that administrative leave with pay may be granted “in the event of ... non-scheduled ‘declared’ holidays authorized by the U.S. President, Governor, or President of the University.” Based on this, I believe that President Bounds acted within his authority in declaring December 5th a legal holiday and in canceling classes.

I understand that many faculty and students were negatively impacted by this decision, particularly those who had lectures and exams cancelled that day during a critical time in the semester. I will continue my efforts to facilitate communication between faculty and administration to address these concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions about this or any other matter.

My best wishes to all of you for a successful Spring 2019 semester.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Report: Senator Stacy

1. EC&A: No Meeting in December.

**2018-2019 Resolution Action Table
(Action Pending and Current Resolutions)**

Res. #	Date Senate Passed	Title	Admin Accept	Sent for Senate Action	Denied/Deferred/ In Progress	Final Action/Resolved
4362	12/12/18	Faculty Senate President-Elect Matt Hale				
4361	12/12/18	Request Central Administration to Increase the Number of Providers of Retirement Account Service that are More Cost Effective in Their Stock Mutual Fund Fee Structure.				
4360	12/12/18	Approval of the Center for Professional Sales				
4359	12/12/18	Approval of the BA/BS degree in Medical Humanities				

4358	11/14/18	Parking Appeals Committee Membership				
4357	11/14/18	Faculty Rep for an RFP for the Student Center Business Office				
4356	11/14/18	Replacement on University Committee on Technology Resources & Services				
4355	11/14/18	Replacement on University Committee for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT)				
4354	11/14/18	Support of the University of Nebraska FY19-21 Appropriations Request				
4353	11/14/18	Resignation and Replacement of Tammie Kennedy, A&S Senator				
4352	11/14/18	Resignation and Replacement of Tomm Roland, CFAM Senator				
4351	11/14/18	Approval of the STEM Teaching, Research, and Inquiry Based Learning Center (STEM TRAIL Center)				
TO BE FOLLOWED UP						
CARRIED FORWARD						

2. Treasurer’s Report: Senator Stacy gave the December 2018 Budget Report.

IV. Executive Committee Report: Senator Barone reported the following was discussed at the EC&C meeting last week.

A. College Consortium: Sent to ER&S Committee to research.

B. Academic Integrity Policy Links: To EC&A agenda to notify administration of need to correct/rethink linkage.

V. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Kealey reported there

was no meeting and no report.

PENDING:

- 1. Early College High School**
- 2. Plagiarism**
- 3. Student Evaluation Responses**
- 4. Proposals that come before us seeking an endorsement**
- 5. A policy to clearly establish the rights of students to seek accommodation around class activities (assignments, attendance and examinations) that are scheduled and conflict with important religious observations:**

B. Committee on Educational Resources & Services: Senator Schoenbeck reported there was no meeting and no report.

PENDING:

- 1. Payroll Deduction for Paul Beck Scholarship (**
- 2. Mail Services Now Under UNMC:**
- 3. Research College Consortium:**

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel & Welfare: Senator Huq reported there was no meeting and no report.

PENDING:

- 1. Wellness Fees.**
- 2. Faculty/Staff Safety Processes.**
- 3. Server for Personal Web Pages**
- 4. Accessibility to Classroom IT Equipment**
- 5. The fee structure of TIIA-CREF and Fidelity Investment, the vendors that manage our retirement funds.**

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Bereitschaft reported there was no meeting and no report.

PENDING:

- 1. Facilities Planning and Faculty Representation**
- 2. Solar Panels at UNO**

E. Professional Development: Senator Boron reported there was no meeting and no report.

PENDING:

- 1. Faculty Professional Development Leave policies/procedures:**
- 2. Creation of an Easily Found List of What Retiring Faculty Need to Know for Retirement**
- 3. Distribution of Student Evaluations**
- 4. Student Evaluations Response Rate**
- 5. Faculty Personal Web Pages on the UNO Website**

F. Committee on Rules: Senator Peterson moved the following for the Committee. It passed.

1. RESOLUTION 4363, 1/16/19: UCRCA (University Committee on Research & Creative Activity)

BE IT RESOLVED as Chin-Chung (Joy) Chao has also had to resign from the UCRCA, the following name go forward to complete the term, from 08/1/16 through 07/31/19:

Kristin Taylor, CFAM (to replace Chin-Chung [Joy] Chao).

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED as Benjamin Steiner has had to resign from the UCRCA, the following name go forward to complete the term, from 08/1/18 through 07/31/21:

Nancy Kelley, CPACS (to replace Benjamin Steiner).

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**PENDING:** None

**VI. New Business**

**A. Assessment Culture Survey:** Senator Schaffer  
From: Connie Schaffer <[cschaffer@unomaha.edu](mailto:cschaffer@unomaha.edu)>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 4:06 PM  
To: Christopher Kelly <[cmkelly@unomaha.edu](mailto:cmkelly@unomaha.edu)>  
Cc: Peter Wolcott <[pwolcott@unomaha.edu](mailto:pwolcott@unomaha.edu)>  
Subject: Assessment Survey

*Chris, I chair the Academic Assessment Committee. Over the past year, we've been working on a way to gather more comprehensive information about academic assessment at UNO. We have secured permission from BJ Reed to administer the Assessment Culture Survey to faculty (any full or part-time instructor teaching a credit-bearing course as well as the library faculty members) during the 2019 spring semester. The national survey has been completed on over 1500 campus in the US. Because of collaborations between UNO faculty and Sam Houston State University researchers who implement the nation-wide survey, UNO is able to administer the survey at no financial cost. Results of the survey will be shared with UNO's senior leadership as well as faculty committees such as the Academic Assessment Committee and the UNO General Education Assessment Committee. I was wondering if this might be an appropriate announcement for Faculty Senate or if it should go through a committee.*

This was announced to the Faculty Senate and a short discussion took place.

**B. Omission from Health Insurance Plans:** Senator Kelly

The Faculty Senate continues to receive reports of problems resulting from the transition in health insurance from BC/BS to UMR. One of the more frequent concerns has been mental health providers no longer seeing UNO staff and faculty due to UMR's low reimbursement rates. The Faculty Senate will continue to monitor these and other issues, at UNO and throughout the NU system, as it considers the best course of action.

This will be put on the EC&A agenda for next week and brought to the Chancellor's

attention.

**VII. The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.** with announcements.

**VIII. Announcements**

- A. **EC&A Mtg:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 2 p.m., EAB 200
- B. **EC&C Mtg:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 2 p.m., EAB 200
- C. **Faculty Senate Mtg:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 2 p.m., CEC 230/231
- D. **Faculty Senate/SAC Awards Dinner:** Thursday, April 4, 2019, evening

| <b>Schedule for 2018-2019</b>                                            |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EC&amp;C Meetings</b><br>(Usually 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month) | <b>Faculty Senate Meetings</b><br>(Usually 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month)   |
| June 6                                                                   | <del>June</del>                                                                  |
| *July 11                                                                 | <del>July</del>                                                                  |
| *August 1 or 8                                                           | August 15, 2018 (Retreat) (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)<br>(Classes begin 8/20/18) |
| September 5                                                              | September 12                                                                     |
| October 3                                                                | October 10                                                                       |
| November 7                                                               | November 14                                                                      |
| December 5 ( <i>Prep Week</i> )                                          | December 12 ( <i>Finals Week</i> )<br>( <i>Commencement 12/14</i> )              |
| January 9, 2019 ( <i>Semester Begins 1/7/18</i> )                        | January 16                                                                       |
| February 6                                                               | February 13                                                                      |
| March 6                                                                  | March 13 ( <i>Spring Break 3/17-24</i> )                                         |
| April 3                                                                  | April 10                                                                         |
| May 1 ( <i>4/29 – 5/2 Finals</i> )<br>( <i>Commencement 5/3</i> )        | May 8                                                                            |