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Faculty Senate Minutes September 1997

UNO Faculty Senate

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UNO Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 10, 1997, 2:00 P.M., MBSC Dodge Room

The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha met on Wednesday, September 10, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dodge Room of the Milo Bail Student Center.
The president, Shelton Hendricks, presided.

In Attendance: Aschenbrenner, Bradshaw, Brown, Bruckner, Bykerk, Camp, Carlson, Carroll, Clute, Deichert, Diamond, Francke, Gessaman, Harland, Harrington, Hendricks, Johnson, Krause, Kuhlman, Lee, Lewis, H. Maher, S. Maher, McKay, Mundell, Nazem, Newton, Ravichandran, Reidelbach, Rogers, Serenco, Skreija, Stacy, Stolen, Suzuki, Valle
Those Excused: Arbelaez, Russell, Schwer
Those Absent: None

An informal reception was held from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. for Chancellor Belck.

Remarks by Chancellor Belck.

Senator Hendricks asked for approval of the August 21, 1997, minutes (agenda attachments 1-5). The minutes were approved as submitted.

Officers Reports

President's Report: Shelton Hendricks

Gender Equity Task Force: A copy of the Gender Equity Task Force report has been distributed to all senators. This report is also available in the senate office and on the senate's home page (<http://cid.unomaha.edu/~sjensen/w-cover.html>).

Reward Fund: An e-mail announcing the faculty senate reward fund was distributed to all faculty members and staff on September 8, 1997. Two copies of a reward fund flyer were also delivered to every department/office on campus.

Regents Meeting 9/15/97

The regents approved the revision of the "Structure, Rules, and Regulations" for the faculty of the UNMC College of Medicine.

The regents approved the establishment of a Center for Neurovirology and Neurodegenerative Disorders at UNMC.

The regents received the Gender Equity Task Force report which President Smith promised to implement.

The regents approved another cost overrun for the Lied Transplant Center at UNMC.

Senator Arbelaez Granted Leave: President Hendricks reported that Senator Arbelaez has requested a one-semester leave of absence from the senate because of a schedule conflict. Her replacement has not been confirmed but will be announced as soon as possible.

University-Wide Public Policy Center: A proposal for a university-wide public policy center has been forwarded to the Committee on Goals and Directions for review.

Weber Memory Book: On September 4, 1997, an e-mail was distributed to all department chairs encouraging submissions for the memory book for Del and Lou Ann Weber by October 1, 1997.

New Technical Institute to be Named for Peter Kiewit.

Construction: Construction of the new building can be monitored on the web (<http://cid.unomaha.edu/~wwwbldg>).

Alumni Board Representative: Senator Francke is unable to serve as the Alumni Board representative because of scheduling conflicts. Senator Harrington has agreed to take on this responsibility for a second year.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Gordon Mundell

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Mundell presented the August 31, 1997, budget report (agenda attachment 6).

Vice President's Report: Judith Harrington

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Harrington presented the Council of Academic Deans' August 28, 1997, agenda (agenda attachment 7) noting that attachments are available for most of the agenda items. All agendas, attachments, and minutes are available for viewing in the senate office. Senator Harrington reported that the Blue Ribbon Panel on General Education received high acclaim for their work. She encouraged the senate members to review the report.

Executive Committee Report

No Report

Standing Committee Reports

Rules Committee: Arthur Diamond, chair.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Diamond moved the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following faculty are appointed to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Special Committee to review the constitution and bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha:

H. Carl Camp, Chair
David Corbin
Jack Newton
Kermit Peters
Kim Sosin
Justin Stolen

The motion passed unanimously.

Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Robert Carlson, chair.

Senator Carlson read portions of a memo dated August 1, 1997, from Associate Vice Chancellor Farr to the Dean's Forum on phased retirement agreement under exceptional conditions. Senator Carlson explained that this report was received after the following resolution was written and that the indicated changes are submitted on behalf of the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare:

WHEREAS, in principle, we support the concept of a university-wide early retirement policy, and

WHEREAS, we have concerns that the proposed early retirement policy has significantly smaller financial incentives than previous early retirement policies offered by the university, and

WHEREAS, we have concerns relating to and oppose the discriminatory appearance of the different percentages based on age within the tenure buy-out plan, and

WHEREAS, we have concerns about excluding individuals who decline participation from participating in any subsequent early retirement plans, and

WHEREAS, we have concerns about the lack of specific details relating to benefits, especially insurance coverage for spouses and dependents, in the proposed early retirement policy, and

WHEREAS, phased retirement is currently an individually negotiated option for faculty available for faculty on an individually negotiated basis "in exceptional circumstances" but no formal university policy governs such action and no definition is provided of what constitutes "exceptional circumstances;" therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, we recommend an early retirement plan with more of a financial incentive (e.g. one year's salary paid over three years) that does not discriminate based on age and that has a specified (e.g. five-year) exclusion, as opposed to a permanent exclusion, from future early retirement plans; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that details relating to benefits including insurance coverage, in particular for spouses and dependents, for those selecting the early retirement option be provided; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a formal formally defined phased retirement plan be integrated with the early retirement plan.

Discussion followed.

On behalf of the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare, Senator Carlson submitted the resolution as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

Committee on Professional Development: M. Martha Bruckner, chair.

On behalf of the Committee on Professional Development, Senator Bruckner presented the August 21, 1997, committee minutes (agenda attachment 8).

No report for August 27th; committee did not meet.

Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: John Newton, chair.

No report; committee did not meet in August.

Committee on Educational Resources and Services: John Reidelbach, chair.

Senator Reidelbach reported that the committee will discuss the procedures for the Paul L. Beck Memorial Faculty/Staff Scholarship with the director of financial aid, Randy Sell, at the September 24th meeting. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the MBSC Redick Room.

No report for August 27th; committee did not meet in August.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Loree Bykerk, chair.

On behalf of the Committee on Goals and Directions, Senator Bykerk presented the August 21, 1997, committee minutes (agenda attachment 9).

Budget Advisory Committee: John Newton, chair.

No report; committee did not meet in August.

Other Committee Reports

AAUP: Senator Brown reported that the AAUP Executive Committee met with Senator Hendricks to review issues of mutual concern. He also announced that the AAUP will meet with administration representatives on early retirement buy-outs.

Alumni Board: No report.

Graduate Council: Susan Maher

Senator Maher presented the April 14, 1997, committee minutes (agenda attachments 10-11).

Senator Maher presented the September 8, 1997, council agenda and attachments A and B (agenda attachments 12-16).

Old Business

Senator Hendricks noted that the part-time faculty report has been referred to the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare for review.

For the Good of the Order

New Business

Support for panel discussion on gender equity: Senator Hendricks has received a request from the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women for the senate to sponsor a panel discussion of the Gender Equity Task Force report.

On behalf of the assembly, Senator Skrejja moved the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha will be one of the sponsors of a panel discussion of the Gender Equity Task Force report.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Mundell
Secretary-Treasurer