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Faculty Senate Minutes November 1997

UNO Faculty Senate

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UNO Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, November 12, 1997, 2:00 P.M., MBSC Dodge Room

The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha met on Wednesday, November 12, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dodge Room of the Milo Bail Student Center.
The president, Shelton Hendricks, presided.

In Attendance: Aschenbrenner, Becker, Brown, Bruckner, Bykerk, Carlson, Carroll, Clute, Deichert, Diamond, Gessaman, Harland, Harrington, Hendricks, Johnson, Krause, Kuhlman, Lee, Lewis, H. Maher, Mundell, Nazem, Newton, Reidelbach, Rogers, Russell, Schwer, Skreija, Stacy, Stolen, Suzuki
Those Excused: Bradshaw, Camp, Francke, Hill, Maher, S., Serenco, Valle
Those Absent: Ravichandran

Approval of the October 8, 1997, minutes (agenda attachments 1-6): Senator Hendricks asked for approval of the October 8, 1997, minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Presentation: Marlene Schneider, EAP counselor, gave a presentation on the services available through EAP and reported that the UNO office is located in A&S 339 and is open two half-days per week with varying hours to accommodate the needs of faculty and staff. Questions or appointment requests may be directed to 554-3120/UNO or 559-5175/UNMC.

Officers Reports

President's Report: Senator Shelton Hendricks

Bethsaida Excavations Project Funds: At the last meeting faculty questioned the freezing of Bethsaida funds based on a suit against one of the faculty members. It has since been ascertained that the funds were not frozen by business and finance but within international studies itself. A second question dealt with why the university's insurance did not cover the incident. After further investigation it was found that the appropriate contract was not made with the individual involved in the suit, thereby disqualifying him from coverage. An investigation into the matter is being conducted by administration.

Senator Hendricks clarified that in order to be covered by the university's insurance an employee must spend at least half the year in the United States, noting that if a faculty member were on a year's sabbatical she would not be covered. Senator Hendricks indicated that he will stay on top of this issue and that the chancellor has agreed to look into the matter.

Chancellor's Council

Search Committees

Vice Chancellor for University Affairs and Communication (agenda attachment 7): Senator Hendricks clarified that the request for a faculty representative on the search committee for the new vice chancellor for university affairs and communications did not go through the normal channels due to time constraints. For this reason, Senator Hendricks submitted four names directly to the chancellor from which Josie Metal-Corbin was selected.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs: See resolution put forth under section IV, A, 2.

Director for Institutional Research: Senator Hendricks reported that this search is about to start.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee Established (agenda attachment 8)

UNO Portion of Campaign Nebraska (agenda attachment 9)

Gender Equity

New Recruitment Program Started

Affirmative Action Officer will be Moved to the Chancellor's Office

Pathways to Harmony: Senator Hendricks reported that UNO has been asked to support the Pathways to Harmony diversity training program targeted for implementation early next semester.

Agenda Items for Senate Presidents' Meeting with President Smith were solicited.

Computer Purchased for Senate Office

Cooperative Programs with Metro Community College: Senator Hendricks shared plans that a big push will be implemented in the coming year to establish more extensive cooperative programs with Metro Community College. He noted that there is an increasing trend across the country for institutions of higher learning to work in conjunction with local community colleges. UNO's College of Business Administration will soon announce a '2 Plus 2 Program' in which students can obtain a degree by taking half their college credits at Metro and the other half at UNO.

Faculty Honors Convocation: Senator Hendricks previously asked the senate for feedback on whether they had any objections to combining the chancellor's investiture with the faculty honors convocation; however, this is no longer an issue.

Plaques to Athletics: Senator Hendricks reported that he presented recognition plaques at the athletic banquet to Connie Claussen, Mike Denney, and Don Leahy on behalf of the senate.

Post Tenure Review Policy: Senator Hendricks reported that the NU post-tenure review policy can be located by going to the senate home page. Hard copies are also available in the senate

office. He noted a meeting is scheduled to discuss this issue with the UNO AAUP at noon on Friday, November 14th. All members of the Executive Committee are encouraged to attend.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Senator Gordon Mundell

Senator Mundell presented the October 31, 1997, budget report (agenda attachment 10) noting that the new computer purchased for the senate office is up and running.

Vice President's Report: Senator Judith Harrington

No Report

Executive Committee Report: Senator Gordon Mundell

October 17, 1997, University of Nebraska Board of Regents Report

Retirement of Vice Chancellor Peck: Senator Mundell reported on the October 17, 1997, meeting of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. He stated that Vice Chancellor Peck's retirement was announced effective June 30, 1998, and noted that the announcement came as a surprise to most in attendance since it was not a scheduled agenda item.

Additional Funds for Grounds Keeping for South Campus: Senator Mundell stated that a great deal of time was spent discussion the issue of additional funds for grounds keeping at UNO's new south campus. He explained that the contract clearly states that all undeveloped land must be landscaped and maintained, and that at the present time only 15 acres is sited for development. Six additional grounds persons will be hired for this project.

K-16 Initiative: Senator Mundell reported that President Smith devoted one-and-a-half hours to the K-16 issue which included a forty-minute presentation by a national promoter of the K-16 initiative. It was noted that UNO appears to be way behind in knowledge about this issue, how it works, and what it can accomplish. He reported that Senator Hendricks has referred this matter to the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs.

Senator Hendricks added that he received a report from James Milliken, NU Vice President for External Affairs and Corporate Secretary, concerning Jan Somerville's talk at the board of regents meeting; copies are available upon request. The issue was referred to the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs.

Standing Committee Reports

Rules Committee: Senator Arthur Diamond, chair.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following tenured faculty be appointed to the Vice Chancellor Carrico Review Commission:

Joe Davis, Education
Ken Deffenbacher, Arts and Sciences
Margaret Gessaman, Arts and Sciences
Roger Hoburg, Arts & Sciences
Lou Pol, Business Administration
Roger Sindt, Business Administration
Larry Trussell, Business Administration

The motion was passed unanimously.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following faculty be recommended to the Chancellor as candidates for service on the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Search Committee:

John Langan, Education
Darryl Lewis, Business Administration
Ineke Marshall, PACS
Kermit Peters, Fine Arts
Jack Shroder, Arts and Sciences
Pam Specht, Information Science and Technology

Senator Hendricks reported that the chancellor will selected two representatives from the nominees.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward as an appointment to the University Committee on Honors and Awards to replace retiring member Jacqueline St. John, and serve a three-year term from November 12, 1997, through June 30, 2000:

Tom Lorsbach, Education

The motion passed unanimously.

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

October 29, 1997, minutes (agenda attachments 11-12): Senator Carlson presented the October 29, 1997, minutes.

Amendment of the Professional Conduct Committee Rules and Procedures (agenda attachments 11-12 and 13-17): Senator Carlson announced the official presentation of the proposed amendments to the Professional Conduct Committee rules and procedures. He further explained

that a copy of the proposal will be forwarded to the chancellor for consultation with university legal representatives and will be presented for final approval (by vote) at the December meeting at the earliest.

Senator Carlson reported that the committee will review faculty benefits and noted everyone should have received a copy of this documentation at the August retreat.

On behalf of the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare, Senator Carlson moved the following:

WHEREAS, the UNO Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare has reviewed the "Report of Faculty Benefits Task Force" dated June 9, 1997, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has found the report to be well thought out, comprehensive, and realistic, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the UNO Faculty Senate commends the efforts of the taskforce and urges the university administration to implement the recommendations and bring the University of Nebraska benefits package to competitive levels.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

October 29, 1997, minutes (agenda attachment 18): Senator Bruckner presented the October 29, 1997, minutes. She reported the committee is in the process of analyzing the professional development activities on campus and presents the resolution V. C, 2 in conjunction with the Committee on Goals and Directions.

On behalf of the Committee on Professional Development, Senator Bruckner presented the following in conjunction with the Committee on Goals and Directions:

WHEREAS, the budget of the University Committee on Research has been drastically cut since 1995, and

WHEREAS, one of the primary missions of the University of Nebraska at Omaha is scholarship, and

WHEREAS, UCR monies have been critical in supplying the tools for the faculty to pursue this mission, and

WHEREAS, the junior faculty require these monies in order to pursue programs of scholarship, and were recruited with the expectation that they would receive such support, and

WHEREAS, the forward funding of research programs requires a predictable budget rather than ad hoc funding; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate urges the administration to return funding to the University Committee on Research to at least the level of the 1995 budget.

Senator Hendricks commented on the importance of issue and the passing of this resolution.

The motion was passed unanimously.

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

October 22, 1997, minutes (agenda attachment 19): Senator Newton presented the October 22, 1997, minutes.

On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Newton moved the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate supports the proposal by the College of Business Administration to eliminate the Decision Science and Production/Operations Management specialties programs.

Discussion followed concerning what happened to the faculty assigned to these specializations. The motion was passed unanimously.

On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Newton presented the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate supports Chancellor Belck's proposal for a change in Graduate Studies to create an appointment to a position as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean for Graduate Studies.

Senator Newton then suggested a friendly amend to exclude "Chancellor Belck's proposal for" from the motion.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate supports a change in Graduate Studies to create an appointment to a position as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean for Graduate Studies.

Senator Hendricks deferred to Lynn Harland's report (see VI. C). A lengthy discussion followed concerning how free standing will this position be. Chris Reed responded to the conflicts Vice Chancellor Peck previously incurred in this position. Senator Diamond advocated that there be a free standing dean of graduate studies. Senator Newton pointed out that the resolution is congruent with one already passed by the graduate council. Senators Nazem and Harland agreed. Chris Reed stated that in her opinion, the chancellor is not in support of a free standing graduate dean. Senator Carlson expressed concerned over what the senate stand is noting that it seems unclear at this time. Senator Gessaman spoke of her first hand experience and support of

a freestanding dean. All agreed the university needs to view the graduate program as an integral part of the university and give more focus to the needs of the graduate college.

Senator Diamond seconded the motion and moved to further amend the resolution by striking "Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and" from the resolution. Senator Gessaman seconded the motion to amend. A lengthy discussion followed. Senator Carlson called for a closed vote which resulted in ten for, thirteen against, and one abstained. The motion to amend failed.

A vote was taken on the resolution including the friendly amendment by Senator Newton. The motion was passed.

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

October 29, 1997, minutes (agenda attachment 20): Senator Reidelbach presented the October 29, 1997, minutes.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Loree Bykerk, chair.

October 29, 1997, minutes (agenda attachment 21): Senator Rogers presented the October 29, 1997, minutes making note of the joint resolution with the Committee on Professional Development (see IV, C, 2).

Budget Advisory Committee: Senator John Newton, chair.

No report, the committee did not meet in October.

Other Committee Reports

AAUP: Senator Joseph Brown, senate representative: Senator Brown reported that the annual recruiting drive is underway. Senator Hendricks reminded the Executive Committee of the meeting scheduled with UNO's AAUP on Friday, November 14th, at noon in A&S 345.

Alumni Board: Senator Judith Harrington, senate representative.

October 30, 1997, Alumni Board, agenda (agenda attachment 22): Senator Harrington reported that the October 30, 1997, minutes were just received and will be on file in the senate office. She also noted that there is a lot of excitement on the board for the hockey team.

Graduate Council: Senator Lynn Harland, senate representative.

November 10, 1997, Graduate Council agenda which includes the October 13, 1997, minutes (agenda attachments 23-24): Senator Harland referred to attachments 23-24 and read the resolution passed by the council with by vote of nineteen to three. Harland noted that Chris Bell, Margaret Gessaman, Art Diamond, Martha Bruckner, and Sufi Nazem were also at the meeting. Discussion followed.

Chris Reed explained some of the reasons for the confusion surrounding the title of this position. She reported that Chancellor Belck met with the dean and found some opposition to the use of the name vice chancellor of graduate studies. She also noted that the chancellor is trying to come up with a compromise.

Senator Hendricks asked if the NU bylaws state that there should be a dean of graduate college; Chris Reed said yes, however, it doesn't have to be specifically stated as such. Chris Reed also noted that the chancellor wants to make certain this person is in a supportive role. Discussion followed.

Old Business

For the Good of the Order

New Business

Faculty Database: This issue was discussed during VIII.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.