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Faculty Senate Minutes December 1997

UNO Faculty Senate

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

The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha met on Wednesday, December 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, Becker, Bradshaw, Brown, Bruckner, Bykerk, Camp, Carlson, Carroll, Clute, Deichert, Diamond, Francke, Harland, Harrington, Hendricks, Hill, Johnson, Kuhlman, Lee, Lewis, H. Maher, S. Maher, Mundell, Nazem, Newton, Reidelbach, Russell, Skreija, Stolen, Valle
Those Excused: Gessaman, Krause, Rogers, Schwer, Serenco, Suzuki
Those Absent: Ravichandran, Stacy

Mr. Mike O'Conner, Omaha *World-Herald* reporter, was a guest.

Approval of the November 12, 1997, minutes: Due to the coordinator being out of the office, approval of the minutes was deferred to the January 7, 1998, meeting.

Officers Reports

President's Report: Shelton Hendricks

Meeting of the board of regents of November 22, 1997:

Received reports on international studies from each of the campuses.

Approved contracts and outside employment arrangements which led to a regent questioning why the apparent overhead rate for UNL athletics was 5% when it was generally much higher for other units. An investigation and report were promised.

Approved Policy Providing a Health Care Coverage Incentive for Early Retirement by Tenured Faculty (agenda attachment 7-8): Senator Hendricks noted that the attached document is a revision of the copy distributed at last week's Executive Committee meeting.

Approved a Crisis Leave Sharing Program: Senator Hendricks reported that this issue only applies to employees on twelve month contracts.

Department Chair Stipends (agenda attachment 9-10) Received from Vice Chancellor Peck a copy of a proposal to increase and regularize across colleges the stipends paid to department chairs. When asked to comment on this proposal, Senator Hendricks was favorable.

Meeting with Chancellor and Administrators.

The chancellor was favorable to our resolution requesting restoration of UCR funding.

We had considerable discussion concerning articulation/interacting with MCC. This appears to be an important issue with many potential ramifications.

Vice Chancellor Mudd's office will assist us in studying the admission process. I am requesting that the Committee on Educational Resources and Services contact Dr. Mudd's office and initiate this study.

Post-tenure review was discussed. The chancellor requested that we consider a joint resolution with AAUP. Discussions with AAUP have begun. The committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs has been requested to provide advice.

Ad for VC Academic Affairs (agenda attachment 11)

Senator Krause will be on leave for the spring semester. His college will identify a one-semester replacement.

Salary Disparity Related to Gender (agenda attachment 12-13)

Thank you note received from Connie Claussen for plaque and recognition.

Retreat: A retreat will be held this Friday and Saturday, December 12th and 13th, for the regents, administration, and the four NU faculty senate presidents to include broad discussions relating to higher education as it relates to the nation, state, and University of Nebraska. Senator Hendricks noted that the main topic has to do with modernizing higher education to run more like a business. He stated that this is an issue the senate needs to stay informed of and that he will keep the senate updated.

Investiture of Chancellor Nancy Belck: The investiture is tentatively scheduled for April 17, 1998. This is the Friday during Honors Week that is traditionally reserved for the Faculty Honors Convocation. The current plans would move the convocation to Thursday, April 16, 1998.

Senator Becker: Senator Hendricks thanked Senator Becker for serving as the interim representative for the College of Arts and Sciences and reported that Senator Arbelaez will return at the January 14, 1997, meeting.

Carl Camp: Senator Hendricks recognized the services of Senator Camp at this his last meeting as past-president.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Gordon Mundell: Senator Mundell presented the November 30, 1997, budget report.

Vice President's Report: Judith Harrington

Meeting of Chancellor's Council: Senator Harrington noted that Senator Hendricks already covered much of what was discussed the council meeting. She added that Wade Robinson gave a lengthy report on recruitment noting that the number of ACT scores sent to UNO is up 21%. Senator Harrington referred to attachment 14 which was distributed at the council meeting and noted that 42 applications for the position of vice chancellor for university affairs and communications were received at the time of the meeting; that number has since climbed to 57.

Executive Committee Report

Senator Hendricks relinquished the chair to Senator Harrington.

Senator Harrington opened the floor to nominations for president-elect.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Mundell moved the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee nominates Senator Shelton Hendricks for president-elect.

There were no other nominations. The motion was approved unanimously.

Senator Harrington relinquished the chair to Senator Hendricks. Senator Hendricks thanked the senate for its support, adding that he is honored to have served as president during the past year.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Harrington moved the following:

WHEREAS, the construction of on-campus residence halls at UNO is intended to make available to students the benefits of a more intense immersion into an academic environment and enriched social/cultural opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed residence halls, by virtue of their location and design, are excellently suited to meeting these goals; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha strongly supports the current residence hall proposal.

Senator Hendricks recognized Senator Clute, who reported on a trip to St. Louis he participated in, as a senate representative, to survey residence halls previously built by one of the contractors UNO is considering.

The motion passed unanimously.

In response to a written petition signed by twenty-one faculty members of the university (as defined in Article II of the Constitution of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha) the Executive Committee, having completed the constitutionally required 30 day review period, presents for approval the attached amended Constitution of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha (agenda attachments 15-23).

Senator Hendricks noted that the changes to the senate constitution were long awaited and rather extensive. He further stated that it would not be fair to vote on the changes without time to thoroughly review the document, and he deferred the vote until the January 14, 1997, meeting.

Senator Camp reported to the Constitution Review Committee worked to remove the anomalies that carried over from the merger period as well as update the style and capitalization of the document. He then gave a brief review of each change, answering questions from the floor.

Senator Camp stated that Parliamentarian Aschenbrenner suggested changing the last sentence of the last paragraph on page 7 as follows:

The outgoing president shall continue to serve on the Executive Committee as past president in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity until through the last regularly scheduled meeting of the fall semester.

Senator Newton moved that the above change be implemented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion followed. Senator Hendricks thanked Senator Camp and the committee for their hard work. Senator Camp recognized the committee for the hard work and efficiency in getting the job done. Senator Hendricks thanked Senator Mundell for editing the final draft.

Senator Hendricks noted that the proposed amendments to the constitution will be posted on the senate home page for review by the entire faculty.

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 names go forward as an appointment to the University Committee on Library and Educational Resources with terms starting December 10, 1997:

Bruce Chase, A&S
One Year Term
December 10, 1997 through June 30, 1998

Stan Wileman, IS&T
Two Year Term
December 10, 1997 through June 30, 1999

Shuanglin Lin, BA
Three Year Term
December 10, 1997 through June 30, 2000

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 Student Activities Budget Commission (student government committee) to replace retiring member, Frank Zahn, for a three-year term from December 10, 1997, through June 30, 2000:

David Volkman, BA

The motion passed unanimously.

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

No report; the committee did not meet in November.

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

Senator Bruckner presented the December 4, 1997, minutes (agenda attachments 24-25).

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

Senator Newton presented the December 1, 1997, minutes (agenda attachment 26-28).

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate approve deletion of the computer science degrees from the College of Arts and Sciences and approve the proposed new computer science degree in the College of Information Science and Technology.

Senator Stolen requested an amendment to delete the bachelor of science with a specialization in management information systems (MIS) from the College of Business and add it to the College of Information Science and Technology.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate approve deletion of the computer science degrees from the College of Arts and Sciences and deletion of the bachelor of science with a specialization in management information systems (MIS) from the College of Business Administration, and approve the proposed new computer science degree and MIS degree in the College of Information Science and Technology.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Senator Newton moved the resolution as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate is opposed to any changes in the university calendar that would cause an unbalance in days of the week during the semester that could result in an unequal number of class hours available to students depending on the section of the course in which they were enrolled.

Senator Camp, University Calendar Committee member, reported that the issue of altering the current academic calendar is a very complicated matter, and the committee has tried to find a way to accommodate the proposed changes without causing undue stress to the academic operation of the university. He further explained that three proposals were addressed at the last meeting: 1) replace the Labor Day holiday with a mid-break holiday during the fall semester, 2) include one Saturday during the fall semester to make up for missed classes/labs so the number of class days remains equal each semester, and 3) the creation of a class holiday, not a closure of the university, on the third Monday of January, otherwise known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Senator Camp stated that in order to even out class/lab times when adding an additional holiday, class time must be made up on a Saturday in order to equalize days attended. Moving the spring semester break to the end of the ninth week instead of the end of the tenth week was also discussed.

Discussion followed.

Senator Newton clarified that the intent of the proposed resolution was to reiterate the policy of the board of regents which states that any changes implemented should not affect the balance of university calendar.

Senator Lee suggested the resolution be amended to take a more positive approach rather than one of opposition. She also proposed including Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the resolution.

Senator Carlson moved to postpone any further action until the January meeting and send the resolution back to the committee with instructions to review and amend it to address Senator Lee's concerns. The motion to postpone was seconded by Senator Bradshaw.

Senator Newton called for a point of order stating that he questions the appropriateness of referring the resolution back to the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs because the issue at hand no longer concerns just the curriculum (which was the committee's task).

Senator Carlson amended his motion to delay by clarifying that the resolution should be sent to the Executive Committee and Cabinet for review and amendment. Senator Bradshaw agreed to this friendly amendment and seconded the motion.

Senator Lee reiterated that Senator Brown's proposed addition to the resolution is close to what she is trying to express and requested that his amendment be reconsidered rather than delaying the resolution as is.

Senator Becker called for a point of order noting that the motion on the table is not debatable.

A vote (show of hands) was taken to delay further action and refer the resolution to the Executive Committee and Cabinet with instructions to review and amend it to address Senator Lee's concerns. The motion failed.

Senator Lee moved that the following sentence be added to the end of the resolution, "This motion is intended neither to endorse nor oppose the addition of any particular holiday to the university calendar." Senator Francke seconded the motion.

Discussion followed resulting in amendments to the resolution as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate, without endorsing or opposing the addition of any particular holiday to the university calendar, is opposed to any changes in the university calendar that would cause an unbalance in days of the week during the semester that could result in an unequal number of class hours available to students depending on the section of the course in which they were enrolled.

The motion to amend the resolution was seconded. Discussion followed. The motion to amend was approved.

Senator Diamond moved to add a second paragraph as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate is opposed to holding Saturday classes to make up for unequal hours for classes regularly scheduled to meet on other days.

The motion to amend the resolution was seconded. The motion to amend was approved. Discussion followed. The amended resolution was read by Senator Mundell:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate, without endorsing or opposing the addition of any particular holiday to the university calendar, is opposed to any changes in the university calendar that would cause an unbalance in days of the week during the semester that could result in an unequal number of class hours available to students depending on the section of the course in which they were enrolled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate is opposed to holding Saturday classes to make up for unequal hours for classes regularly scheduled to meet on other days.

Discussion continued. Senator Diamond moved to refer the resolution to the Executive Committee and Cabinet with instructions to bring an amended form to the January 14th, meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Hill. Discussion followed. A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

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

No report; the committee did not meet in November.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Loree Bykerk, chair.

No report; the committee did not meet in November.

Budget Advisory Committee: Jack Newton, chair.

Committee did not meet in November.

Other Committee Reports

AAUP: Joseph Brown, senate representative.

No Report

Alumni Board: Judith Harrington, senate representative.

No Report

Graduate Council: Susan Maher, senate representative.

No Report

Old Business

Senator Carlson asked if the chancellor has responded to the proposed changes to the Professional Conduct Committee rules and procedures. Senator Hendricks stated that he had not heard anything as yet and has made several attempts to contact both Chancellor Belck and Vice Chancellor Farr regarding this issue.

President-Elect: See III. A.

For the Good of the Order

New Business

Committee on Professional Development Resolution

On behalf of the Committee on Professional Development, Senator Bruckner moved the following:

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the University of Nebraska at Omaha is teaching, and

WHEREAS, teaching circles would allow participating faculty members to have an opportunity to discuss, share, and improve teaching strategies, and

WHEREAS, UCAT is proposing a program through which 40 faculty members could each receive a \$300 stipend for their participation in teaching circles for the sum of \$12,000, and

WHEREAS, a program to improve teaching at UNO should not be at the expense of other successful UCAT programs; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate supports UCAT in their development of a program of teaching circles, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate urges the administration to increase the budget for UCAT by \$12,000 in 1998-99 and in future academic fiscal years for the purpose of funding a program of teaching circles, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate urges the administration to continue to look for ways to expand financial support of continued improvement of teaching at UNO.

Senator Bruckner clarified that the resolution was created too late for presentation to the Executive Committee and Cabinet, which is why it is being moved during new business. Discussion followed.

The motion was seconded and passed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate endorses a Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday with the dismissal of classes.

Discussion followed. Senator Mundell asked that Senator Clute consider withdrawing his motion and readdress it at the next meeting rather than rush it through at the end of this meeting and without the full senate present.

A quorum was lost. No action was taken.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.