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Faculty Senate Minutes January 1998

UNO Faculty Senate

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UNO Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, January 14, 1998, 2:00 P.M., MBSC Dodge Room

The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha met on Wednesday, January 14, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dodge Room of the Milo Bail Student Center.
The president, Shelton Hendricks, presided.

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

H. Carl Camp, University Calendar Committee chair and senate Constitution Review Committee chair, was a guest as was Jena Janovy, the new Omaha *World-Herald* higher education reporter.

Senator Hendricks asked for approval of the November 12, 1997, and December 10, 1997, 1998, minutes (attachments 1-11). The minutes were approved.

Officers Reports

President's Report: Shelton Hendricks

New Senator: Senator Hendricks welcomed Senator Roger Sash who will be replacing Senator Krause for the Spring semester only.

Regents Meeting of 12/12/97-12/13/97 Discussion of fiscal future of higher education, with focus on "Breaking the Social Contract."

Naming of Fine Arts Building: Senator Hendricks reported that the regents will be present at the naming of the Fine Arts building in honor of Del and Lou Ann Weber this Friday.

Faculty Senate President's Meeting with President Smith 12/15/97 Gave a favorable response to concept of partially retired faculty having access to retirement benefits. Broadly discussed fiscal future of university and upcoming budget.

Chancellor's Council Meeting Regents will be on campus 01/16/98. Residence halls will be the focus. Discussion of interaction with community colleges.

Honorary Degrees: Senator Hendricks stated that the pre-requisites for receiving an honorary degree at UNO are being reviewed. This issue has also been referred to the Committee on Goals and Directions.

Post-tenure Review Policy (attachments 12-14): Senator Hendricks referred to attachments 12-14 stating that this draft seems to be the most acceptable proposal as of this time. He noted that his

main concern is marked on page one, item one "in relation to evolving institutional purposes." Senator Hendricks stated that nothing is definite at this time but even if the review went through as-is he sees no major problems. He asked for feedback on the document from the senate, especially the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs. Discussion followed.

Web Page: Senator Hendricks encouraged faculty to check out the senate web page which has been updated. He noted that, while the rest of the information is current, the old agendas, minutes, and resolutions are not posted yet. He also indicated that long range goal is to have all senate resolutions accessible through the home page.

Technology Fee Committee: Senator Hendricks reported he is currently a member of the Technology Fee Committee and that, although he was unable to attend the last meeting, he received a copy of the minutes. He noted that an increase of \$5 per credit hour is being considered in hopes of funding longer hours for the computer labs as well as other labs that now have limited access. Another possibility being considered is the purchase of smart cards for all classrooms and updating computers. Senator Hendricks clarified that this money is not for use in purchasing/upgrading administrative/office computers but is for direct student benefit only. He noted that the \$5 fee is in line with what UNL and peer institutions are currently charging.

Memorandum Six: Senator Hendricks reported that Executive Memorandum #16 covers the rules for the use of university computers, particularly regarding personal use. Prior approval should be obtained if computer is going to be used for paid consulting or non-university business. A manual should be available soon.

Updated Agenda for Regents: Senator Hendricks reported that an updated agenda for the regents meeting on Saturday, January 17, 1998, was faxed to the senate office this morning. The addendum covers the following: proposing the establishment of an NU public policy center, proposing the naming of the field at Memorial Stadium in honor of Dr. Thomas W. Osborne, a proposed resolution recommending consideration of a constitutional amendment to vest governing and coordinating authority for four-year public higher education institutions in Nebraska in a single board, a proposed resolution prompted by recent action involving Peru State College, a request for consideration of a proposal to establish a new committee on university restructuring, and a request that the board consider changing the date of the October, 1998, and December, 1998, meetings. Discussion followed.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Gordon Mundell

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Mundell presented the December 31, 1997, budget report (attachment 15) noting that the finances of the senate are in good order.

Vice President's Report: Judith Harrington

No Report

Executive Committee Report

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee moves the approval of the amended faculty senate constitution as previously submitted with the following additional changes:

ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

If at any time the number of non-collegiate faculty should be such that they could be apportioned at least one senator, they will be assigned as a separate voting unit.

Colleges.

Other A academic units which utilize faculties composed primarily of persons holding faculty rank in the academic colleges of the university do not qualify as colleges under this definition.

ARTICLE V. ORGANIZATION OF SENATE COMMITTEES.

Executive Committee

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.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS.

Recommended changes in the constitution must be submitted for approval by the faculty senate and ratification by vote of the university faculty in accord with procedures set forth in Section 1 of this Article the first paragraph of this article.

Carl Camp, chair of the Constitutional Review Committee, reported that only four non-assigned faculty members will be affected by ARTICLE II. Discussion followed.

A secret vote was taken. Secretary-Treasurer Mundell counted the ballots: 25 for, 1 against. The motion passed

Senator Hendricks announced that the constitution as amended will now be presented to all full-time faculty for a final vote. Ballots should go out later this month.

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

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., by words and deeds, personified ideals held in great esteem by our nation in general and by the academic community in particular, and

WHEREAS, by act of Congress the third Monday of January has been designated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and

WHEREAS, appropriate commemorations of such events include the setting aside of usual business; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha encourages that the academic calendar of the University of Nebraska be modified such that classes not be scheduled on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Discussion followed. Senator Hendricks noted that the 1998-99 calendar is the earliest these changes would take place.

Senator Newton moved that the resolution be presented to the full faculty via a closed ballot. Senator Diamond seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A show of hands was taken resulting in 11 for and 14 against. The motion failed.

Senator Gessaman moved that the resolution be amended to include "from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m at the end of the last sentence. Senator Diamond seconded the motion. Discussion followed. A show of hands was taken and the motion failed.

A vote on the resolution as it stands was taken by a show of hands. The motion passed.

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

WHEREAS, by virtue of its attempts to effectively serve its diverse metropolitan student clients, UNOmaha schedules many classes to meet only once per week, and

WHEREAS, any alteration in the academic calendar which leads to an imbalance in days of the week in an academic term will disadvantage many students; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha strongly encourages that any changes in the academic calendar should, through some means, result in appropriate allocations of class time to all course sections regardless of the days of the week on which they are scheduled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that among the possible solutions to the problem of unbalanced class schedules might be the scheduling of some classes during the week prior to the official start of classes or the week currently scheduled for final exams, allowing faculty to develop alternative educational experiences or dividing the current spring break such that the Monday is used for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with the Tuesday immediately following also being a holiday and spring break being limited to Wednesday through Friday.

Discussion followed. Senator Gessaman moved striking "the week prior to the official start of classes or." The motion was seconded. Discussion continued. Senator Stolen called for the proposed amendment to be read aloud; Senator Hendricks did so. A vote was taken on the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed. Senator Stolen moved adding "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we are opposed to scheduling a Saturday class in lieu of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day." Senator Diamond seconded the motion. A vote on the second amendment was taken. The motion passed.

A vote on the resolution as amended was taken.

WHEREAS, by virtue of its attempts to effectively serve its diverse metropolitan student clients, UNOmaha schedules many classes to meet only once per week, and

WHEREAS, any alteration in the academic calendar which leads to an imbalance in days of the week in an academic term will disadvantage many students; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha strongly encourages that any changes in the academic calendar should, through some means, result in a appropriate allocations of class time to all course sections regardless of the days of the week on which they are scheduled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that among the possible solutions to the problem of unbalanced class schedules might be the scheduling of some classes during the week prior to the official start of classes or the week currently scheduled for final exams, allowing faculty to develop alternative educational experiences or dividing the current spring break such that the Monday is used for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with the Tuesday immediately following also being a holiday and spring break being limited to Wednesday through Friday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the faculty is opposed to scheduling a Saturday class in lieu of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day."

The motion passed.

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

WHEREAS, the current spring break falls very close to the end of the semester; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha supports moving the current spring break earlier in the semester.

Discussion followed. Senator Hendricks offered a friendly amendment to the Executive Committee and Cabinet to strike "earlier" and "in" and add "to the mid-point of" after the word "break." The friendly amendment was accepted.

Senator Diamond offered a friendly amendment to include the word "closer" after the word "break." The friendly amendment was accepted. Discussion continued.

A vote on the resolution as amended was taken.

WHEREAS, the current spring break falls very close to the end of the semester; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha supports moving the current spring break earlier in the semester closer to the mid-point of the semester.

The motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Rules Committee: Arthur Diamond, chair.

No report; the committee did not meet in December.

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

No report; the committee did not meet in December.

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

No report; the committee did not meet in December.

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

No report; the committee did not meet in December.

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

Senator Suzuki presented the December 17, 1997, minutes (attachment 16).

Committee on Goals and Directions: Chair, Loree Bykerk.

No report; the committee did not meet in December.

Budget Advisory Committee: John Newton, chair.

No report; the committee did not meet in December.

Other Reports

AAUP: Joseph Brown, senate representative.

No report.

Alumni Board: Senator Harrington reported that awards were presented to Don Leahy and Dick Natrass. She also noted that the Alumni Association will be covering expenses for refreshments at graduation for faculty, staff, and students.

Graduate Council: Susan Maher presented the December 8, 1997, agenda (attachments 17-21) and the November 10, 1997, minutes (attachments 22-24). She noted that a leave of absence policy now exists for doctoral students.

Old Business

None

For the Good of the Order

New Business

None

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Mundell
Secretary-Treasurer