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Faculty Senate Minutes March 1998

UNO Faculty Senate

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UNO Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 1998, 2:00 P.M., MBSC Dodge Room

The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha met on Wednesday, March 11, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dodge Room of the Milo Bail Student Center.

The president, Shelton Hendricks, presided.

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

Guests Karen White and Jeff French made a presentation on behalf of the Strategic Planning Council.

Senator Hendricks asked for approval of the February 11, 1998, minutes (attachments 1-6). The minutes were approved.

Officers Reports

President's Report: Shelton Hendricks

President Smith will address the senate at the May, 1998 meeting.

Faculty/Staff Picnic: The senate has agreed to jointly sponsor what will now be called the Faculty/Staff Picnic scheduled for Friday, March 27, 1998. This activity was previously known as the annual staff picnic; however, the Staff Advisory Council has extended an invitation for faculty to fully participate as of this year. The senate has provided financial support as well as faculty to serve dessert at the picnic for several years.

Executive Committee/Chancellor's staff meeting of 02/20/98:

The constitution and resolutions were presented.

Procedures for selecting and appointing university committee members was discussed. An ad hoc committee appointed; members are John Farr, Barbara Hewins-Maroney, Art Diamond, Judy Harrington, and Sandy Jensen. The committee will look at current policies and procedures and recommend improvements. John Farr will convene the committee in the near future.

The chancellor's investiture was discussed. The date is April 17, 1998, the place is Witherspoon Auditorium. All faculty will be invited to participate to represent the institution they received their highest degree from. Additional events will be a dinner on Thursday, and a luncheon, on-

campus procession, and a reception in student center on Friday. Invitations will be distributed in the near future.

Chancellor's Council Meeting 02/26/98:

A presentation was made by Ron Withem, university lobbyist, regarding the current legislative session. There is a good chance that the maintenance bond issue affecting Allwine Hall and the Arts and Sciences building will be passed; however, the fate of most other bills of university interest are doubtful.

The council unanimously endorsed the report of the Fee Review Committee (see attachments 7-10).

Discussion took place on the current budget. UNO is not contributing to the short fall; however, all four campuses will be expected to cover the system-wide.

A recommendation was received from the University-Wide Calendar Committee which will be referred to the Campus-Wide Scheduling Committee (attachments 11-12).

Representatives of the Strategic Planning Council gave a report.

The possibility of moving commencement was discussed. Senator Hendricks was requested to solicit input. Commencement will remain at Ak-Sar-Ben Arena for the foreseeable future.

The status of blue ribbon panel on part-time faculty was discussed.

Meeting of Faculty Senate Presidents with President Smith:

A full report by Ron Withem on "NU'S Commitment to Gender and Minority Diversity" and legislative interest in this issue is on file and may be reviewed in the senate office. The budget can be reduced if these goals are not satisfied.

The possibility of instituting dependent tuition waivers was discussed. The major possibility would be to allow employees to assign their annual fifteen tuition-free credit hours to their dependents.

Regents Meeting of 02/28/98:

The regents approved a university-wide policy on post-tenure review (attachments 13-14). The policy is similar to document the senate endorsed. The next step is for each campus to develop their own individual plan. It is hoped that AAUP, administration, and the senate will all work together to accomplish this.

An in-depth evaluation of the Industrial Systems Technology Program has been received by the regents. Discussion took place on whether the university should continue to offer an associate's

degree. The board accepted the consultant's recommendation that the associate's degree be continued.

The regents approved a revised policy on access to retirement accumulations (attachments 15-17) which would give maximum flexibility within the tax law for individuals to access their funds. The policy also includes other options for individuals who leave the university prior to their retirement to access their accumulated funds.

James R. Buck was appointed to serve as UNO's new vice chancellor of University Affairs and Communication effective March 1, 1998.

Discussion took place on "Society Ready Graduates" by academic vice chancellors.

The board received a report from the University of Nebraska Committee on Diversity (attachments 18-21).

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Gordon Mundell

February 28, 1998, budget report (attachment 22)

In Senator Mundell's absence, Senator Harrington announced that the February 28, 1998, budget report will be presented at the April 8th, senate meeting.

Vice President's Report: Judith Harrington

No report.

Executive Committee Report

Official Approval of the Amendments to the Senate Bylaws: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Newton officially presented the amendments to senate bylaws noting they will be voted on at the April 8, 1998, senate meeting.

Senator Newton noted that the bylaws are essentially unchanged except for the elimination of the Conciliation Committee. The rest of the changes were of a housekeeping nature. He explained that the amended bylaws can be viewed on the senate's website: (www.unomaha.edu/~sjensen/welcome.htm) or, if anyone prefers a hard copy they should contact the senate office.

Update on Status of Amendments to Senate Constitution Senator Hendricks announced that the constitution will be presented at the April regents meeting.

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

WHEREAS, computerized information technology has become an integral part of the academic enterprise, and

WHEREAS, students who do not become familiar with this technology will be greatly disadvantaged as citizens and in the employment market, and

WHEREAS, universities, in general, and UNOmaha in particular, have not been able to provide even minimal student access to this technology without sacrificing other significant priorities, and

WHEREAS, these resources require continuing budgetary support; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate, reluctantly, endorses the proposal to assess all students a \$5.00 per credit hour technology fee to be used to provide students access to computers and other information technology support as outlined in the report of the Fee Review Committee.

Discussion followed during which it was verified that UNL and UNK already have a technology fee in place . The motion unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Rules Committee: Arthur Diamond, chair.

Amendment of Resolution 2244: On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Diamond moved the following amendments to resolution 2244:

Resolution 2244 - 07/09/97: Rules Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward as a three-year appointment (July 1, 1997 1998 through June 30, 2000 2001) to the University Committee on Computer Usage:

Kim Sosin

Senator Diamond explained the rationale for the amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, in recent years computing has increased in importance to all academic endeavors, increasing the significance of faculty consultation to the development of policies and procedures relative to computing; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate strongly suggests that the current five faculty senate appointed representatives on the University Committee on Computer Usage be increased from five to six.

The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE SURVEY: Senator Diamond reminded those present to turn in their committee surveys and to encourage fellow faculty members to do so by the March 20th, deadline.

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

On behalf of the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare, Senator Carlson presented the February 25, 1998, minutes (attachment 23).

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare moves the approval of the amended Professional Conduct Committee Rules of Procedure as previously submitted at the November 12, 1997, senate meeting.

Senator Carlson gave a brief explanation of the changes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, the faculty senate has reviewed the Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Part-Time Faculty -- University of Nebraska at Omaha, and

WHEREAS, the faculty senate is impressed by the breadth and quality of the report and its recommendations; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate commends the panel members for their diligent effort, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the faculty senate recommends the administration take immediate action to implement the recommendations and address the areas for additional study contained in the report.

Senator Carlson explained the importance of a generalized statement and noted that additional resolutions will be presented by the Committee on Academic & Curricular Affairs in the near future. The motion passed unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, the availability of dependent scholarships is a cost effective benefit which would significantly aid the NU system in attracting and keeping faculty and staff, and

WHEREAS, such scholarship aid could increase the likelihood of some of Nebraska's most talented citizens remaining in the state; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate strongly supports efforts to make tuition waivers available to the dependents of employees of the University of Nebraska.

Senator Carlson reported that a similar resolution went before the UNL senate earlier this week. Senator Carlson read the resolution and the tuition benefits policy.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

On behalf of the Committee on Professional Development, Senator Bruckner presented the February 25, 1998, minutes (attachment 24).

Senator Bruckner stated that information has been collected from all of the deans and the committee hopes to present a white paper by the end of this academic year. She also noted that the committee's March meeting has been moved to Friday, March 13th, since the regularly scheduled meeting date falls during spring break.

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

On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Newton presented the February 25, 1998, minutes (attachment 25).

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

On behalf of the Committee on Educational Resources and Services, Senator Reidelbach presented the February 25, 1998, minutes (attachment 26).

Guy Conway indicated that at present, no alternative sites are available for the faculty/staff lunchroom. The Maverick Buffet was suggested as a possibility; however, it is being reserved for future service to the residence hall. The committee stressed reluctance to give up the current lunch room without a replacement. Becky Murphy, Staff Advisory Council chair, was contacted; she reported that the staff supports the idea of turning the present faculty/staff lunchroom into a student user room and agrees that an alternate site is desired. Guy Conway will continue to look for an alternate site. The committee hopes to present a joint resolution with the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs next month.

Senator Reidelbach reported that the senate has received a total of \$322.00 in donations for the Paul L. Beck Faculty/Staff Memorial Scholarship

Committee on Goals and Directions: Loree Bykerk, chair.

On behalf of the Committee on Goals and Directions, Senator Bykerk presented the February 25, 1998, minutes (attachment 27).

Policy for Honorary Degrees (attachments 28-30). Senator Bykerk gave a brief background on the history of awarding honorary degrees. She noted that UNL's practice of awarding honorary degrees differs from UNO's even though they are under the same board of regents policy. Senator Hendricks relayed his conversation with UNL faculty senate president. Discussion followed. Senator Bykerk clarified that the system is two track; one nomination by the board of regents with approval of chancellor only (not faculty), and second, nominations by the University Committee on Honors and Awards which allows faculty approval.

On behalf of the Committee on Goals and Directions, Senator Bykerk moved the following:

WHEREAS, a system-wide Policy for Honorary Degrees has come to light but this policy allows for wide discretion, and

WHEREAS, faculty input under this policy can be bypassed, and

WHEREAS, evaluation by stated criteria and with faculty evaluation of nominees is the standard practice at other academic institutions; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following criteria be used in evaluating nominees and awarding degrees:

The nominee should have contributed beneficially and substantially to society at large through outstanding intellectual, creative, or humanitarian accomplishments, and/or

The nominee, as a representative of Nebraska, should have made beneficial and substantial creative, intellectual or humanitarian contributions to society at large.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all nominations for honorary degrees to be awarded by UNO be evaluated by the University Committee on Honors and Awards, and that the committee actively solicit input from faculty with relevant expertise, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the honorary degrees awarded by UNO be presented only at scheduled commencements.

Senator Diamond moved to amend the resolution as follows:

Paragraph Two: WHEREAS, faculty input under this policy can be bypassed indicates that each campus shall establish procedures for obtaining faculty approval and intimates that such procedures shall involve seeking the approval of the faculty senate, and,

Paragraph Four: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all nominations for honorary degrees to be awarded recommended by UNO be evaluated by the University Committee on Honors and Awards, and that the committee actively solicit input from faculty with relevant expertise, and that the names of nominees be submitted for approval to the faculty senate which will consider this matter in executive session and return confidential recommendations to the University Committee on Honors and Awards, and

Senator Hendricks read the amended resolution. Discussion followed.

The motion to amend was approved unanimously.

The main motion as amended was moved. The resolution as amended was approved unanimously.

Budget Advisory Committee: John Newton, chair.

No report; the committee did not meet.

Other Reports

AAUP: Joseph Brown, senate representative.

No Report.

Alumni Board: Judith Harrington, senate representative.

Senator Harrington reported that Rusty Crawford presented a survey that will be distributed to all UNO graduates of five years ago and more. It is hoped that the results of the survey will be made available campus-wide even though the expenses are being covered by the alumni board.

Senator Harrington reported that the minutes have not yet been distributed but that she will file them in the senate office for review when they become available.

Graduate Council: Susan Maher, senate representative.

On behalf of Senator Maher, Senator Diamond presented the March 9, 1998, agenda (attachment 31) and the February 9, 1998, minutes (attachments 32-35).

Senator Diamond reported that the March 9th, meeting was canceled due to a winter storm and that the main topic discussion at the February meeting was the alleged decline in enrollment in the College of Arts and Sciences. He pointed out that the greatest cause for this decline was the transfer of the computer science department to the College of Information Science and Technology.

Senator Diamond also noted that a special meeting was held with Chancellor Belck regarding the appointment of a graduate dean and the interim appointment of Chris Bell.

Restoration of UCR funding was also discussed.

Old Business

None.

For the Good of the Order

Chancellor's Investiture

New Business

None.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Mundell
Secretary-Treasurer