Faculty Senate Minutes

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UNO Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 8, 1998, 2:00 P.M., MBSC Dodge Room

The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha met on Wednesday, April 8, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dodge Room of the Milo Bail Student Center.
The president, Shelton Hendricks, presided.

Those Excused: Reidelbach, Schwer, Suzuki
Those Absent:

Jerry Cederblom will make a presentation on Teaching Circles.

Jim Shaw attended for Senator Reidelbach.

Liz Rogers, daughter of Senator Sheri Rogers, was a guest.

Senator Hendricks asked for approval of the March 11, 1998, minutes (attachments 1-8). The minutes were approved as submitted.

Officers Reports

President's Report: Shelton Hendricks

Chancellor's Council Meeting on March 26, 1998

Summer Usage of UNO Housing
Academic Center Concept in Athletics
Blue Ribbon Report on Part-Time Faculty
Allocation of Technology Fees

Draft "Guidelines for Faculty Appointments"

Referred to the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Hendricks noted that at present this is a "thinking document" and remains open to change.

Board of Regents Meeting on April 4, 1998

• Reconfirmed commitment that all salary adjustments be based on performance.
- Approved replacement of the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees with majors in computer science with a bachelor of science in computer science in the College of Information Science and Technology.

- Approved replacing the present specialization in management information systems in the bachelor of science in business administration degree in the UNO College of Business Administration with a bachelor of science in management information systems degree in the College of Information Science and Technology.

- Approved master of International Business degree at UNO.

- Modified the university policy on academic calendars to the effect that the Tuesday after labor day is no longer required to be a holiday. Senator Hendricks reported that the BOR has given up control of many of the details of the university calendar and have referred each campus to deal with their own holidays/breaks.

- Adopted university policy statement on life-long learning. This is within the document revision of policy 2.1.6 entitled Relationship of Teaching, Research and Service. (attachment 9-10) Senator Hendricks noted that this is an announcement of the university's commitment to life-long learning.

- Approved contract to replace glass the College of Business Administration's windows.

Post-Tenure Review

Senator Hendricks reported that Chancellor Belck is establishing a committee to draft a campus guideline for UNO's post-tenure review process and that she has requested that he serve as a member. Senator Hendricks noted that he was asked to recommend one additional senator and an AAUP representative; Senator Brown and Janet West have agreed to serve in these capacities. The committee will discuss how post-tenure on the UNO campus will fit into the established guidelines.

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Candidates

Dr. Walter Mathews and Dr. Nancy Marlin are the two remaining nominees for the position of vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. Senator Hendricks gave a brief overview of each candidates qualifications. Senator Hendricks reported that he has requested interview times be set up for the Executive Committee. Vitaes are available upon request from the senate office.

Bell Tower Challenge

Senator Hendricks announced the upcoming fourth annual Bell Tower Challenge and requested an additional senate member to assist him in the competition. Donations of can goods and/or money will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds are donated to the Omaha Food Bank.

Faculty Senate/Staff Advisory Council Banquet
The annual faculty senate banquet sponsored by the chancellor will be expanded to include the Staff Advisory Council and will be held on May 13th. Invitations will be sent out closer to the date of the banquet.

Summer Meetings

Senator Hendricks reminded those present of the new constitutional provision which eliminates the full senate meetings in the month of June and July. He indicated that the board of regents must still approve the constitutional amendments which are on the May 16, 1998, agenda.

Honors Week and Chancellor's Investiture

Senator Hendricks encouraged all to participate in as many of the honors week activities as possible as well as the chancellor's investiture.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Gordon Mundell


On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Mundell presented the March 31, 1998, budget report (attachment 12). Senator Mundell explained the funding of the senate coordinator's job upgrade to an administrative technician.

Vice President's Report: Judith Harrington

No report.

Executive Committee Report

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

Resolution 2295

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee moves approval of the amended faculty senate bylaws as submitted at the March 11, 1998, senate meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

On behalf of the executive committee, Senator Mundell offered the following amendment to the bylaws:

Resolution 2296
Amendment to section 7.2, "Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee," of "The Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha."

After the last sentence, add:

A committee with a case under consideration shall, when necessary, continue past April with its membership unchanged until the case is resolved; in such an event, new cases shall be considered by the reconstituted committee.

The motion to amend the bylaws passed unanimously.

A vote was taken; 27 for, 0 against. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Resolution 2297

WHEREAS, the investiture of Nancy Belck as the thirteenth chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha is to occur on April 17, 1998, and

WHEREAS, such an occasion is an appropriate time for celebration by the entire campus community; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate extends its heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Chancellor Belck on the occasion of her investiture, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the faculty senate encourages all faculty, staff, and students of the university to participate in the celebration.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Rules Committee: Arthur Diamond, chair.

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

Resolution 2298

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with section 6.1 of the faculty senate bylaws the following nominees for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee are brought forward by the Rules Committee for senate nomination. If approved, a ballot will be presented to the UNO faculty.

Vote for one tenured faculty member to serve a three year term from April 16, 1998, through April 15, 2001, to replace Thomas Tollman:
Vote for one non-tenured faculty member to serve a three year term from April 16, 1998, through April 15, 2001, to replace Hollis Glaser (who will be tenured as of July 1, 1998):

Amy Buller
Sue Pendleton

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Newton presented the March 18, 1998, minutes (attachments 13-17).

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

Resolution 2299

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate recommends that any faculty member assigning a grade of incomplete must complete the UNO form that specifies the conditions for the grade, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the current form be reviewed by college faculties to ensure that it is up-to-date and includes all necessary information.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Resolution 2300

WHEREAS, the grade of "I" changes automatically to "W," rather than changing to "F" as it did under former policy; therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, that the assistant vice chancellor of Student Enrollment Services and director of Admissions, Records, and Registration notify faculty three weeks in advance of the automatic change date so that faculty may be reminded to exercise their prerogative to change the grade if appropriate.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Resolution 2301

WHEREAS, the movement called "K-16 reform" was discussed at the October 17 1997 meeting of the board of regents, and the faculty senate was asked to respond to the issue, and

WHEREAS, a well articulated transition between high school graduation and college entrance is a commendable goal, and

WHEREAS, bringing together K-12 and University of Nebraska representatives to explore alternatives to supporting high student achievement and a maximally effective transition from secondary to post-secondary levels is a logical and positive step in achieving this goal; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNO faculty senate endorses the K-16 reform initiative, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that since much of the K-16 reform literature speaks to the issue of admission standards, the faculty senate recommends that if the university's view of K-16 reform becomes focused on admission standards, the matter should be identified clearly as an admission issue and input from faculty, students, and residents of Nebraska should be sought.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Newton moved the following joint resolution with the Committee on Educational Resources and Services:

Resolution 2302

WHEREAS, student government has proposed that the current faculty/staff dining room in the Milo Bail Student center be converted into a computer user room, and

WHEREAS, because of its inconvenient location, the current faculty staff/ dining room appears to be underutilized by faculty and staff, and

WHEREAS, faculty support increased access by students to computers for educational purposes; therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate recommends that the current faculty/staff dining room be converted into a computer user room, contingent upon the stipulation that the conversion of the current faculty/staff dining room not take place until the faculty senate has been presented with, and agreed upon, an acceptable site on the second floor of the Milo Bail Student Center for a new faculty/staff dining room.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Resolution 2304

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate recommends approval of the request for a name change from the Department of Professional Accounting back to the Department of Accounting.

Senator Hendricks explained that department name changes must be presented to the board of regents and to do so must pass through the faculty senate. Discussion followed.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Resolution 2303

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate supports the establishment of a Center for Innovation in Discipline-Based Arts Education in the College of Fine Arts.

Senator Newton gave a brief background on the purpose of the resolution. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

On behalf of the Committee on Educational Resources and Services, Senator Reidelbach presented the March, 1998, minutes (attachment 18).

See joint resolution with the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs (D, 5).

Senator Valle added that the committee is in the process of reviewing the applications for the Paul L. Beck Memorial Faculty/Staff Scholarships.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Loree Bykerk, chair.

No report.
Budget Advisory Committee: John Newton, chair.

No report.

Other Reports


Alumni Board: Judith Harrington, senate representative. Senator Harrington reported that she was unable to attend the March 17th meeting; however, the minutes are attached (attachments 19-20).

Graduate Council: Susan Maher, senate representative. There will be a meeting of the graduate faculty on April 29th.

Old Business

For the Good of the Order

Teaching Circles were discussed.

New Business

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

Resolution 2305

WHEREAS, the duties of the Rules Committee are increasingly time-consuming and difficult, and,

WHEREAS, the duties could be more efficiently and appropriately carried out if the Rules Committee was were a standing committee; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following changes be made to the bylaws of the senate:

Delete the following sentences from article VI., section 1:

Also during a recess or within one week following the last regular senate meeting of the academic year, senators from 1) a) the College of Arts and Sciences, b) the College of Business Administration and the Library, c) the College of Education, and d) the College of Fine Arts and the College of Public Affairs and Community Service shall caucus to select one representative each to the rules Committee. Caucuses should strive for rotation of representation from year to year.

Change "section 5:" to "4.6"
Insert the following to the beginning of 4.6:

Soon after the last regular Senate meeting of the academic year, the incoming President shall appoint a member of the committee as chairperson. This senator shall also serve on the Executive Committee and the Cabinet.

Delete the following from 4.6:

In addition to the members elected by each of the college caucuses, one at-large member will be appointed to the committee by the faculty president. This senator shall serve as chairperson of the Rules Committee and shall serve on the Executive Committee.

Senator Diamond noted that this issue was not previously presented to the Executive Committee and is therefore being addressed under New Business. Senator Diamond gave an in-depth explanation of the need for the resolution and the increase in workload for the Rules Committee in the last few years.

The motion was moved by Senator Diamond and seconded by Senator Bradshaw. Discussion followed.

Senator Deichert offered a friendly amendment to change article VI., section 1, from 1) the College of Arts and Sciences, to a) the College of Arts and Sciences.

The amendment was accepted by Senator Diamond and seconded by Senator Bradshaw.

Senator Hendricks offered a friendly amendment to add "and Cabinet" to the end of "Insert the following to the beginning of 4.6:"

The friendly amendment was accepted by Senator Diamond and seconded by Senator Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Stacy moved to go into Executive Session.

A vote was taken: 12 yes; 10 no; 6 abstain.

Senator Hendricks requested a return to a regular session. The request passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Mundell
Secretary-Treasurer