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Faculty Senate Minutes September 1998

UNO Faculty Senate

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UNO Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 1998, 2:00 p.m., MBSC Dodge Room

The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha met on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dodge Room of the Milo Bail Student Center.
The president, Shelton Hendricks, presided.

In Attendance: Ali, Allen, Bartle, Brown, Bruckner, Carlson, Clute, Craiger, DeLone, Diamond, Foster, Gessaman, Harland, Hendricks, Irvin, Krause, Kuhlman, Lee, Lewis, Maher, Metal-Corbin, Nazem, Newton, Parnell-Smith, Paterson, Rech, Rogers, Shaw, Skreija, Stergiou, Suzuki, Valle

Those Excused: None

Those Absent: Aschenbrenner, Baum, Bradshaw, Carroll, Deichert, Engelmann,

Guest(s): None

Senator Hendricks asked for approval of the August 19, 1998, minutes (agenda attachments 1-13). The minutes were approved as submitted.

Officers Reports

President's Report: Senator Shelton Hendricks

Chancellor's Council

Recruitment, Enrollment and Retention -- Information was distributed relative to the following (committee chairs have copies of these documents, a complete set is also available in the senate office):

declared majors -- counting both first and second major, if indicated (08/26/98).

application/admissions/enrollment by Colleges and by status as of 08/24/98.

results of non-returning student survey (no real surprises).

evaluation of impact of students who tested into English 1050: Reading Comprehension on several student outcomes based on whether or not they enrolled in English 1050 (testing into English 1050 and not taking it is a strong predictor of student failure).

analysis of student outcomes for those students "admitted by review" compared to a control group of students who met all admissions standards (large difference in retention rates, if we only admitted students who met our published admission standards over first to second year retention rate would be about 75%).

analysis of the evaluation of the orientation and entering student survey -- one striking comparisons of entering vs. graduating students (the former feel more welcome at UNO).

summary of student retention data (97-98 -- freshman cohort retention is 66.7% up almost 10% from '96-'97).

web-based registration is on-line.

a method for clearing on-line blocks by faculty needs to be developed.

enrollment is stable this year compared to last. Admitted students appear better prepared compared to recent years. Credit hours and income may be up.

Meeting of UN Board of Regents 09/04/98

Passed a resolution introduced by Hassebrook (Miller and Skrupa dissenting) expressing the regent's opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment that would limit state spending to increases related to inflation and population growth.

Resolution passed by the Board of Regents on September 4, 1998:

Whereas, the University of Nebraska has an historic obligation as a land grant college to make quality education accessible to all qualified citizens and has met this goal for nearly 130 years;

Whereas, the University of Nebraska has an historic obligation to serve the citizens of Nebraska through programs that support economic and community development and has met this goal through a multitude of programs too numerous to mention;

Whereas, the University of Nebraska is making great strides in building quality education, research and outreach programs to better position the citizens and communities of our state to grow and prosper.

Whereas, independent analysis has determined that Initiative 413 would likely impose cuts in state support for the University of Nebraska, infringing on its ability to build quality programs to serve the citizens of Nebraska;

Whereas, the cuts in state support imposed by Initiative 413 would shift an increased share of the cost of higher education on to tuition, contrary to the land grant mission of making quality education accessible to all qualified citizens;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska opposes the passage of Initiative 413 in order to retain its capacity to effectively serve Nebraskans in accordance with its historic mission.

Approved Alley Poyner Architecture and Sinclair Hille and Associates to provide design services for renovation of Allwine Hall and Arts and Sciences Hall Phase III. Also, approved RFP for a construction manager.

Approved Buck Consultants, Inc. as consultants in the development and implementation of a classification/compensation program and incentive reward program for university staff.

Pomp and Circumstance

All senators are urged, and they are urged to encourage their colleagues to attend the convocation to be held on 10/08/98.

I have had several conversations with VC Hodgson regarding faculty attendance at commencements. (Faculty attendance at this past August commencement, his first, was particularly dismal.) I would like to see us pursue several initiatives to encourage faculty attendance at commencement.

Thanks to the UNO-AAUP faculty will now be provided with libations while they robe in what I trust will be a well appointed and equipped area.

The VC agreed to evaluate the possibility of providing faculty with reserved parking at commencement.

UNO will look into obtaining faculty discounts from the vendor renting commencement regalia.

We will investigate the possibility of having robes available for faculty use through departmental purchases, donations from retiring faculty (I estimate a viable \$600 tax write off as charity donation, and not even the IRS would doubt faculty to be a charity), and perhaps a "rent to own" procedure to allow new faculty to purchase academic regalia on reasonable terms.

We should re-emphasize the current senate-adopted policy on faculty attendance at commencement, but encourage attendance beyond this rather minimal level.

Some faculty have expressed to me that their distaste for having to participate in the invocation and benediction. Perhaps these could be eliminated or we could work very hard to assure that these aspects of the commencement are minimally sectarian and minimally objectionable to the diverse population attending commencement.

Race and Gender Demographic Information on Full-time Faculty for 1998-99 Academic Year (agenda attachments 14-16)

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Senator Claudette Lee

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Lee presented the June 30, 1998, Budget Report (agenda attachment 17-18). There were no questions.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Lee presented the July 31, 1998, Budget Report (agenda attachment 19-20). There were no questions.

Vice President's Report: Senator Martha Bruckner

No report.

Executive Committee Report: Senator Martha Bruckner

No report.

Standing Committee Reports

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

No report; the committee did not meet in August.

On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Newton presented the 1997-98 annual report (agenda attachments 21-22).

Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator William Clute, chair.

No report; the committee did not meet in August.

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

No report; the committee did not meet in August.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Sheri Rogers, chair.

On behalf of the Committee on Goals and Directions, Senator Rogers presented the August 26, 1998, minutes (agenda attachment 23). Senator Rogers reported that the committee will meet again on Wednesday, September 30th, in a joint session with the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare. The guest speaker at that meeting will be Vice Chancellor Hodgson.

Committee on Professional Development: Senator Lynn Harland, chair.

No report; the committee did not meet in August.

Rules Committee: Senator Arthur Diamond, chair.

No report; the committee did not meet in August.

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

Resolution 2338 09/09/98: Committee on Rules

Ballot Vote: In accordance with the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha bylaws, section 6.1 Committee on Faculty Grievances, the following faculty are brought forward by the Rules Committee for ballot election by the senate to replace Michael Scherer as the full professor representative for a three year term from September 16, 1998, through September 15, 2001:

Wai-Ning Mei (elected)
Qiuming Zhu

Ballot Vote: In accordance the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha bylaws, section 6.1, Committee on Faculty Grievances, the following faculty are brought forward by the Rules Committee for ballot election by the senate to replace Carol Zoerb as the assistant professor representative for a three year term from September 16, 1998, through September 15, 2001:

Renee Irvin (elected)
Jeff Johnson

Ballot Vote: In accordance the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha bylaws, section 6.1, Committee on Faculty Grievances, the following faculty are brought forward by the Rules Committee for ballot election by the senate to replace Andris Skreija as the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare representative for a one-year term from September 16, 1998, through September 15, 1999:

Andris Skreija
Deborah Irvin (elected)

Senator Carlson referred to a resolution passed approximately five or six years ago which called for a biography of all ballot nominees. Since most were unaware of this resolution, verbal recommendations were given by those present who knew the nominees.

The motion to approve the names presented above was approved.

The ballots were tallied by Senators Bruckner and Lee. Professors Wai-Ning Mei, Renee Irvin and Deborah Irvin were elected.

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

Resolution 2339 09/09/98: Committee on Rules

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward as a three-year appointment from September 9, 1998, through June 30, 2001, to the University Committee on Student Affairs (position previously filled by chancellor):

Andrew Smallwood

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Resolution 2340 09/09/98: Committee on Rules

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as three-year appointments from September 9 1998, through June 30, 2001, to the University Committee on Library and Educational Resources (position previously filled by chancellor):

Carol Ebdon
Nicholas Stergiou

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Resolution 2341 09/09/98: Committee on Rules

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as three-year appointments from September 9, 1998, through June 30, 2001, to the University Committee on Academic Fees (one of the positions was previously filled by the chancellor):

Laura Dickson
Manoj Sharma
Joseph La Voie

The motion was approved unanimously.

Other Reports

AAUP: Senator Joseph Brown, senate representative.

No report.

Alumni Board Report: Senator Martha Bruckner, senate representative.

Senator Maher presented the August 18, 1998, minutes (agenda attachment 24-26). She also reported that the board will meet again on Monday, September 14, and that President Smith will be a guest at that meeting.

Graduate Councils: Senator Susan Maher, senate representative.

No report.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Sheri Rogers, senate representative.

Senator Rogers reported that the October advance will be held on October 19 and that the development of the tactical plan is moving forward. The final strategic planning issue forum is scheduled for Monday, September 14; items of interest should be forwarded to the committee as soon as possible.

Old Business

None.

For the Good of the Order: Bylaws, Article IV. Senate Agenda., Section 3: "This period of informal, unrecorded discussion is provided to encourage senators to voice opinions on timely issues and shall not normally exceed ten minutes."

Senate Stand on Proposition 413

Garage Parking on the Second Level

Problems with Lotus Notes and Long-term Plan for Campus-Wide Access

Problems with White Boards

New Business

On behalf of the assembly, Senator Hendricks presented the following:

Resolution 2342 09/09/98: By the Assembly

WHEREAS, Initiative 413, by all objective analysis, poses a severe financial threat to the University of Nebraska at Omaha; and

WHEREAS, it's implementation would deprive the elected representatives of the citizens of Nebraska of their ability to exercise their responsibilities with respect to meeting the higher education needs of the state; and

WHEREAS, one result of the implementation of Initiative 413 would likely be to shift the costs of higher education to students and families who can least afford such an increased burden; and

WHEREAS, the instruction, research, and service provided by University of Nebraska at Omaha are vital to the our students and other constituents, and to the economic, cultural, and intellectual development of our community; and

WHEREAS, University of Nebraska at Omaha's future ability to meet these responsibilities will be severely limited if Initiative 413 were to be enacted; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha urges defeat of Initiative 413.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Senator Allen moved the resolution and requested the appointment of a committee to further investigate the issue.

The motion was seconded and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

Committee to Investigate Initiative 413: At the request of Senator Allen and with the support of the assembly, Senator Hendricks called for volunteers to sit on a senate ad hoc Proposition 413 Committee; Senators Allen, Bartle, Bruckner, Clute and Paterson volunteered.

Standing Committee Meetings: Time and Location to Senate Office

Senator Hendricks announced that the standing committee chairs have been asked to notify the senate office of the date, time and location of all meetings. This information will then be posted on the senate home page for easy access by all. Occasional calls from guest speakers, administration, etc. requesting this information prompted this action.

Faculty Appointments to University Committees: Chancellor Appointments/Senate Appointments

Clarification will be obtained from the chancellor at the September 16th, meeting with the Executive Committee and administration on the current procedure for appointing faculty to university committees based on recent recommendations by the University Committee on Committees.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Sincerely,

Claudette Lee
Secretary-Treasurer