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Faculty Senate Minutes November 1998

UNO Faculty Senate

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UNO Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, November 11, 1998, 2:00 p.m., MBSC Dodge Room

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

In Attendance: Ali, Aschenbrenner, Bartle, Baum, Brown, Bruckner, Carlson, Carroll, Clute, Diamond, Engelmann, Foster, Gessaman, Harland, Irvin, Lee, Lewis, Maher, Metal-Corbin, Nazem, Newton, Paterson, Rech, Rogers, Shaw, Skreija, Stergiou, Suzuki, Valle
Those Excused: Bradshaw, DeLone, Hendricks
Those Absent: Craiger, Deichert, Krause, Kuhlman, Parnell-Smith
Late Arrival: Allen

Guest(s): Chuck Soukup, UNL doctorate student in Communication Studies (guest of Senator Carlson).

Senator Bruckner asked for approval of the October 14, 1998, minutes (agenda attachments 1-7). The minutes were approved as submitted.

Officers Reports

President's Report: On behalf of Senator Hendricks, Senator Bruckner presented his report as follows:

Chancellor's Council Meeting, October 22, 1998

Master Plan Process (agenda attachments 8-10)

Board of Regents Meeting, October 23, 1998

Approved policy on tuition essentially making tuition equal under almost all conditions, i.e., on-campus, off-campus, and distance courses. (agenda attachment 11)

Executive Committee and Cabinet Meeting with UNO AAUP, October 26, 1998:

Members of the Executive Committee and Cabinet met with AAUP steering committee to discuss issues relating to non-tenure track appointments.

Effective November 1: Student Enrollment Services (Admissions, Registrars, Financial Aid) Moved To Academic Affairs

Personal thanks and congratulations to Doug Paterson and the senate ad hoc Committee on Initiative 413 for their hard work and good humor.

A letter is being sent to our sister university in Nicaragua expressing concern for all those affected by the devastating hurricane, most especially our colleagues, and seeking ways of providing assistance in the coming months.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Senator Claudette Lee

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Bruckner presented the October 31, 1998, budget report (agenda attachments 12-13).

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.

On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Newton presented the October 28, 1998, minutes (agenda attachment 14).

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

On behalf of the Committee on Educational Resources and Services, Senator Clute presented the October 28, 1998, minutes (agenda attachments 15-16).

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

On behalf of the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare, Senator Carlson presented the October 28, 1998, minutes (agenda attachment 17).

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

On behalf of the Committee on Goals and Directions, Senator Rogers presented the October 28, 1998, minutes (agenda attachment 18).

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

WHEREAS, the awarding of Honorary Degrees involves issues of confidentiality; and

WHEREAS, discussions of such should involve full and frank discussions of the particular merits of individual candidates; and

WHEREAS, full investigation of nominees will involve intense research into individual qualifications; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate agrees that the awarding of Honorary Degrees conferred by the University of Nebraska at Omaha be discussed and debated in the senate Committee on Goals and Directions Executive Committee and Cabinet before forwarding an opinion to the Chancellor for final consideration.

The motion was seconded.

Senator Diamond moved to replace "Committee on Goals and Directions" with "Executive Committee and Cabinet." Discussion followed.

The motion was seconded.

Senator Rech explained the thought process of the Committee on Goals and Directions in deciding why they should be a part of the selection process. Discussion followed.

Senator Carlson suggested that if the motion did not pass as amended that the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs be considered as they currently have oversight responsibilities (per the senate bylaws) for honors and awards committees. A vote was taken to amend the resolution as shown above. The motion to amend was approved.

Discussion followed regarding the guidelines used to determine qualification of the nominees and the University Committee on Honors and Awards' involvement in the process. A vote was taken on the resolution as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee on Professional Development: Senator Lynn Harland, chair.

On behalf of the Committee on Professional Development, Senator Harland presented the October 28, 1998, minutes (agenda attachment 19).

Rules Committee: Senator Arthur Diamond, chair.

No Report.

Other Reports

AAUP: Joseph Brown, senate representative.

Senator Brown reported that the AAUP Steering Committee met with faculty senate Executive Committee and Cabinet last week to discuss the issue of full-time non-tenure track faculty. No decision was reached, however, a number of interesting issues were raised.

Alumni Board: Martha Bruckner, senate representative.

Senator Bruckner presented the September 14, 1998, minutes (agenda attachment 20).

Graduate Councils: Susan Maher, senate representative.

Senator Maher reported that the council met on Monday and their main course of action was to table the request for approval of a masters program in computer science pending further discussion.

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

Senator Rogers reported that strategic planning advance was held on October 19th and the items that grew from those discussions will be discussed at the next meeting. Additional sessions will begin soon to continue the dialogue. The academic plan is currently in the vice chancellor's office. The next advance is scheduled for Monday, May 10th.

Old Business

Task Force on University Committees: Senators Bruckner, Diamond, and Newton

Senate Standing Committees' Oversight Responsibilities for University Committees (agenda attachments 21-22): Senator Diamond explained the senate's oversight responsibilities for university committees as outlined in the bylaws. He noted that there is an inclination by the task force to request that the applicable university committees file their minutes in the senate office. Discussion followed. Senator Newton gave an explanation of the limited number of university committees currently being reviewed by the task force.

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."

New Business

Political Speech, University Resources, and Academic Freedom

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the senate Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs be charged with the task of exploring issues of political speech, university resources, and academic freedom which emerged during the recent campaign on Initiative 413.

Senator Bartle seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Senator Carroll moved to amend the motion to change the "Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs" to the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare."

The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

A vote was taken on the original motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

College of Continuing Studies:

Discussion followed on the future of the College of Continuing Studies based on the pending retirement of current dean, Mary Bruning.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudette Lee
Secretary-Treasurer