

11-10-1999

## Faculty Senate Minutes November 1999

UNO Faculty Senate

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**UNO Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 10, 1999, 2:00 p.m., MBSC Dodge Room**

Attendees: Ali, Allen, Aschenbrenner, Bacon, Bartle, Baum, Clute, DeLone, Engelmann, Foster, Gessaman, Harland, Hendricks, Irvin, Kuhlman, Landis, Lewis, Metal-Corbin, Nazem, Parnell-Smith, Paterson, Rajaram, Rech, Shaw, Shroder, Smith, Sobel, Suzuki

Late Arrival: Coyne, Deffenbacher

Leaving Early: Craiger, Conyers

Excused: Chung, Coyne, Diamond, Lewis, Mitchell, Thompson

Unexcused: Lehrer, Tuan

Guests: Guy Conway

Presentation and Approval of Minutes: Senator Paterson asked for approval of the October 13th, minutes (agenda attachments 1-16). The motion was approved unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Guy Conway, Director of the Milo Bail Student Center, will address the senate concerning the university's policy on the distribution of non-university literature campus-wide. This presentation was prompted by the senate's call for the Reader to be made available in the student center. Senator Paterson introduced Guy Conway, announced he will soon be leaving having taken another position in Florida and finally, shared his appreciate for his many years of fair treatment and service to the himself and the university at-large.

#### Officers Reports

President's Report: Senator Paterson reported on the following items:

Executive Committee and Administration Meeting: October 20th (agenda attachment 17) The joint doctorate with UNL was discussed as well as how it was originally deemed from the start.

Discussion: Senator Craiger spoke to the college's desire for a Ph.D. degree of their own rather than a joint degree. Senator Ali explained the section of the degree originally intended for UNL was expanded after the fact resulting in the sense that the final decision is not a victory but more an acceptable option. Senator Gessaman concurred with Senator Ali's comments.

Additional Discussion: Senator Paterson asked for feedback on the current status of the Arts and Sciences building; he was informed noise and odors were still issues of concern. Several agreed the previously requested written updates on construction progress have been implemented and are much appreciated. Senator Allen added the discomfort will certainly be worth it once the work is completed.

Board of Regents Meeting: The meeting was held on November 5th.

Distance learning was discussed and seems to be a hot bed regarding the spending of money. An increased amount of defensiveness seems to exist. It was also noted there seems to be a lot of uncoordinated activity amongst the four campuses.

Discussion: Senator Shroder asked if a standing committee is working on this issue; Senator Bartle confirmed the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs was charged with looking into it, however, no action has been taken as yet.

Chancellor's Council Meeting: The October meeting was canceled; Chancellor Belck was in China.

President Smith and NU Senate Presidents Meeting: Central Administration has confirmed the next meeting will be in January, 2000, however, a specific date is not yet known. Updates will be forthcoming.

#### Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Meetings

Minutes: Senator Paterson attended the October 12th, 26th and November 10th, meetings. A report will be given by Senator Ali under III, B, 2.

Council of Deans' Reallocation Decisions: At their November 20th, meeting, the BAC charged Senator Paterson with finding out if the senate wants to represent faculty by getting involved in the Council of Deans' reallocation decisions for Year Two prior to the December 1st, deadline for submitting their report to the chancellor.

Discussion: Concern was shared that the Council of Deans is already in the process of evaluating budget reallocations under the guidelines of the strategic plan and whether faculty should be involved at the decision making level. Senator Paterson relayed that Dr. Dale Krane feels that strategic plans tend to be generic blueprints which can be used for literally anything. Senator Gessaman agreed that strategic plans are broad in concept and make broad sweeping statements and because of this it is imperative that faculty be involved in the evaluative stage. Senator Shroder agreed but solicited suggestions on how faculty could go about getting inserted into the process. Senator Paterson agreed to address this issue with administration at the November 17th, meeting. Senator Engelmann confirmed faculty involvement is necessity although there may be areas they are not qualified for. Senator Shroder suggested requesting that the Executive Committee be appointed to the review committee.

Committee on Goals and Directions Meeting: Senator Paterson attended the October 27th, meeting. A report will be given by Senator Nazem under IV, D.

NU Task Force for Program Evaluation and Prioritization: October 29, 1999

Strongly contested meetings are expected. The next meeting will be Friday, November 12th.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Senator Hesham Ali

Budget Reports:

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Ali presented the July 31st, agenda (agenda attachments 18-19).

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Ali presented the August 31st, agenda (agenda attachments 20-21).

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Ali presented the September 30th, agenda (agenda attachments 22-23).

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator Ali presented the October 31st, agenda (agenda attachments 24-25).

Budget Advisory Committee Meetings, October 12th , 26th and November 10th: Written reports have not been submitted. Senator Ali reported the committee's membership has a good representation and is meeting every other week to discuss various budget reallocations topics both on and between campuses.

Budget Advisory Committee, Health Care Subcommittee Meeting, October 29th (agenda attachment 26). Senator Ali reported that a health care subcommittee has been established and that Professors Ambrose, Littrell and himself are the only members as of this time. The first meeting was held on October 29th, during which the reasons why health care premiums have increased so dramatically was discussed. Statistics such as 1,500 members dropping the dental plan and a small percentage of members having claims over \$75,000 were addressed. Concern was shared that the original health insurance contract may have had problems since the reason given for the increase in premiums do not support the amount of the increase. A committee plans to invite David Lechner, NU Vice President for Business and Finance, to the December meeting.

Discussion: Senator Deffenbacher inquired if Central Administration has ever provided a total number of members enrolled in the plan. Senator Ali noted one of the main reasons behind meeting with Dr. Lechner in December is to obtain updated/accurate information. Senator Paterson expressed concern that this is likely only the beginning of future premium increases and encouraged getting a handle on things now. Senator Ali encouraged faculty to forward questions to him prior to December 1st so he could address them at the meeting.

Past President's Report: Senator Shelton Hendricks

No report.

Vice President's Report: Senator Janice Rech

President Smith and NU Senate Presidents Meeting (December, 1999, through April, 2000): Central Administration does not anticipate another meeting until January, 2000.

New Charge; New Faculty Pay: After discussion by the Executive Committee and Cabinet (EC&C) on October 6th, Senator Rech was charged with looking into options for changing the current procedure of paying new faculty at the end of September to issuing them a partial salary closer to

their hire date in order to eliminate them having to go six week without pay. Refer to the October 6th, minutes for additional information and suggestions. Senator Rech stated she has begun looking into short-term low-interest loans through the Alumni Center to assist new faculty until they receive their first paycheck.

Executive Committee Report: Senator Janice Rech

Resolution:

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

Resolution 2417, 11/10/99: Executive Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as appointments to the senate Budget Advisory Committee for three-year terms from November 10, 1999, through July 31, 2002:

G. Griffith Elder  
Andrew Smallwood

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as appointments to the senate Budget Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Health Care for three-year terms from November 10, 1999, through July 31, 2002:

David Ambrose

The motion was approved unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator John Bartle, chair.

Minutes: On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Bartle presented the October 27th, agenda (agenda attachments 27-28).

New Charge Removed: Distribution of Free Literature On Campus: The charge of looking into issues surrounding the distribution of free literature on campus was removed from the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs and given to the Committee on Professional Development per discussion at the October 13th, senate meeting.

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

Minutes: On behalf of the Committee on Educational Resources and Services, Senator Clute presented the October 27th, agenda (agenda attachment 29). Senator Clute thanked all who participated in the fund raising efforts and reported the committee's goal of \$1,500 was close at hand.

Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Ken Deffenbacher, chair.

Minutes: No report; the committee did not meet in October.

Agenda: On behalf of the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare, Senator Deffenbacher presented the November 24th, agenda (agenda attachment 30).

Resolution:

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

Resolution 2418, 11/10/99: Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare

WHEREAS, it is an honor for faculty to serve as marshals at commencement, and

WHEREAS, the present system used to select faculty commencement marshals has proven difficult to implement fully; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following procedure will be used henceforth: two faculty marshals shall be selected for each commencement by the faculty senate president. Selection shall be from a list of faculty senate and faculty volunteers.

Discussion: Senator Rech offered a friendly amendment to add "and faculty" to paragraph three. Senator Deffenbacher accepted the amendment on behalf of the committee. There was no further discussion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

December Marshals: At the November 3rd, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting, Senators Allen and Rech volunteered to serve as marshals at the December commencement if resolution 2418 is passed by the full senate. Senator Deffenbacher volunteered to serve as a backup.

New Charge: Work Environment & Physical Conditions in the Arts and Sciences Building: This issue was remanded to the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare by the October 13th, faculty senate meeting based on complaints by several faculty members. Senator Deffenbacher reported that the lack of communication has been well addressed and weekly e-mail updates are being dispersed to all faculty and staff working in the Arts and Sciences building.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Sufi Nazem, chair.

Minutes: On behalf of the Committee on Goals and Directions, Senator Nazem presented the October 27th, agenda (agenda attachments 31-32).

Resolution: Senator Nazem requested feedback on the working draft of the resolution as shown in the committee's minutes.

Discussion: Senator Paterson suggested the resolution be remanded back to the committee pending discussion with the University Foundation. Senator Baum suggested the issue be approached on a positive note and that he'd like to see the senate work with the foundation to strengthen the core of the university and encourage suggesting specific needs to prospective donors. Senator Shroder emphasized that the senate needs to be instructed on how the system works currently works before they go forward with suggestions on how to improve it. Senator Deffenbacher noted undesignated donations do not attract donors who may want to be recognized. Senator Deffenbacher cited a previous incident in which a representative of the University Foundation turned the tables and asked faculty to provide names of donors. Senator Ali reported the issue of faculty soliciting donors was previously addressed with Chancellor Belck who clearly stated faculty do not want to get involved in this process. He then suggested faculty pick a specific area, such as the library, and keep reproaching administration regarding fund raising for that specific issue. Senator Parnell-Smith shared an experience she had with a powerful student who saw to it that when her company upgraded to new computer last year all of the old computers were donated to Bellevue University. Senator Bacon stated faculty have something to sell in terms of being the contact person for fund raisers. Senator Paterson suggested the need to establish guidelines or at the very least a policy statement; Senator Shroder agreed stating it would be a very good stand for the senate to take. Senator Paterson charged the Committee on Educational Resources and Services with looking into this issue and suggested they have either the chancellor or a foundation representative address the senate.

Committee on Professional Development: Senator Chris Allen, chair.

Minutes: Document has not been submitted by chair. Senator Allen reported that the committee met and drafted a letter to UNO's peer institutions on faculty development and resources. Results will be compiled and presented to Vice Chancellor Hodgson as soon as they become available. The committee will address the issue of free publications at their next meeting.

New Charge, Distribution of Free Literature: The charge of looking into issues surrounding the distribution of free literature on campus was removed from the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs and given to the Committee on Professional Development per discussion at the October 13th, senate meeting. The charge originated during the September 8th, senate meeting as follows: "Senator Paterson charged the committee with looking into the current policy on the distribution of free publications on campus, particularly in the student center. No action will be taken until after Guy Conway addresses the senate at the November 10th, meeting."

Discussion: During Guy Conway presentation at the beginning the November 10th, senate meeting, he suggested petitioning Dr. Mudd to refer this issue to the University Committee on Student Affairs who actually hold the power to change it.

Committee on Rules: Senator Miriam DeLone, chair.

Minutes: No report; the committee met on October 27th, but did not have a quorum, therefore, minutes were not taken.

Resolution: On behalf of the committee, Senator DeLone officially withdrew the following resolutions until December.

Resolution XXXX, 11/10/99: Committee on Rules WITHDRAWN

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward as appointment to the Faculty/Staff Parking Ticket Appeals Committee to replace outgoing member Virginia Franks for a three-year term from November 10, 1999, through July 31, 2002:

TBA

Resolution XXXX, 11/10/99: Committee on Rules WITHDRAWN

TBA: Consolidate election dates for the senate's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, Faculty Grievance Committee and Professional Conduct Committee.

Resolution XXXX, 11/10/99: Committee on Rules WITHDRAWN

TBA: Change the date new senators are elected to allow time for fall schedule to be adjusted for Wednesday senate meetings.

#### Other Reports

Academic Planning Council: Senator John Bartle, senate representative

Written Report By Senate Representative: The October 22nd, meeting was canceled. The committee will meet on November 5th, and a written report will be presented by Senator Bartle at the November 10th, senate meeting. The committee will meet again on November 19th.

Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Professor William Wakefield, non-senate representative

Written Report By Senate Representative: Document has not been submitted. Professor Wakefield has been requested to determine if any issues discussed are pertinent to faculty and if so, to submit a written report by the first Monday of every month for presentation to the senate. Senator DeLone reported that Dr. Wakefield is attending the meetings and that the association has a new web site everyone should visit at the following address: <http://www.unoalumni.org/>

American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator Janice Rech, senate representative

Written Report By Senate Representative: Document has not been submitted.

D. Graduate Council: Senator Lynn Harland, senate representative.

Written Report By Senate Representative: Document has not been submitted. Senator Harland reported that two major items were dealt with at the November 8th, meeting: 1) pre-planned dual

degree programs can now have more than 15 hours of overlap; and 2) the dual degree program of public administration and social work that had more than 15 hours was approved. The next meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30th.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Hesham Ali, senate representative.

Written Report By Senate Representative: On behalf of Senator Ali who was unable to attend the last meeting, Senator Hendricks reported that the Executive Committee and Cabinet will be invited to the next advance scheduled for November 12th, in the Alumni Center and that discussions are continuing on a number of other issues. Senator Ali stated that the main issue to be addressed at the November 12th, retreat will be moving forward with the reallocation issue as well as what is expected of the strategic plan units.

Discussion: Senator Paterson stated he has heard there are fewer faculty attending recent meetings and asked if this was true. Senator Hendricks stated he believes the invitation list remains constant but was unsure of actual attendance. Senator Paterson asked if this might be an appropriate place for the senate to address the budget reallocation issue; Senator Hendricks agreed it would adding the academic plan is not final although there is currently a six page draft.

#### Old Business

Honorary Doctorate Candidates: On November 3rd, the Executive Committee and Cabinet reviewed the vitae and officially approved the two honorary doctorate candidates provided by the Committee on Honors and Awards. Chancellor Belck has been notified and will place this issue on the agenda for presentation at the next board of regents meeting. Senator Paterson suggested faculty might want to be a little more pro-active in bringing forward nominees in the future to ensure a wider selection.

Move Election of Senate President(-Elect) Earlier in Year and Assign the Vice President to the President Track: At the November 3rd, meeting of the Executive Committee and Cabinet, Senator Paterson expressed the desire to instill continuity within the senate by retaining officers for more than one year citing the example of having the vice president carry on as president-elect, then president, then past-president. He also expressed interest in moving the election of the president-elect earlier in the year to allow the new officer to attend more of the quarterly meetings with President Smith and the other NU senate presidents prior to becoming president. After discussion at several meetings, the Executive Committee and Cabinet voted down the implementation of these two issues preferring the current process.

Commencement Attendance: Vice Chancellor Hodgson has requested the senate's support in encouraging greater faculty attendance and participation for the forthcoming December graduation. The MBSC also contacted the senate office to encourage the senate to increase faculty participation suggesting reserved parking permits be offered again. The senate has already passed the following resolutions in an effort to increase attendance.

Resolution 2343 10/14/98: Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, faculty participation at commencements is important to the institution; and

WHEREAS, obtaining academia regalia can involve a considerable expense for faculty; and

WHEREAS, individual faculty have differing needs and desires with regard to academic regalia; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate calls upon the UNO administration in consultation with the manager of the UNO Bookstore to provide and publicize as many cost reduction options as possible for faculty to obtain academic regalia for commencement, but excluding options that would result in increases in student commencement fees.

Resolution 2207 - 02/12/97: Executive Committee

WHEREAS, commencement is a significant event in the life of a university community which marks the achievement of worthy goals and ambitions and which promises new beginnings and challenges; and

WHEREAS, commencement brings together faculty, administration, staff, students and their relatives, alumni, friends, and neighbors in this academic celebration rich in history, pageantry and symbolism; and

WHEREAS, faculty members are encouraged by Faculty Senate Resolution 262 and university policy to attend at least one commencement ceremony each year to represent their respective colleges and academic disciplines before assembled graduates, their families and the general public; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the faculty has been notably under represented at UNO commencements amid complaints that faculty seem to be taken for granted in these exercises, that the robing facilities are often inadequate and that a gulf symbolically intervenes between the amenities encountered and experienced by the faculty representatives and those accorded the platform party on Commencement Day; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha recommends that steps be taken by the administration in consultation with the Faculty Senate (1) to provide an adequate, pleasing and functional robing area for faculty who attend commencement, (2) to provide refreshments, fruits and an assortment of breads and pastries for faculty participants in an appropriately appointed setting, and (3) to promote other steps in commencement preparations and activities which would encourage faculty members to feel they are a valued part of the proceedings and not second-class citizens.

Discussion: The issue of departments purchasing robes out of their operating budget was addressed by Senator Shroder who stated his department was told they could not do this. Several senators from the Psychology Department responded their department has already bought robes in this manner and Senator Shroder to readdress the issue.

City's Plans To Change Dodge Street: Senator Hendricks recently saw a copy of the city's plans for changing Dodge Street which includes but are not limited to: 1) widening Dodge Street to six lanes plus a median strip with left turn lanes in front of UNO; 2) removal of the necessary green space from both sides of Dodge Street; 3) removal of the left-turn bay at 60th and Street and replacement with a traditional left turn lane; 4) removal of the pedestrian bridge east of campus; and 5) removal of an unknown number of trees and shrubs. Senator Hendricks expressed strong concern for the destructive of the campus environment and the quality of life for students living on campus stating the proposed plans can only lead to more and faster moving traffic, narrower sidewalks and generally make the entire area less hospitable and more dangerous. He concluded that the esthetic degradation of one of Omaha's most attractive areas is incomprehensible and called for the faculty senate to review these plans and determine if faculty should take a stand.

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."

2000-2001 President-Elect: The president-elect must be elected at the December 8th, senate meeting. Interested candidates or those wishing to nominate a fellow senator should forward names to the senate office via e-mail by November 30th. Questions may be directed to the senate president, Douglas Paterson. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the time of the election.

Constitution, Article IV. Organization of the Senate: The officers of the senate shall consist of the president, the vice-president, and the secretary-treasurer, and, in the spring semester, the president-elect if there be one. The senate shall conduct its business through committees as described in this constitution and in the bylaws. The president shall first serve as president-elect for a term beginning at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the spring semester, which will be followed by a regular one-year term as president beginning at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the academic year. The president-elect shall be elected at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the fall semester from among the membership of the senate. The president may serve successive terms through re-election, in which case there will be no president-elect for that spring semester and no past-president until the incumbent president completes his or her final term.

2. Bylaws, Article I. Duties of the Officers: Section 1: The faculty senate president shall be the faculty's spokesperson. The faculty senate president shall be the presiding officer of the senate, attend all meetings of the board of regents as the official representative of the faculty senate, refer items to committees for consideration, and perform other duties appropriate to the office. He/she shall be the faculty spokesperson when the Executive Committee meets with the chancellor and the chancellor's staff and shall chair the Executive Committee and the Cabinet when they meet in lieu of the full senate during the months of June and July.

Section 4: Upon election, the president-elect shall become a member of the Executive Committee. He/she shall endeavor to become thoroughly familiar with the senate's operating procedures and its role as the faculty's voice in the campus system of shared governance. The president-elect shall perform such other duties from time to time as may be delegated by the president or the Executive Committee.

China Program

New Business

Annual Faculty Senate/Staff Advisory Council Banquet: The annual banquet is traditionally held on the evening of the second Wednesday in May, however, this year Chancellor Belck will be out of the country from May 2nd, through May 20th. Alternate dates have been requested by the chancellor's assistant who indicated if the meeting remains in May the 24th, would be preferred over the 31st, since the chancellor will be in Lincoln half the day on the 31st. Senator Bacon expressed concern that a date be chosen that would allow the newly elected senators being present. The majority agreed on Wednesday, April 26th. Senator Bacon reported he'll be with Chancellor Belck in May when she receives an honorary degree in Moldova.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Hesham Ali, Secretary-Treasurer

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