

12-8-1999

## Faculty Senate Minutes December 1999

UNO Faculty Senate

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**The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha met on Wednesday,  
December 8, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. in the MBSC Dodge Room.  
The president, Douglas Paterson, presided.**

Presider: Paterson

Attendees: Ali, Allen, Aschenbrenner, Bacon, Bartle, Chung, Clute, Conyers, DeLone, Diamond, Engelmann, Gessaman, Harland, Hendricks, Irvin, Kuhlman, Lehrer, Metal-Corbin, Parnell-Smith, Rajaram, Rech, Shaw, Shroder, Sobel, Suzuki, Thompson

Late Arrival: Coyne, Deffenbacher

Excused: Baum, Craiger, Foster, Mitchell, Nazem, Smith

Unexcused: Landis, Lewis, Tuan

Guests: Butch Baker, Staff Advisory Council President.

Presentation and Approval of Minutes: Senator Paterson asked for approval of the November 10th, minutes (agenda attachments 1-12).

Welcome Staff Advisory Council Representative: Senator Paterson introduced Butch Baker, chair of the Staff Advisory Council, and announced he will be attending the faculty senate meetings as his schedule allows. Mr. Baker expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend senate meetings and shared his desire see staff and faculty work together on future projects as they arise.

Officers Reports

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

Service Acknowledgment:

Senator James Conyers: Senator Conyers filled in as a representative for the College of Arts & Sciences while Senator James Carroll was on sabbatical during the Fall, 1999, semester. The senate looks forward to seeing Dr. Conyers return to serve a full three-year term in the near future.

Senator Arthur Diamond: Senator Diamond has served the senate since May, 1997. This will be his last official senate meeting as he goes on sabbatical for the Spring, 2000, semester and his senate term ends in May. The senate deeply appreciates Senator Diamonds dedication to the senate and diligence as chair of the 1997-98 and 1998-99 Committee on Rules. Senator Diamond's replacement will be Professor Roger Sindt.

Senator Shelton Hendricks: Senator Hendricks served two terms as the faculty senate president; 1997-98 and 1998-99. He also remained on the senate six months past his three-year senate term to fulfill his responsibilities as past-president. Senator Hendricks devotion to the faculty and leadership for future presidents sets a high standard for all who follow.

Senator Hendricks shared that one of the best parts of serving as senate president has been getting to know so many of the faculty as well as the great opportunity it provided for both professional and personal growth. He concluded the decision to accept the nomination to serve as president for two terms was the best professional decision he has made to date.

Executive Committee and Administration Meeting: November 17th

Faculty/Staff Banquet Date Confirmed: Wednesday, April 26, 2000

Discussion: Senator Bacon noted that Chancellor Belck's plans to be out of the country in May have changed. The senate coordinator will check with the chancellor's office to see if the banquet date will remain April 26th, or revert back to May 10th.

Board of Regents Meeting: December 10th and 11th

Chancellor's Council Meeting: November 18th

Regalia: Options were discussed for providing regalia to faculty who do not own their own at future commencements.

Discussion: It was estimated gowns currently run approximately \$3-400.

"Understanding and Implementing Diversity Within the Academy": Chancellor Belck and President Smith administrators, deans, and department chairs this event on January 21st, as possible. Senator Paterson will be in attendance and feel this will be another important statement by the university on diversity.

Senators Sobel and Bacon requested additional information on this program. The senate coordinator will contact the chancellor's office.

Budget Reallocation Commission Retreat: November 19th and 20th

The commission's goal is to bring insight to the reallocation process, especially for years three and four. Whatever statements are produced will probably be generic in principal and will serve as a cover for whatever any of the campuses want to do, however, the reallocations themselves could be traumatic. Concern is shared that these statements could also be used by Central Administration as a broad brush for a larger university assessment of priorities. The first draft document is expected around June and the final draft around August. The next meeting will be Monday, December 13th, by interactive conferencing. All are welcome to participate and provide feedback.

Budget Advisory Committee Meeting: The committee met the morning of November 10th, and gave their report at the senate meeting that afternoon. The committee and subcommittee plan to meet with David Lechner on Thursday, December 16th.

Budget Advisory Committee, Health Care Subcommittee Meeting: The committee did not meet in November.

Discussion: Senator Lehrer shared a personal issue he is strongly concerned about involving Care Mark. He recently received a letter from CareMark stating that his doctor said he should be on a different medication than the one he has been on for ten years. Concern arose because he hasn't visited his doctor for over a year, therefore, he did not know what prompted this sudden change. After talking with the Care Mark representative and his/her supervisor he was informed that his pharmacy contacted his doctor at the direction of the NU system to inquire if his medication could be changed to an exceedingly less expensive drug. Senator Lehrer stated he views this action as inappropriate and an invasion of privacy. Discussion followed during which Senator Hendricks noted that physicians are notorious for ignoring the cost of drugs they prescribe and it might not be a bad idea to use lower priced drugs if they are in fact comparable to those priced higher. Senator Lehrer returned to Care Mark's statement that, "The University of Nebraska has asked us to do this." Senator Paterson added that the university is in the process of reducing costs and this may well be one of the ways they are trying to do so.

Senator Paterson charged the Budget Advisory Committee's Health Care Subcommittee with looking into this issue. Senator Bacon suggested the issue needs faster action. Discussion concluded with both Senator Lehrer and Senator Paterson agreeing to contact Paul Hayduska, Assistant Director of Personnel Services, regarding this matter.

Commencement: All faculty are encouraged to attend commencement at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 18th, in the Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum. Senators Allen and Rech will serve as marshals; Senator Deffenbacher has volunteered as a backup.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Senator Paterson reported on the following:

Budget Report: The November 30th, report has not been received from Accounting Services but will be presented at the January meeting. All reports up to this point are current and have been previously reported.

Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Meeting: The committee met the morning of November 10th, and gave their report at the senate meeting that afternoon. The committee and subcommittee plan to meet with David Lechner on Thursday, December 16th. The committee is having problems finding a time to meet since it's membership increased, however, items are still being address in the background. David Lechner has agreed to meet with both BAC committees on Thursday, December 16th.

Senator Ali agreed to address Senator Lehrer's Care Mark prescription concerns with Dr. Lechner. He also asked for feedback on other issues the senate wants brought up at the December 16th, meeting.

Budget Advisory Committee, Health Care Subcommittee Meeting: The committee did not meet in November.

Past President's Report: Senator Shelton Hendricks -- Last One!

Senator Hendricks reiterated his thanks to all.

Vice President's Report: Senator Rech reported on the following:

Council of Deans' Reallocation Decisions: At their November 20th, meeting, the Budget Advisory Committee 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. Senator Rech will report on Chancellor Belck's response to the senate's request for a faculty member to be present at the Council of Deans' budget reallocation meetings. Senator Rech reported a lengthy discussion was held with the chancellor who remained very firm in stating that the senate Executive Committee has ample opportunity to ask questions, provide input and address their concerns regarding the reallocation decisions at their monthly meetings with administration. She is committed to the deans meeting separately and stressed the importance of their being able to have an open dialogue without faculty present. The chancellor also believes the deans are strongly looking out for the interest of the faculty. Senator Rech reaffirmed that, although several attempts were made to negotiate one or more senate representatives sitting in on these meeting, the chancellor's response remained a firm no.

Discussion: Senator Allen asked for confirmation that the Deans' Council meetings are in fact closed; once confirmed he questioned how a public facility could have closed meetings. Senator Hendricks addressed the issue that some sensitive subjects allow for off-the-record closed meetings. Senator Clute addressed the role of the senate's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) and reaffirmed that in light of the chancellor's decision it's becomes even more important for the committee to strongly communicate with the Executive Committee in order to prepared them to address important reallocation issues with administration. Senator Ali stated that if the senate wants to participate in the decision making process it will have to occur prior to meeting with administration as it appears many reallocation decisions are already decided by then. He further stated that the Executive Committee also attempted to get permission for the senate president to attend at least part of the deans' reallocations meetings to which they were informed this would be considered if there was a specific agenda item he wanted to address. For the sake of all present, Senator Ali clarified that it is now clear that all budget decisions are administration since the senate, on behalf of the entire faculty, have officially asked to be made part of the decision making process and have in turn been officially informed by the chancellor that the deans are the ones responsible for making the budget reallocation decisions. Senator Sobel inquired what mechanism was in place for the BAC to use in relaying information to the senate Executive Committee so they can in turn replay it to administration. Senator Ali stated that since both he and Senator Paterson are on the BAC and the Executive Committee they have direct access to all information. Senator Paterson also added that the BAC plans to meet with the Executive Committee periodically to keep them appraised. Dr. Krane, chair of BAC, may also be invited to meet with administration although it is not clear if this will be allowed by the chancellor.

Executive Committee Report: Senator Janice Rech

Election of President-Elect

2000-2001 President-Elect: The president-elect must be elected at the December 8th, senate meeting. Written notice to interested candidates or those wishing to nominate a fellow senator was presented at the November 10th, senate meeting with a submission deadline of November 30th. Senator Douglas Paterson was the only name brought forward. Nominations may also be made from the floor on December 8th.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Change Presider:

Senator Paterson relinquishes floor to Senator Rech. Senator Rech opens floor to nominations for president-elect.

#### Executive Committee presents resolution:

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

Resolution 2419, 12/08/99: Executive Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee nominates Senator Paterson for president-elect.

Senator DeLone seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Call for additional nominations/resolutions.

Senator Bacon moved nominations be closed. Senator Shroder seconded.

A vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Change Presider: Senator Rech relinquishes floor to Senator Paterson.

Senator Paterson took a few moments to thank those present for re-electing him and stated he considers it an honor to serve this faculty.

Resolution:

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

Resolution 2420, 12/08/99: Executive Committee

WHEREAS, there have been in recent weeks political and other external threats to the academic integrity of the University of Nebraska and the ability of its faculty and students to pursue knowledge and express themselves in a manner consistent with the principles of academic freedom, and

WHEREAS, L. Dennis Smith, President of the University of Nebraska has demonstrated principled courage in opposing these threats; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha commends President Smith for his defense of the university and academic freedom, and offers its whole hearted support to his efforts.

The motion was approved. One senator abstained.

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 November 24th, minutes (agenda attachment 13-14).

New Charge, China Program: Following discussion during VII, D and VIII, A., at the November 3rd, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee with looking into this issue.

Discussion: Senator Paterson asked Senator Gessaman to share her knowledge on this issue since she is currently a member of the China/Shang Hi Committee. She stated Vice Chancellor Hodgson recently established the committee to look into the issue and they had an extensive discussion at the meeting on Friday, December 3rd. She added that Vice Chancellor Hodgson has made it clear that Chancellor Belck wants this program to begin in the Fall of 2000, even though a full compliment of students will not be in force due to the requirement of an intensive language experience prior to enrollment. Both the English Department and Intensive Language Program will be involved. The first semester will consist of such courses as Calculus I, an English course and a number of computer science courses. Senator Gessaman noted that Vice Chancellor Hodgson seems to understand there are a lot of serious, unresolved issues of concern for faculty which he believes can all be overcome. A draft document is being put together for initial review by the committee next week. When asked, Senator Gessaman clarified that the program has grown from being primarily videotaped lectures converted to CDs to the addition of a faculty member being responsible for the selection of text books and materials as well as serving as a mentor for the on-site instructor. The idea is that the mentor and instructor meet with students at specific times for the purpose of interaction which is clearly more than was originally envisioned.

Discussion: Discussion followed regarding the preparation of materials for this time of instruction as well as the deadline to implement classes in six months. The issue of finding faculty who are willing to participate was also discussed.

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

Minutes: No report; the committee did not meet in November. Per Senator Clute, the committee will not meet again until January 26, 2000.

New Charge, Faculty's Role in Approaching Donors: Following discussion during V, D 2, at the November 11th, senate meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee. This issue was also included on the November 17th, agenda for discussion with the chancellor and her cabinet.

Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Wilma Kuhlman, vice chair.

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

Agenda: The committee will not meet in December. The January 26, 2000, agenda is attached (agenda attachment 15)

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Juliette Parnell-Smith, vice chair.

Minutes: In Senator Nazem's absence and on behalf of the Committee on Goals and Directions, Senator Parnell-Smith presented the November 24th, minutes (agenda attachment 16).

Discussion: Senator Paterson asked that he be invited to attend the meeting with the University Foundation. Senator Parnell-Smith agreed to pass this request onto the committee.

December and January Meetings: Chair, Sufi Nazem, left to represent the university in China and Korea on December 7th; therefore, there will be no meeting this month. Clark Rosenlof, Assistant Vice President and Director of Development for the University of Nebraska Foundation, will be a guest at the January 26th, meeting.

Committee on Professional Development: Senator Chris Allen, chair.

Minutes: On behalf of the Committee on Professional Development, Senator Allen presented the November 24th, minutes (agenda attachment 17).

Committee on Rules: Senator Miriam DeLone, chair.

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

Resolutions:

On behalf of the Committee on Rules, Senator DeLone moved the following:

Resolution 2421 12/08/99: Committee on Rules

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward as an appointment to the Faculty/Staff Parking Ticket Appeals Committee to replace outgoing member Virginia Franks for a three-year term from December 1, 1999, through July 31, 2002:

James Fawcett

The motion was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Committee on Rules, Senator DeLone moved the following:

Resolution 2422, 12/08/99: Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the need for new faculty senators to be elected in the spring semester of the academic year to take office in the subsequent fall semester and be available for Wednesday meetings (a minimum of two meetings: full senate and standing committee) is complicated by the scheduling of faculty teaching schedules and the early spring deadlines for final fall schedules; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha encourages the college election of senators by the end of January in the spring semester of the academic year to facilitate appropriate schedule changes before the final revision of the upcoming fall schedule, which is generally early February.

Discussion: Senator Paterson stated the senate coordinator is going to contact several colleges to see if it will cause any problems to implement this procedure in January, 2000, rather than waiting until January, 2001.

The motion was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Committee on Rules, Senator DeLone moved the following:

Resolution 2423, 12/08/99: Committee on Rules

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward to replace Larry Bradshaw for the Spring, 2000, semester only on the University Committee for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT) while he is on sabbatical:

Joanne Sowell

The motion was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Committee on Rules, Senator DeLone withdrew the following resolution pending further action by the committee:

Resolution XXXX, 12/08/99: Committee on Rules = Withdrawn

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

Other Reports

Academic Planning Council: Senator John Bartle, senate representative

Written Report By Senate Representative, November 19th (agenda attachment 18)

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

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

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

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

Senator Rech reported she has been unable to attend the meetings due to scheduling conflicts.

Graduate Council: Senator Lynn Harland, senate representative.

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

Senator Harland reported the council has not met recently and no date has been set for a December or January meeting at this time.

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

Written Report By Senate Representative, November 11th (agenda attachment 19)

Senator Ali stated that the meeting was very useful for those who attended.

Discussion: Senator Paterson expressed concern that meetings are scheduled from 8:00 a.m. until noon on Fridays making it difficult for faculty to attend. He felt this was interesting in light of the constant reiterated that the process is faculty driven.

Old Business

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."

Campus-wide Problems Getting Computer Help and Lotus Notes Problems

Grade Submission Deadline: Discussion followed resulting in the Committee on Educational Resources and Services being charged with looking into the issue.

Information Help Desk: Senator Paterson agreed to address this issue with Forrest Stowe.

New Business

End of Century/Millennium Thoughts: Senator Paterson asked those present to consider jotting down their thoughts on the end of the century for compilation into a journal for the senate archives. Paper was distributed and those who chose to participate were asked to remain after the meeting to complete and submit their words of wisdom.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hesham Ali  
Secretary-Treasurer