

10-11-2000

Faculty Senate Minutes October 2000

UNO Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha
2000-2001 Senate Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2000, 2:00 p.m., MBSC Dodge Room

Attendees: Ali, Allen, N. Bacon, W. Bacon, Barron-McKeagney, Bartle, Baum, Carlson, Carroll, Chung, Coyne, DeLone, Elder, El-Rewini, Falconer Al-Hindi, File, Foster, Hagen, Irvin, Johnson, Landis, Mande, Mitchell, O'Connell, Paterson, Ryalls, Shaw, Shroder, Smallwood, Smith, Sobel, Thompson, Tuan, Valle, Zhao, TBA (replace Barone)

Excused: Elder, Metal-Corbin

Guest(s): Vice Chancellor Derek Hodgson

Butch Baker, Chairperson, Staff Advisory Council

Michael O'Connor, Higher Education Reporter, Omaha *World-Herald*

Presiding Officer (Senator Paterson): Constitution, Article IV: The senate's presiding officer shall be the president. In the president's absence, presiding officer of the senate shall be the vice-president or, if the need should arise, as provided in the bylaws. Bylaws, Article I, Section 1: The faculty senate president shall be the presiding officer of the senate...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.

Parliamentarian (Senator Bartle): Constitution, Article IV: The president shall appoint a parliamentarian, who need not be a member of the senate

Quorum (19 Minimum) and Officially Call To Order: Constitution of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Article IV. Organization of the Senate: A quorum of the senate shall consist of a simple majority of the elected senators.

Introduction of Guests

Guest Presentations: Prioritization and Reallocation by Derek Hodgson, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Presentation and Approval of Minutes: Senator Paterson asked for approval of the September 13, minutes (agenda attachments 1-17). Discussion followed regarding the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare's report; no adjustments were made. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Standing Committee Report:

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Coyne was allowed to present her report out of sequence since outside obligations required her to leave the senate meeting early.

Written Reports:

Agenda, September 27 (agenda attachment 37)

Minutes: A written report was not submitted.

Verbal Report: The committee intends to survey the faculty through the Teaching Circles to see what suggestions they have for directions UNO should take. Information from the retreat will be reviewed and compiled into a questionnaire to be sent to the coordinators of the various Teaching Circles.

Officers Reports

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

Written Reports

Executive Committee and Administration Meeting, September 21 (agenda attachment 18)

Chancellor's Council Meeting, September 28 (agenda attachment 19)

Agenda: September 28 (agenda attachment 20)

Verbal Report

Deans Forum, October 5

Senate President Seeking Advice: An open discussion took place on how to present the report on the Deans Forum (i.e., written versus oral) in order to ensure confidentiality and remove any fear the deans might have regarding the presence of the faculty senate president at their meetings (i.e., unnecessary concerns, leaks).

Verbal Report: Senator Paterson explained that the senate president will be a part of the forum from now on. He noted the goal is to ensure the forum remains secure which he fully respects. He also offered insight that he and future faculty presidents will be well-served by being discretionary in what they share in order to prevent a public report from existing. He shared plans to visit with the senate Executive Committee and Cabinet for further feedback on this issue. He then opened the floor to questions and/or comments which follow.

Discussion: Per majority agreement, the president's report on the activities of the Deans Forum will be verbal only in order to respect and ensure the confidentiality of the issues discussed therein. No written report will be provided nor minutes taken.

Verbal Report on October Meeting: Confidential per above decision.

Announcement(s)

Board of Regents Meeting, September 29 and 30: Senator Bacon attended the meetings on behalf of Senator Paterson who was out of town and will give a report later in the meeting.

Fall Convocation, October 5: The Fall Convocation was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 5, at the Scott Conference Center on the South Campus. Appreciation was extended to Senators Bacon and Coyne for volunteering to serve as marshals.

UNOmaha Diversity Plan Luncheon, November 2: A luncheon with Dr. Joseph White, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at University of California, Irvine and NU consultant is scheduled for November 2, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in the MBSC Tower Room. Dr. White is visiting to understand UNO's campus environment in preparation for beginning the first phase of UNOmaha's diversity plan.

Metro Area Transit (MAT) Representative to Address Senate on November 8, Regarding Changes to the Dodge Street Bus Schedule: At the October 4, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting concerns were expressed regarding impending changes to the Dodge Street MAT bus schedule from 15 minute intervals to 30 minutes. Because of this, Senator Paterson contacted MAT representative, Linda Barritt, who will address the full senate on November 8 (see also III, B, 2).

Commencement, December 15: The December commencement is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 15, at the Civic Auditorium. Appreciation was extended to Senators Coyne and Mitchell for volunteering to serve as marshals. Congratulations were conveyed to Senator Mitchell on her daughter's upcoming December graduation!

Congratulations to Senator Irvin: Congratulations were extended on behalf of the senate to Dr. Deborah Irvin for receiving tenure and being promoted to associate professor. Please update your senate roster accordingly.

Discussion: Senator Irvin reported a number of other senators also received tenure. Senator Paterson called for a show of hands and congratulated all for their hard work.

Invite Administration to Senate Meetings: With the approval of the Executive Committee & Cabinet, Senator Paterson devised the following schedule for inviting administration to address the senate on pertinent issues throughout the year:

August: Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Belck & Hodgson)
September: Open
October: Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Derek Hodgson)
November: Vice Chancellor for University Affairs and Communication (James Buck)
December: Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance (Gary Carrico)
January: Chancellor (Nancy Belck)
February: Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (Mary Mudd)
March: Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Derek Hodgson)
April: Open
May: NU President (L. Dennis Smith)

Speaker Summary: chancellor, twice (August & January); vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, three times (August, October & March); all other once.

New Charges

Formal Response From Chancellor Regarding Domestic Partnership Resolutions: At the September 13, senate meeting, Senator Carlson's requested and the full senate supported charging Senator Paterson with requesting a formal response from the Chancellor Belck on Resolutions 2370 and 2440 passed by the 1999-2000 senate regarding domestic partnerships.

Discussion: Senator Paterson reported he had not heard back from the chancellor regarding this matter but expects to soon. He further indicated she is probably working on just the right wording considering the delicacy of the issue.

Vice President's Report: Senator Wally Bacon reported on the following:

Written Report

Board of Regents Meeting, September 29 and 30 (agenda attachments 21-22)

Verbal Report: Senator Bacon reported the UNOmaha can certainly cheer Regent Skrupa and Chancellor Belck for working with the same board who fired Dr. Ronald Roskens to pass a resolution naming the UNOmaha College of Business building after him. He further noted this was quite an achievement.

New Charges

Metro Area Transit (MAT) City Bus Schedule: Per discussion at the October 4, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting, Senator Bacon agreed to write a resolution, if needed, to express concern on behalf of students, faculty and staff over the impending cut to the city bus routes on Dodge Street from 15 minute to 30 minute intervals. The committee agreed to hold off on (and possibly withdraw) the resolution until after a MAT representative was invited to address the full senate.

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

Written Report

Budget Report, September 30 (agenda attachment 23)

Verbal Report: Senator Ali noted there was no charge for the room reservations at Platte River State Park due to the power outage during the senate's annual August retreat.

Announcements

Budget Advisory Committee and Health Care Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Scheduled: The first meeting of the semester is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13 (Friday the 13th) in the MBSC Redick Room.

Membership Reduced: Per previous discussions by the Executive Committee and Cabinet, Senator Paterson released three members from service (Martha Bruckner, Griff Elder, and David Ambrose) in an attempt to reduce the scheduling conflicts experienced last year.

Executive Committee Report: Senator W. Bacon reported on the following:

Verbal Report: Senator Bacon reiterated that a representative from Metro Area Transit would be invited to address the senate.

Standing Committee Reports: Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha,

Article IV, Section 1: All committee recommendations addressed to the faculty senate must be put on the agenda and presented to the senate without substantive alteration.

Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Bartle reported on the following:

Written Reports

Agenda, September 27 (agenda attachment 24)

Minutes, September 27 (agenda attachments 25-26)

Grade Trend Data Tables (agenda attachments 27-28)

Verbal Report: Senator Bartle explained that the attached tables represent average grades by department from 1986 to 1998. He further stated that the committee doesn't have any formal comments or conclusions after reviewing the data but encourages everyone to take this information pertaining to their individual colleges.

Discussion: Senator Smith stated there is great inflation in some units. He also apologized for not being at the last meeting due to a death in his family. Senator Bartle reported more detailed data is available and encouraged anyone interested in reviewing it to contact him. Senator Paterson noted he would like this information to bond faculty together rather than divide them reminding all there are many factors which influenced these numbers. Senator Bartle gave a few more defining points noting the years used are academic, not calendar years.

New Charges

Plus/Minus Grading System: At the October 4, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee with readdressing the plus/minus grading system and preparing a resolution for presentation at the November senate meeting.

Poor Students Taking Up Valuable Class Space: At the September 13, senate meeting, Senator Carlson raised the issue and Senator Paterson charged the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs with looking into the issue of academically challenged students taking up valuable class space, in particular, those student who repeated take the same course and do poorly or fail altogether.

Review and Make Recommendations on the Revised Draft of the College of Continuing Studies' Constitution: Associate Vice Chancellor John Farr requested a draft of the revised constitution of the College of Continuing Studies be review by the senate and recommendations be forwarded to him no later than October 12, in order to add this item to the Board of Regents November agenda. He also reported the document has already been recommended

for approval by the college's Faculty Academic Policy Committee, the Deans' Forum, and the Educational Policy Advisory Committee. Because of the limited window of time, the Executive Committee and Cabinet agreed via e-mail to charge the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs with this task and requested they present their findings at both the October 4, Executive Committee and Cabinet and the October 11, senate meeting.

Draft of the Revised Constitution of the College of Continuing Studies (agenda attachment 29)

Resolution

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

Resolution 2504, 10/11/00: Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha moves approval, without change, of the revised constitution of the College of Continuing Studies dated March 3, 2000, as requested by Associate Vice Chancellor Farr and reviewed by the senate's Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs.

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Baum reported on the following:

Written Reports

Agenda, September 27 (agenda attachment 30)

Minutes, September 27 (agenda attachment 31)

Announcement

"Pass the Beck Buck-et": The Beck Bucket was circulated amongst those presented for donations to the Paul L. Beck Memorial Faculty/Staff Scholarship.

New Charges

Expand Advertising of Beck Scholarship: At the October 4, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting, Senator Baum agreed to take the issue of expanding advertisement of the Beck scholarship to student, particularly by e-mail.
Loaner Computers for Faculty: At the October 4, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee with checking into loaner computers for faculty whose systems are down.

Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Shroder reported on the following:

Written Reports

Agenda, September 27 (agenda attachments 32-35)

Minutes, September 27 (agenda attachment 36)

Announcements

Domestic Partnership (Held Over From 09/06/00 EC&C Meeting): This issue was discussed at the September Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting resulting in the decision to place it on the October agenda for continued discussion regarding why no official written response has been received to date from the chancellor.

Resolution 2440, 04/12/00: Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha passed Resolution 2370 on April 14, 1999, endorsing domestic partnership benefits for all UNO non-married staff and faculty, and

WHEREAS, neither the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska nor the chancellor of UNO have responded to this resolution; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha wishes, yet again, to express its strongest support for the sentiments expressed in Resolution 2370.

Resolution 2370, 04/14/99: Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska has declared and affirmed a policy of equal employment opportunities, affirmative action in employment, and nondiscrimination; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the UNO Faculty Senate endorses domestic partnership benefits for all UNO non-married staff and faculty as long as procedures can be adopted that provide for documentation of: 1) the partners' commitment to each other (e.g. the partners have been in an exclusive relationship for a specified number of months and intend to remain together indefinitely; the partners are not married to each other or anyone else, or related to each other by blood so closely that state law would prohibit them from being married to each other, etc.), 2) sharing of financial obligations (e.g. they own a home together or are jointly listed on a lease; they hold joint bank accounts, they have joint liabilities, including motor-vehicle loans or credit-card accounts, etc.), and 3) joint responsibility for each other's welfare (e.g. they are named as each other's beneficiary on life-insurance policies; they are named as the primary beneficiary in each other's wills; etc.)

Forwarded to Chancellor Belck: For Your Action 04/15/99

Forwarded to Chancellor Belck: For Your Action 04/13/00

Discussion: Senator Paterson noted the chancellor is concerned about this issue and that she plans to act on it but is cautious. Senator Bartle referenced the quote regarding the greatest act against oppressed minorities are not the actual acts of hatred by rather the lack of action. He further suggested that perhaps the senate should take a stand on this issue even if it results in a budget cut.

Feedback on Letter to AAUP: Senator Shroder reported that the only feedback received to date was that the union doesn't like the proposed administrative fund to be used to keep certain faculty from going elsewhere (i.e., the many women who have already departed, for example). He further stated that one CBA faculty member is tired of discussions about more parity between colleges.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Coyne report earlier in the meeting due to a scheduling conflict that caused her to leave early.

Report: Please see page one of this document for Senator Coyne's report.

Committee on Professional Development: Senator Allen reported on the following:

Written Reports

Agenda: No agenda was submitted.

Minutes, September 27 (agenda attachment 38)

Committee on Rules: Senator Sobel reported on the following:

Written Reports

Agenda, September 27 (agenda attachment 39)

Minutes, September 27 (agenda attachment 40)

Announcement

Update on Resolution 2502: On September 20, Senator Miriam DeLone withdrew her name from consideration for the alternate position on the Professional Conduct Committee thereby breaking the tie vote on Resolution 2502 (copied below). Senators Paterson and Bartle agreed this action fell within the Professional Conduct Committee's bylaw which state, "The faculty senate shall choose committee members by plurality vote from a list of nominees prepared by the Rules Committee." Professor James Czarnecki was then appointed. Senator Sobel thanked Senator DeLone for her selfless act and gratefully accepted her withdrawal on behalf of the committee.

Resolution 2502, 09/13/00: Committee on Rules

Ballot Vote by Senate: BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 1.1 of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Professional Conduct Committee's Rules and Procedures, the following nominees (all tenured faculty ranked assistant professor or above) are brought forward by the Committee on Rules for ballot election by the full senate as follows:

One representative must be elected by ballot vote to complete the term of serve from September 13, 2000, through October 15, 2001, for alternate Julia Curtis who no longer works at UNO:

James Czarnecki (elected)
Miriam DeLone (withdrew after tie vote)

Resolutions

Formation of Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws Committee: An ad hoc committee to review and update the senate constitution and bylaws based on the following guidelines needs to be formed. A similar committee was formed on September 20, 1997 per Resolutions 2250 and 2253; it's members were: H. Carl Camp, senate president 71-72, 91-92, 92-93, 96-97; David Corbin, senate president 95-96; John Newton, long time senator; Kermit Peters, senate president 87-88; Kim Sosin, senate president 89-90; and Justin Stolen, senate president 76-77.

Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Article VI. Committees., Section 7: Faculty Senate Advisory Committees., 7.2 Ad Hoc and Special Committees. With the advice and consent of the faculty senate, the president may appoint ad hoc and special committees from time to time to conduct inquiries and hearings, carry out special studies, and accomplish other tasks of the senate. The size, composition, and duration of operation of each such committee shall be appropriate to the purposes and objectives set forth in the committee's charge. Broad representation of the faculty normally should be sought. Membership need not be confined to members of the faculty senate.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Sobel moved the following resolution:

Resolution 2505, 10/11/00: Committee on Rules (held over from 08/16 & 09/13/00)

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's constitution and bylaws require modification and updating due to cumulative changes in recent years; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty senate establish an ad hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing its constitution and bylaws and recommending appropriate modifications, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said ad hoc committee be made up of knowledgeable members of the faculty, not necessarily limited to incumbent senators and that once established the committee report its recommendations to the senate as soon as is practicable, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that according to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska, Article VI, Section 7, with the approval of the senate, the president appoints that the following faculty to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee:

Loree Bykerk
James Carroll, chair
David Corbin
William Clute
Griff Elder
Michael O'Hara

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Senator Sobel thanked Senator Carroll for volunteering to serve as chair.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Sobel moved the following resolution:

Resolution 2506, 10/11/00: Committee on Rules (held over from 09/06/00)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following faculty be recommended for service on the Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service:

Finn-Aage Esbensen, Criminal Justice
Cassia Spohn, Criminal Justice
Dale Krane, Public Administration
Jay White, Public Administration
Theresa Barron-McKeagney, Social Work
Robin Russell, Social Work
Shirley Waskel, Gerontology
Karl Kosloski, Gerontology
Imafedia Okhamafe, Goodrich Program (reduced from two to one by college & senate)
Jerome Deichert, Center for Public Affairs Research (added by college & senate)
John Kretzschmar, Center for Labor Institute (added by college & senate)
Brent Bowen, Aviation (added by college & senate)
James B. Johnson, Faculty-At-Large
John (Jack) Shroder, Faculty-At-Large

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Senator Sobel thanked Senators DeLone and Bartle for soliciting volunteers from their colleges. Senator DeLone asked that the names be presented in alphabetical order by department; Senator Paterson agreed. It was noted the resolution was presented in the order the originally order Vice Chancellor Hodgson submitted the request but that it would be adjusted accordingly.

Amendment: The amended resolution follows:

Resolution 2506, 10/11/00: Committee on Rules (held over from 09/06/00)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following faculty be recommended for service on the Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service:

Alphabetical by CPACS Department followed by Faculty-At-Large

Brent Bowen, Aviation (added by college & senate)
John Kretzschmar, Center for Labor Institute (added by college & senate)
Jerome Deichert, Center for Public Affairs Research (added by college & senate)

Finn-Aage Esbensen, Criminal Justice
Cassia Spohn, Criminal Justice
Shirley Waskel, Gerontology
Karl Kosloski, Gerontology
Imafedia Okhamafe, Goodrich Program (reduced from two to one by college & senate)
Dale Krane, Public Administration
Jay White, Public Administration
Theresa Barron-McKeagney, Social Work
Robin Russell, Social Work
James B. Johnson, Faculty-At-Large
John (Jack) Shroder, Faculty-At-Large

Motion: The motion was moved as amended.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously as amended.

Discussion: Senator Paterson thanked the committee for their hard and fast work on this resolution noting they were given limited time to come up with a large number of nominees.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Sobel moved the following resolution:

Resolution 2507, 10/11/00: Committee on Rules (held over from 09/13/00)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the names of the following two nominees go forward to serve three-year terms from September 13, 2000, through July 31, 2003, on the Student Government's Student Activities Budget Commission to replace retiring member, David Volkman, and Duane Aschenbrenner who retired from UNO in the Spring, 2000:

Janice Collins (to replace David Volkman)
Steven Williams (to replace Duane Aschenbrenner)

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Sobel moved the following resolution:

Resolution 2508, 10/11/00: Committee on Rules (held over from 09/13/00)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the names of the following nominees go forward to serve three-year terms from September 13, 2000, through July 31, 2003, on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee:

James Johnson, Arts & Sciences representative
Cynthia Phaneuf, Fine Arts representative
Hesham Ali, Information Science & Technology representative

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Sobel moved the following resolution:

Resolution 2509, 10/11/00: Committee on Rules

BE IT RESOLVED, that Dr. Wally Bacon's term on the University Committee on Honors and Awards be extended from a one-year appointment designated by Resolution 2467 (08/01/00-07/31/01) to a full three-year appointment (08/01/00-07/31/03) in order to stagger the terms of the three faculty members from this point forward.

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Sobel moved the following resolution:

Resolution 2510, 10/11/00: Committee on Rules

Ballot Vote by Senate: BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha bylaws, section 6.1, Faculty Grievance Committee, the following faculty members are brought forward by the Rules Committee for ballot election by the senate to complete the term of Janice Rech as the associate professor representatives from October 11, 2000, through September 15, 2002:

Lynn Harland (elected)
Sharon Sobel

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Ballots: The ballots were distributed, completed, and passed forward.

Discussion: Senator Sobel withdrew from counting the ballots since she was a nominee.

Tally: The ballots were tallied. Senator Ali reported the results to Senator Paterson who announced Professor Harland won had the most votes.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, Senator Sobel moved the following resolution:

Resolution 2511, 10/11/00: Committee on Rules

BE IT RESOLVED, that the names of the following nominees go forward to serve three-year terms from October 11, 2000, through July 31, 2003, on the new Wellness Committee:

Pamela Smith
William Wakefield

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Senator Sobel thanked the Committee on Rules for their hard work noting they carried her as chair since she was in the midst of a theater production this month.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

Other Reports

Academic Planning Council: Senator Melodee Landis reported on the following:

Written Report: A written report was not submitted.

Verbal Report: Senator Landis noted seven departments will be evaluated this year. She also reported the minutes from the last council meeting will be presented along with the next month's minutes in November.

Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Carol Mitchell reported on the following:

Announcement: James Leslie, executive director of the board, was notified of Senator Mitchell's appointment this week. An invitation/agenda to the board's next meeting is expected in the near future.

American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator James Shaw reported on the following:

Written Report

Minutes, September 18 (Garver) and 26 (Executive Committee) (agenda attachment 41)

Announcement:

Meeting Data: The AAUP Executive Committee is meeting as needed. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 13.

Verbal Report: Senator Shaw encouraged anyone who has not returned their survey to do so as soon as possible.

Discussion: Senator Paterson inquired about a campus wide web site; Senator Shaw replied there is not one but faculty can contact either himself or Bruce Garver with questions or concerns. Senator Shroder asked why there isn't a campus office for the UNOmaha Chapter of AAUP. Senator Shaw replied that staffing would be difficult at best and that they currently only have a part-time assistant.

Graduate Council: Senator Angela Valle reported on the following:

Written Reports

Minutes, September 10 (agenda attachments 42-44)

Agenda, October 9: Senator Valle reported the council's agenda packet, including all attachments, is available for review in the senate office. (agenda attachment 45).

Discussion: Senator Paterson asked what the current hot items are and Senator Valle replied that approving certificates and going through guidelines for masters in certification are two. She further noted the committees are working very hard.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Franklin Thompson reported on the following:

Written Report

Minutes, October (agenda attachments 46-47)

Verbal Report: Senator Thompson stated the committee is working toward a document to promote dialogue and raise the question whether the appropriate areas are being rewarded. He also stated it will encourage looking at how faculty practices can get in line with our vision. Guest Introduced: Senator Paterson announced the presence of Mr. Butch Baker, Chair of the Staff Advisory Council, and invited him to make comments; he declined.

Old Business

Gathering Sponsored by Faculty Senate and Multicultural Affairs Gathering: Per previous discussions, Senators Paterson and Sobel have begun planning a social gathering for new and existing faculty of color need to be confirmed in October or November. Black Studies, Chicano/Latino Studies, and Native American Studies are being contacted to ensure there are no scheduling conflict with upcoming events.

Discussion: Senator Sobel reported she has been empowered by the Chancellor's Commission on Multicultural Affairs to take action towards planning a gathering for new minority faculty in conjunction with the senate. Senator Paterson agreed to move forward in working on this very important issue.

Master of Public Health (MPH): Shelton Hendricks sent the following e-mail to Vice Chancellor Hodgson and copied the senate office:

"The MPH proposal which was submitted for consideration by the UNO Faculty Senate has been approved by the UNO and UNMC Graduate Councils. The two graduate offices will be submitting the proposal to Vice President Jones and the Executive Graduate Council for their review. I hope that they will appoint an external review team very soon and that the proposal could be ready for the Board of Regents by January. I also hope that such a time line is acceptable to the senate and that they could complete their review by late November or December. If this is a problem or if you have any questions or other concerns, please let me know."

Discussion: Senator Paterson inquired if anyone knew who is backing the proposal. Senator Bartle stated it is a combination effort by HPER, Public Administration, and several divisions of UNMC.

Defense of Marriage Amendment (DOMA)

Initiative 416: The proposed amendment as carried in the Lincoln Journal Star of July 7 is: "Only marriage between a man and woman shall be valid or recognized in Nebraska. The uniting of two persons of the same sex in a civil union, domestic partnership or other same-sex relationship, shall not be valid or recognized in Nebraska."

Resolution

On behalf of the Assembly, Senator Bacon moved the following:

Resolution 2512, 10/11/00: On Behalf of the Assembly

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would needlessly clutter the Constitution of Nebraska, the basic legal document of the state in which the polity of the University is defined, with a remedy for a non-existent problem, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would jeopardize the University's ability to attract and retain the best faculty, staff and students as well as the business community's ability to recruit and retain employees, thus endangering the economy of the state upon the strength of which the University is dependent, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would preclude equal protection under the law for specifically targeted groups of citizens of Nebraska, undermining the validity of the University's Prohibited Discrimination Policy; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha urges members of the University community vigorously to oppose passage of the amendment at the November, 7, 2000, election.

Correction: Senator Johnson brought to the attention of the assembly that the above resolution was modified from the one originally presented at the September meeting noting two paragraphs were missing and the last paragraph was amended with the addition of the words "members of ." No explanation for the excluded paragraphs was immediately available, however, it was noted that based on the chancellor's suggestion the last paragraph was modified by the Executive Committee and Cabinet at their October 4, meeting.

Resolution Represented: The resolution was represented as shown on agenda attachment 4 (09/13/00 faculty senate minutes).

On behalf of the Assembly, Senator Bacon moved the following:

Resolution 2512, 10/11/00: On Behalf of the Assembly

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would needlessly clutter the Constitution of Nebraska, the basic legal document of the state in which the polity of the University is defined, with a remedy for a non-existent problem, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would jeopardize the University's ability to attract and retain the best faculty, staff and students as well as the business community's ability to recruit and retain employees, thus endangering the economy of the state upon the strength of which the University is dependent, and

WHEREAS, the wording of the Defense of Marriage Amendment is so imprecise that prohibited partnerships might be interpreted to include family farms and small businesses, thus undermining the family as a viable economic and social unit, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would preclude equal protection under the law for specifically targeted groups of citizens of Nebraska, negating the university's Prohibited Discrimination Policy, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment, targeting a specific social group, violates both the spirit and letter of Federal civil rights legislation and, if implemented, could therefore deprive the University of Nebraska of its status as a recipient of Federal grants and aid; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha of the University community vigorously to oppose passage of the amendment at the November, 7, 2000, election.

Motion: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Discussion followed on whether Chancellor Belck's suggestion to add "urges members" to the last paragraph should be included. Senator Bacon explained his conversation with the chancellor. After further discussion and on behalf of the Executive Committee and Cabinet, Senator Bacon withdrew the friendly amendment.

Senator Smith emphasized his belief that the issue is not a matter which affects the university but rather that of certain individuals only. He reported talking with a number of colleagues who agree the university should not have anything to do with the initiative and who expressed concern over the senate getting involved whether to support or oppose the issue. Senator Smith read comments from a number of these colleagues who were willing to allow their opinions to be voiced. All addressed the inappropriateness of both the senate and faculty getting involved. Senator Smith expressed his own view that it is a matter of self-restraint that the senate not drag everyone into issues such as this for fear of setting the precedence for everyone to bring their pet issues to the foreground.

Senator Johnson read paragraph three and questioned the stretch, even misrepresentation, expressed by the wording adamantly noting it doesn't give the university credit. He further stated anyone with a political science background should know that.

Senator Sobel stated one of the issues she stresses to her students is that of tolerance and diversity and she believes this resolution speaks directly in support of that.

Amendment/Motion: Senator Hagen complimented the senate on what he thought had been a revised resolution as shown on page eleven of the agenda. He gave further explanation and then moved using this version instead but only after deleting the first whereas completely and removing "as well as the business community's ability to recruit and retain employees, thus endangering the economy of the state upon the strength of which the University is dependent" from the second paragraph. Second: Senator Carroll seconded the motion. Senator Hagen presented a copy of the amended resolution to the senate coordinator.

Discussion: Senator Falconer Al-Hindi suggested removing the first paragraph but keeping the language of the second paragraph as-is because it supports the business community. This action was not officially moved.

Amended Resolution Read Aloud: Senator Paterson read aloud the amended resolution as follows:

Resolution 2512, 10/11/00: On Behalf of the Assembly

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would needlessly clutter the Constitution of Nebraska, the basic legal document of the state in which the polity of the University is defined, with a remedy for a non-existent problem, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would jeopardize the University's ability to attract and retain the best faculty, staff and students as well as the business community's ability to recruit and retain employees, thus endangering the economy of the state upon the strength of which the University is dependent, and

WHEREAS, the wording of the Defense of Marriage Amendment is so imprecise that prohibited partnerships might be interpreted to include family farms and small businesses, thus undermining the family as a viable economic and social unit, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would preclude equal protection under the law for specifically targeted groups of citizens of Nebraska, negating undermining the validity University's Prohibited Discrimination Policy, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment, targeting a specific social group, violates both the spirit and letter of Federal civil rights legislation and, if implemented, could therefore deprive the University of Nebraska of its status as a recipient of Federal grants and aid; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha urges members of the University community vigorously to oppose passage of the amendment at the November, 7, 2000, election.

Discussion: Senator Carroll questioned how the prohibited discrimination policy recently approved by the university and funding might be jeopardized if the resolution is not passed. Senator Bacon spoke to this issue. Senator Landis questioned how the resolution affects the university when current hiring guidelines do not allow marital or sexual preference to be questioned. Senator Bacon responded that the original resolution spoke to protecting the university legally to which Senator Landis agreed but reiterated that personnel policies require marital status to be disregarded leaving her still questioning how this issue affect the university. Senator Bacon stated the Office of Civil Rights has certified that the university is in compliance based on the revised prohibited discrimination policy. Senator Carroll clarified he is in favor of the amended resolution. Senator Bacon stated since the Omaha *World-Herald* has already spoken to the issue addressed in paragraph one he is in support of removing it. Discussion continued.

Vote: A vote to approved the amended resolution was taken. There was a division of the house by verbal vote; a show of hands resulted in 10 for; 7 against; 2 abstained. The motion to approve the amended resolution was approved.

Discussion: Discussion of amended resolution continued. Senator Hagen requested arguments of support for the remaining two "whereas" paragraphs stating the e-mails distributed after the September senate meeting were a lot of smoke and did not support how this issue directly affects the university. He requested further clarified on how the university or members of the university are directly affected (relevancy).

Presider Change: Senator Paterson relinquished the floor to Senator Bacon so he could voice his opinion as follows.

Discussion: Senator Paterson spoke to the issue of how discrimination of any kind against anyone is unacceptable. He further commented that he was profoundly marginalized by this initiative and that the entire matter speaks to the fundamental issue of basic civil rights noting it is in the best tradition not to exclude anyone but rather include all. He then re-read the resolution and stated the acting UNL academic senate president referenced the issue the day before with regards to how it will affects the pool of applicants from which faculty may be drawn if some individuals don't feel welcome in Nebraska. Senator Paterson emphasized that the Office of Civil Rights will have difficulty with this initiative noting it will inevitably end up in the courts. Of more importance, however, is not why the senate should become involved but rather how can it not get involved when it so profoundly affects its citizens.

Presider Change: Senator Bacon relinquished the floor back to Senator Paterson.

Discussion: Senator Landis spoke in favor of the resolution stating she feels it is the right thing to do to take a stand against Initiative 416. Senator DeLone shared a personal note that as recently as 1967 laws existed prohibiting inter-racial marriages in many southern states and that this issue is very similar.

Vote: A verbal vote was taken resulting in a majority of for the resolution; there were also several nays but no one abstained. The motion was approved.

Approved (Clean) Resolution:

Resolution 2512, 10/11/00: On Behalf of the Assembly

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would jeopardize the University's ability to attract and retain the best faculty, staff and students, and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Amendment would preclude equal protection under the law for specifically targeted groups of citizens of Nebraska, undermining the validity University's Prohibited Discrimination Policy; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha urges members of the University community vigorously to oppose passage of the amendment at the November, 7, 2000, election.

For the Good of the Order: Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, 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.

Student Orientation: Consider adding diversity training such as that offered to faculty and staff through Pathways to Harmony.

Comprehensive University/Multicultural Calendar

New Business: Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Article IV. Senate Agenda., Section 3: Final action on new business shall not include decisions on matters requiring approval by the chancellor or the governing body of the university until thirty days shall have elapsed after introduction, and the opportunity is provided for appropriate committee recommendation except when such business is an "emergency matter." The expression "emergency matter" used in Article IV of the constitution shall apply to any new business at any meeting of the faculty senate when two-thirds of the members present and voting approve. The vote on the question of "emergency matter" and all votes on the substantive question under consideration shall be roll-call votes).

Shuttle Bus Shelter: This issue was discussed at the September 20, Executive Committee and Administration meeting and needs to be assigned to a standing committee to pursue. Note a permanent bus shelter is currently located on the east side of Kaiser Hall (similar to city bus shelters) which may serve as a model or source of information on cost, etc.

This issue was held over until the next meeting due to lack of time to thoroughly discuss it.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully,

Hesham Ali
Secretary-Treasurer