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Faculty Senate Minutes March 2001

UNO Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha
2000-2001 Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 7, 2001, 2:00 p.m., Alumni Center / Bootstrapper Hall

Note Date Change: Because the regularly scheduled senate meeting falls during Spring break and to ensure a quorum, the March senate meeting has been moved from the 14th to the 7th.

Attendees: N. Bacon, W. Bacon, Bartle, Baum, Carlson, Carroll, DeLone, Elder, El-Rewini, Engelmann, Falconer Al-Hindi, Fawcett, File, Foster, Hagen, Haworth, Irvin, Johnson, Mitchell, Paterson, Shaw, Shroder, Smallwood, Smith, Sobel, Zhao

Presiding Officer: Paterson (Constitution, Article IV & Bylaws, Article I, Section 1)

Parliamentarian: Bartle (Constitution, Article IV)

Excused: Allen, Barron-McKeagney, Coyne, Metal-Corbin, Valle

Unexcused: Chung, Landis, Mande, O'Connell, Thompson, Tuan

Guests: Derek Hodgson, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Stan Schleifer, Manager, Support Services

Julie Totten, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Finance

Stephanie Trudell, Student Senate Liaison

Quorum: Simple Majority/19 (Constitution, Article IV)

Official Call To Order

Introduction of Guests

Derek Hodgson, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

Stan Schleifer, Manager, Support Services

Julie Totten, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Finance

Stephanie Trudell, Student Senate Liaison

Guest Presentations

Derek Hodgson

Faculty Search Committee Advisement to Office of Academic Affairs (per Senator Shroder's e-mail to Vice Chancellor Hodgson on 01/12/01.)

Shanghai Program

Academic Prioritization

Commencement on Friday

Other

Stan Schleifer and Julie Totten

2001-2002 Proposed Parking Permit Fee Increase: To BOR on April 7; agenda deadline March 16.

At the end of the presentation, Senator Paterson charged the Senate Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare with further investigating the issue of increasing future parking permit fees.

Presentation and Approval of Minutes: Senator Paterson asked for approval of the February 14, minutes (agenda attachments 1-14). The minutes were approved as submitted.

Officers Reports

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

Written Reports

Chancellor's Council, February 15

Executive Committee and Administration, February 21

Board of Regents, March 2 & 3 (agenda attachment 15-16)

Senator Paterson charged the senate's Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs return a positive resolution regarding plus/minus grading at the April meeting. He further reported that President Smith made a very strong case for increased student attendance, increased tuition, and increased activities. All will benefit the UNOmaha campus.

UNO Peer Institution List: Chancellor Belck provided Senator Paterson with a copy of UNO's three peer institution lists as requested at the January 10, senate meeting. (agenda attachment 17)

Verbal Reports

Deans Forum: Per majority agreement by the full senate, the president's report on the activities of the Deans Forum will be given verbally only in order to respect and ensure the confidentiality of the issue discussed therein. No written report will be provided nor minutes taken.

Announcements

Chancellor's Written Response to Senate Resolutions: The UNO Chancellor's Response to Faculty Senate Resolutions covering resolutions 2513 through 2533 passed by the senate from November 8, 2000, through February 14, 2001, was received in the senate office on February 26, 2001. (agenda attachments 18)

Faculty Senate Election Results: The following thirteen (13) faculty members have been elected to serve three-year terms from May 9, 2001, through May 6, 2004:

College of Arts & Sciences (4): Thomas Bragg, Boyd Littrell, Jody Neathery-Castro, Greg Sadlek

College of Business Administration (1): Sufi Nazem

College of Education (2) Martha Bruckner, Laura Schulte

College of Fine Arts (1): David Helm

College of Information Science & Technology (1): Peter Wolcott

College of Public Affairs & Community Services (2): Ethel Williams, Michael Carroll

Library (1): Laura Dickson

External Faculty (1): Keith Pedersen

Attendance: Senator Paterson shared concern for the lack of attendance at standing committee meetings and reminded all present of their senate obligations.

Vice President/President-Elect's Report: Senator W. Bacon reported on the following.

Written Report: Shanghai Project (agenda attachment 19-23)

A lengthy discussion took place.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Senator El-Rewini reported on the following.

Written Reports: Budget Report, February 28 (agenda attachment 24)

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

Advance Notice to Amend Faculty Senate Bylaws: The following serves as the Executive Committee and Cabinet's announcement of intent to introduce a motion to amend the Faculty Senate bylaws on April 11, 2001, as recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee.

Resolution 0000, 04/11/01: Executive Committee and Cabinet

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2001, the Executive Committee and Cabinet announced intent to introduce a motion to amend the Faculty Senate bylaws at the April 11, 2001, senate meeting as required by Article VII, Section 1 (copied below); therefore, Article VII. Amendments. Section 1: These bylaws can be amended at any business meeting by simple majority vote of those eligible to be cast by the entire senate providing that at the preceding meeting an announcement has been made declaring intent to introduce a motion to amend at the next meeting and describing its content and purpose. The proposal must be reduced to writing when presented for a vote.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha be amended as follows:

Article I. Section 1: Replace the word staff with the word designees. The sentence will read: "He/she shall be the faculty spokesperson when the Executive Committee meets with the chancellor and the chancellor's designees 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."

Article I, add new Section 6: The presiding officer of the Faculty Senate shall be the senior officer present at the meeting: president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, president-elect, chairperson of the Committee on Rules, chairperson of the Cabinet, chairperson of the standing committees other than Rules in alphabetical order, vice-chairperson of the standing committees in alphabetical order.

Article II, add new Section 10: To be eligible for election to president-elect, a Senator must be able to complete the following term of president within her or his elected Senate term.

Article III, Section 4: Delete the last sentence, which deals with the presiding officer during an election, since this is covered in new Article I. Section 6.

Resolutions

Resolution 2534, 03/07/01: Executive Committee and Cabinet

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2001, the global e-learning project in cooperation with the International Institute for Information Science and Technology (IIIST) in Shanghai, China was contractually extended in its research and design stage, and

WHEREAS the UNOmaha faculty bear the primary responsibility for the integrity of all UNOmaha degrees and the pedagogical legitimacy of all UNOmaha course offerings, and

WHEREAS, the UNOmaha-IIIST project does not clearly fit into the objectives of the UNOmaha Strategic Plan, and

WHEREAS, global studies remain an important and attractive part of the UNOmaha educational experience for students "to find their place in the world," and

WHEREAS, pedagogical issues involving project courses required for UNOmaha degree programs remain unresolved and require prompt on-site clarification and creative problem-solving, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNOmaha Faculty Senate strongly recommends that the Strategic Plan be amended to reflect UNOmaha's continuing commitment to international education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UNOmaha Faculty Senate strongly recommends that delegations from the English and Communication Departments be urgently dispatched to Shanghai for the purposes of issue clarification and problem-solving discussions with the IIIST administration and instructional staff.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator W. Bacon moved the resolution.

Second: A second is not required since the committee moved the resolution.

Discussion: Senator Smith questioned the point of passing the resolution if it doesn't serve any purpose. Senator W. Bacon stated it brings the issue before administration. Senator Carlson expressed support for the resolution. Senator Carroll questioned why the resolution doesn't address financial concerns. Senator W. Bacon stated the financial aspects are up to the Chancellor to deal with; adding it is his understanding funds have already been pledged. Senator Paterson said he, too, has heard there is plenty of financial support. Senator Shroder stated the purpose of the resolution is to tell administration to deal with these issues of concern. Senator Hagen inquired why administration hasn't already questioned about going to the BOR and whether there is any support from the State of Nebraska. Senator W. Bacon referred to his earlier report noting he has criticized the university for not taking this issue outside the NU system. Senator Hagen stated we're left without knowing whether there's any support for this project outside the university system. Senator Shroder stated if administration keeps this issue internal, that in itself screams loudly.

Question: Senator Carlson called the question.

Discussion: Not allowed.

Vote: The motion was approved

Vote: The motion was approved with one nays and no one abstaining.

Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Draft): On behalf of Dr. Mudd, Rita Henry requested comments on the current draft of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities by Friday, February 9. Due to losing quorum at the end of the February senate meeting, the issue was held over to March.

Resolution 2535, 03/07/01: On behalf of the Assembly

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Cabinet have considered the revised UNOmaha Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities proposed by Dr. Mary Mudd, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and have found nothing objectionable; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha has no objections to the implementation of the revised UNOmaha Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator W. Bacon moved the resolution.

Second: A second is not required since the committee moved the resolution.

Discussion: Senators Smith and Hagen questioned if this document was previously presented to the senate. Senator Paterson confirmed it was.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

Student Code of Conduct (Draft): On behalf of Dr. Mudd, Rita Henry has requested comments on the current draft of the Student Code of Conduct by Friday, February 9. Due to losing quorum at the end of the February senate meeting, the issue was held over to March.

Resolution 2536, 03/07/01: On behalf of the Assembly

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Cabinet have considered the revised UNOmaha Student Code of Conduct proposed by Dr. Mary Mudd, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and have found nothing objectionable; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha has no objections to the implementation of the revised UNOmaha Student Code of Conduct.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator W. Bacon moved the resolution.

Second: A second is not required since the committee moved the resolution.

Discussion: Senators Smith and Hagen questioned if this document was previously presented to the senate. Senator Paterson confirmed it was.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 1)

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

Written Report: February 28 (agenda attachment 25)

Verbal Report: Senator Bartle reported the committee intends to present a resolution on plus/minus grading at the April senate meeting.

Suggested Amendment to the Data on Grade Distribution: The committee suggests the following statement be appended to the data on grade distribution in the form of a letter. The committee also recommends that the data on grade distribution be made available to the faculty annually.

Verbal Report: Senator Bartle explained the need for the letter to be attached. Senator N. Bacon expounded on specific points within the letter.

Vote: Senator Bartle sensed this issue should be voted on as a "sense of the senate" rather than in the form of a resolution. All agreed.

Discussion: None

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

"The Office of Institutional Research has gathered data on the distribution of grades in each of UNOmaha's colleges and departments. We forward the data with the recommendation that faculty in every academic unit examine them carefully and use this occasion to review their grading practices.

The Faculty Senate endorses these principles:

Students have a right to an accurate, meaningful assessment of their performance.

A pattern of inordinately high grades may indicate grade inflation, which threatens the academic integrity of the university.

A pattern of inordinately low grades may indicate that instructional practices are not giving students the support they need to succeed.

A disparity in grading practices is a cause for concern. While grades vary from department to department for real and legitimate reasons, a wide variation results in grades losing their value as information.

The disjunction between actual grade distributions and the explanation of grades published in UNOmaha's undergraduate catalog (A is defined as "superior," B as "above average," C as "average") is a cause for concern, suggesting a need to revise the catalog copy, grading practices, or both."

New Charge - Enhancing Instruction in Urban Schools Graduate Certificate: Dr. Shelton Hendricks, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Dean for Graduate Studies, requested the senate review and comment on this document. Committee B of the UNO Graduate Council approved the certificate at their January 25, meeting and has been placed on the February 12, Graduate Council agenda for full approval. A standing committee needs to be charged

with reviewing this document as soon as possible. Note it is already on the BOR agenda for February 12. A copy of this document was distributed to committee members via intercampus mail on 03/06/01.

New Charge - Review UNL Document Titled, "Motion to Revise UNL's Grading System": A standing committee needs to be charged with reviewing this document and reporting back to the senate. A copy of this document was distributed to committee members via intercampus mail on 03/06/01.

Resolution: Resolution 2537, 03/07/01: Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs has considered the Graduate Certificate in Human Resources and Training Proposal at the request of Dr. Shelton Hendricks, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and have found nothing objectionable; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha has no objections to the implementation of the Graduate Certificate in Human Resources and Training Proposal.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator W. Bacon moved the resolution.

Second: A second is not required since the committee moved the resolution.

Discussion: None.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Written Reports: No report; the committee did not meet in February.

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

Written Report: The committee met on February 27; a report was not submitted.

Resolution: Resolution 2538, 03/07/01: Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare

WHEREAS, Emeritus status for older faculty is a status that can encourage retirement to make way for fresh new faculty, and

WHEREAS, according to item RP-4.2.6 of the Board of Regents handbook on the Rights and Responsibilities of Professional Staff, Emeritus status is not automatic but an award of special privilege accruing to retired staff, and

WHEREAS, Emeritus status for retiring faculty is, in large part, an honor based upon past meritorious service, and

WHEREAS, Emeritus status for retiring faculty is recommended by the staff of the department, and the dean, or the director, and

WHEREAS, in some cases seeming inequities or oversights may result from some determinations of Emeritus status, and

WHEREAS, Emeritus status may include office space, desk, computer and phone use, and/or research facilities where such is deemed especially desirable, and

WHEREAS, the University has a dearth of such space available in some departments; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that a survey of possible office spaces be developed by departments for future use by faculty with Emeritus status, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that more formal, standardized procedures be developed by departments for determining Emeritus status, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that if determination of Emeritus status is ever contested at the departmental level, further determination should be made at the level of the appropriate college advisory committee to the Dean, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that faculty nearing retirement should petition their department, their chair, and their dean at any time for a vote to determine whether or not they will be granted Emeritus status, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all faculty with Emeritus status should be provided with available office space, telephone, and computer support for as long as they shall need it; such space to be commensurate with available space and commensurate with ongoing evidence of productivity in terms of continued teaching, student advising, creativity, research papers published, and grants obtained.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator W. Bacon moved the resolution.

Second: A second is not required since the committee moved the resolution.

Discussion: Senator Shroder explained the reasoning behind the resolution. Senator Falconer Al-Hindi expressed concern for the five "Be It Resolved," stating they are confusing.

Friendly Amendment: Senator Sobel suggested adding the word "available" to the last paragraph after "provided with." On behalf of the committee, Senator Shroder accepted the friendly amendment.

Vote on Resolution As Amended: The motion was approved unanimously.

New Charge - Parking Permit Fees: At the March 5, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee with looking into the issue of Parking Permit fees at the request of Stan Schleifer, Manager of Support Services, who will make a brief presentation on the issue at the March 7, senate meeting.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Coyne reported on the following.

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

New Charge - Endorsement for Annual Women's Theme: Immediately following the February 14, senate meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee with looking into the issue of a 2001-2002 annual women's theme as proposed by Professor Harvey Leavitt at the same meeting.

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

Written Reports: No report; the committee did not meet in February.

Committee on Rules: Senator Sobel reported on the following.

Written Report: The following resolutions serve as the committee's minutes.

Verbal Report: Senator Sobel reported the annual faculty survey to volunteer for a variety of committees will be distributed via intercampus mail soon. She requested all encourage their colleagues to complete and return the form as soon as possible.

Resolution: Resolution 2539, 03/07/01: Committee on Rules

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following eleven names go forward as appointments to the newly formed Prioritization Review Panels to serve a three-year term from March 7, 2001, through July 31, 2004:

Wally Bacon A&S
Bob Carlson A&S
Jack Shroder A&S
Richard File BA
Franklin Thompson ED
Douglas Paterson FA
Sharon Sobel FA

Dwight Haworth IST
Jim Shaw Library
Ann Coyne PACS
Miriam DeLone PACS

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Senator W. Bacon moved the resolution.

Second: A second is not required since the committee moved the resolution.

Discussion: None.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

Quorum Lost: A head count verified the quorum was lost. The meeting ceased immediately.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hesham El-Rewini
Secretary-Treasurer

The following items were not discussed due to a lack of quorum:

Faculty Senate Advisory Committee Reports (alphabetical)

Budget Advisory Committee: Senator Douglas Paterson

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee: Senator James Carroll reported on the following.

Written Report: March 4, minutes (agenda attachment 26)

Advance Notice to Amend Faculty Senate Bylaws: See Page 3, Article V, Section A of this agenda for details.

New Charge - Confirm Need for Ballot Resolutions: At the February 14, senate meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee with checking into whether a resolution is necessary to announce the results of ballot elections.

Intercampus Resource Advisory Committee: Senator Douglas Paterson

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

Non-Senate Committee Reports (alphabetical)

Academic Planning Council: Senator Melodee Landis

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Professor William Wakefield:

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator James Shaw

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

Graduate Council: Senator Angela Valle reported on the following.

Written Reports: Minutes, February 12 (agenda attachments 27-28)

Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Franklin Thompson

Written Report: A report has not submitted.

Old Business

For the Good of the Order: (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3)

Faculty Senate Elections (External Faculty in Particular)

New Business (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3)

Wish List (HELD OVER FROM 02/14/01 DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM): Dan Sullivan contacted Senator Peterson stating the University-Wide Fringe Benefits Committee is soliciting items for a "wish list." Discussion is encouraged regarding "the sort of things you'd like to see changed about or added to our benefits program."
