

4-11-2001

## Faculty Senate Minutes April 2001

UNO Faculty Senate

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

Attendees: Allen, N. Bacon, W. Bacon, Barron-McKeagney, Bartle, Baum, Carlson, Carroll, Chung, Coyne, DeLone, Elder, El-Rewini, Engelmann, Falconer Al-Hindi, Fawcett, File, Foster, Hagen, Haworth, Irvin, Johnson, Landis, Mande, Metal-Corbin, O'Connell, Paterson, Shaw, Shroder, Smallwood, Smith, Sobel, Thompson, Tuan, Zhao

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

Parliamentarian: Bartle (Constitution, Article IV)

Excused: Mitchell, Valle

Unexcused: Coyne, DeLone, Haworth, Landis, Thompson, Valle

Guests: Stephanie Trudell, Student Senate/Faculty Senate Liaison & College of A&S Student Sen.

Aaron Becker, College of IS&T Student Senator

Andrew Barry, Freshman Student Senator

Tony Krause, Sophomore Student Senator

Angelo Zieno, Junior Student Senator

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

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

Official Call To Order: Senator Paterson called the meeting to order.

Presentation and Approval of Minutes: Senator Paterson asked for approval of the March 14, minutes (agenda attachments 1-12). The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### Officers Reports

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

#### Written Reports

Executive Committee and Administration: March 21

Chancellor's Council: March 22

Board of Regents Meeting: April 6-7

#### 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.

Senator Paterson reported that senate representation on the Deans' Forum is still unlikely at this point, however, dialogue remains active on resolving this issue.

May Commencement: Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 5, at the Civic Auditorium. At the April 4th, Executive Committee and Cabinet meeting, Senators Sobel and W. Bacon volunteered to serve as marshals. Ceremonies begin at 9:00 a.m.; faculty are asked to arrive by 8:30 a.m.

Faculty Senate/Staff Advisory Council Banquet: A banquet will be given by Chancellor Belck to honor members of the Faculty Senate and the Staff Advisory Council begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, in the MBSC Nebraska Room. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. in the MBSC Ballroom. A spouses or significant other is included. The

Chancellor's office has distributed invitations to all senators who served during the 2000-2001 academic year; please RSVP to Donna Hathaway (dhathawa@mail.unomaha.edu) by Wednesday, May 2.

Senator Paterson announced that retiring senators will be honored at the May 9th, senate meeting as well as at the banquet.

Retiring Senators: The following senators have completed their term of service during the 2000-2001 academic year and will be honored with a plaque at the May 10th, banquet.

Hesham Ali 05/12/98 - 11/01/00  
Chris Allen 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
Timi Barone 05/10/00 - 09/13/00  
John Bartle 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
Donald Baum 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
James Carroll 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
Miriam DeLone 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
G. Griffith Elder 05/10/00 - 05/09/01  
Karen Falconer Al-Hindi 05/10/00 - 05/09/01  
E. Terence Foster 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
Dwight Haworth 11/01/00 - 05/09/01  
Deborah Irvin 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
Josephine Metal-Corbin 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
Douglas Paterson 05/12/98 - 12/12/01  
Brigette Ryalls 05/10/00 - 12/31/00  
James Shaw 05/12/98 - 05/09/01  
Sharon Sobel 05/11/99 - 05/09/01

New Senators: The following senators were elected to serve a three-year term from May 9, 2001, through May 6, 2004.

Arts and Sciences: Thomas Bragg, Boyd Littrell, Jody Neathery-Castro, Gregory Sadlek  
Business Administration: Sufi Nazem  
Education: Martha Bruckner, Laura Schulte  
Fine Arts: David Helm  
Information Science and Technology: Peter Wolcott  
University Library: Laura Dickson  
Public Affairs and Community Service: Ethel Williams, Michael Carroll  
External NU Faculty: Keith Pedersen

Attendance at May 9, Senate Meeting: Attendance is strongly encouraged at the May 9th, senate meeting during which members will transition from the 2000-2001 senate to the 2001-2002 senate. Retiring senators will be officially excused from service and new senators will be welcomed. Officers and standing committee chairs will also be appointed.

Vice President/President-Elect's Report: Senator W. Bacon

Senator W. Bacon thanked all who provided feedback on the second Shanghai report he distributed.

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

Written Reports: March 31 (agenda attachment 13)

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

Resolution: On March 7, 2001, advanced written notice of intent to introduce a motion to amend the Faculty Senate bylaws at April 11, 2001, senate meeting was presented by the Executive Committee and Cabinet as recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee.

Resolution 2540, 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.

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

Second: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Senator Carroll shared it was an honor to serve with the cumulative membership whose wisdom kept him from being a loose canon. He further addressed the absence of some issues brought to the committee's attention (such as multiple candidates for one office; election results posted as resolutions; chairing of the Executive Committee in the absence of the vice president, etc.). He reported the committee agreed that nominations for elections should not be put forward in resolution form but the results should.

Amendment: Senator Smith moved to delete Article II, Section 10.

Second: Senator Bartle seconded the motion.

Discussion: Senator Smith spoke to Article II, Section 10, noting the pool of candidates for president-elect should not be limited. He gave the comparison of how members of the House of Representatives are selected and why it would serve the senate well to include the option of having an outsider serve as president. Senator Carlson spoke against the motion stating all members of the senate are elected members and the argument Senator Smith raises opens the door for a non-elected individual to oversee the elected body. Senator Shroder stated it would be non-representational of a non-elected faculty to oversee the elected members.

Vote on Amendment: 2 yea; majority nay; a few abstained

Discussion: None.

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

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

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

Written Report: March 28 (agenda attachments 14-16)

New Charge - Plus/Minus Grading: At the March 7, senate meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee with presenting a positive resolution regarding on plus/minus grading at the April senate meeting.

New Charge - Entrepreneurship Center Proposal: Vice Chancellor Hodgson and Dr. David Volkman have requested the attached proposal be reviewed and feedback be provided as soon as possible so the document can be presented to the Board of Regents on May 19. Senator Paterson had the document forwarded to Senator Bartle on April 2. (agenda attachments 17-20)

#### Resolutions

Resolution 2541, 04/11/01: Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs (agenda attachments 21-29)

WHEREAS, the proposed graduate certificate program, AEnhancing Instruction in Urban Schools, and has been approved by the UNO Graduate Council, and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs has reviewed this proposal and supports this proposal; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha approves the proposed graduate certificate AEnhancing Instruction in Urban Schools."

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.

Resolution 2542, 04/11/01: Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs

WHEREAS, the addition of minus grades allows faculty to better distinguish between varying levels of performance, which is a fundamental role of a grading system, and

WHEREAS, most American universities include both plus and minus grades; fewer than 5% use the current scale, and

WHEREAS, both the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Kearney have recently adopted minus grades, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable for a university system to have uniform standards to facilitate inter-campus transfers, and

WHEREAS, in 1995 the UNO Faculty Senate approved a resolution to add minus grades; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha approves the following changes in the system of grades, definitions, and quality points for the University changing the current grading system by adding A-, B-, C-, D-.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate encourages such programs and systems which utilize the current quality point system to evaluate student performance (Honors Program, Academic Suspension, etc.) to re-examine their GPA criteria.

A+ Consistently outstanding 4.0

A Consistently outstanding 4.0

A- Consistently outstanding 3.67

B+ Proficient 3.33

B Proficient 3.0

B- Proficient 2.67  
C+ Satisfactory 2.33  
C Satisfactory 2.0  
C- Satisfactory 1.67  
D+ Marginal 1.33  
D Marginal 1.0  
D- Marginal .67  
F Failure 0.0

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: As chair, Senator Bartle reported a 3 to 2 vote by the committee. He further stated the best reason for the resolution is defined in the first "WHEREAS" which speaks to the fundamental role of the grading system. He also noted that UNL and UNK have already adopted the plus/minus grading system and that it could complicate the NU grading system if all campuses are not sync. Senator Bartle said less than 5% of universities use the current minus system UNO uses. Senator Paterson stated this issue is of particularly important and has great ramifications for the university. He acknowledged the students present and asked the senate's permission for the students to speak. Senator Falconer Al-Hindi agreed and suggested the student's presentation be brief in order to allow ample time for faculty to address the issue.

Student Senate Liaison Stephanie Trudell started by stating she represents the Student Senate as well as the student body. She spoke against the resolution stating a B- opens up a higher possibility that a student will get a minus grade. She also voiced concern that students who received a C- would be on probation which would in turn raise the drop out rate. Trudell stated grade inflation exists on the UNO campus. She then proposed having higher class requirements which would in turn allow the grading system to be varied rather than changing the grading system.

Student Senator Andrew Barry reported that he authored the Letter of Statement distributed at the meeting. He then passed around petitions that had been signed by 381 students in opposition to the resolution. Barry read a statement called the Petition to Keep Grading System the Same which referenced UNO's strategic Plan.

Senator Angelo Zieno thanked the faculty senate for listening to the voice of the students and officially presented their petition. He passed around a newspaper article (Daily Nebraskan, Thursday, March 22, 2001, Volume 100, Issue 128) pointing out an article about UNL's honor system not changing their grading system (Minuses May Sting Honors Students). He noted that the article clearly states every one is trying to do what's best for student; he then spoke to the current system working as-is. Student Senator Angelo Zieno believes the new grading system will cause even more pressure on professors to change student's grades adding it could also factor into future teacher evaluations.

Student Senator Aaron Becker spoke in support of the resolution commenting it will make the campus more progressive. He asked faculty listen to the voice of the student. He shared his education is entirely supported by scholarships which could be affected by changes in the grading system.

Student input ceased and the floor opened to faculty.

Senator Shroder stated current grading system could be jiggled to accommodate each class and still respect current students. He also noted there are a number of other grading scales available.

Senator Carroll stated he doesn't think anything is gained by converting to a minus grading system. He further noted UNK has already adopted this minus grading system even though they already had the power to issue minus grades. He then questioned what they accomplish by their actions. Senator Carroll spoke to requiring the entire NU system to use uniform standards but noted there would be no great problem in converting differing grades within the NU system because it's already being done with transcripts from non-NU system universities. He reminded all present that three-years ago UNL originally rejected the very grading system they just accepted. He added there are reasons for serious consideration of adopting this system, particularly for the graduate college. Senator Carroll voiced this proposal needs to be considered well in light of the incoming transcripts; he emphasized that he does not believe the university has thought through this issue thoroughly.

Motion: Senator Carroll moved to postpone vote until the December meeting to give the appropriate senate bodies adequate time to review the issue more carefully.

Seconded: Senator Hagen seconded the motion.

Discussion: Student Senator Trudell stated the Student Senate agreed the grade change might be more acceptable if additional data can be provided. Senator Smith stated that according to the rules of the University, students with 45 credit hours and a GPA below 2.0 are placed on probation with the possibility of suspension if their grades aren't raised. This means a C- is not acceptable under the new grading system. Senator Smith stressed that before the grading system is changed we need to know all the ramifications.

Change in Presider: Senator Paterson relinquished the floor to Senator W. Bacon.

Discussion Continued. Senator Paterson emphasized the importance of taking action on this issue immediately noting it would be irresponsible to put it off. He stated everyone should either vote it down or pass it but argued strongly against postponing action.

Change in Presider: Senator W. Bacon relinquished the floor to Senator Paterson.

Discussion Cont: Senator Falconer Al-Hindi questioned why it was imperative action be taken right away.

Senator Paterson reiterated that if the senate is against changing the grading system they should take a stand right now so work can begin on how to mess the UNO's systems with the three other NU campuses.

Senator Carroll stated there would have been plenty of opportunity to work the details out if faculty had been asked for their opinion earlier in the process. He further noted the Faculty Senates on the other three NU campuses didn't ask for the UNO Faculty Senate's opinion so why should UNO care about theirs.

Motion: Senator Hagen moved postponement of a decision until the December, 2001, meeting. He further suggested a decision on what to do next could follow immediately.

Second: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Senator Shroder spoke in opposition of the motion and instead supported moving ahead with the vote.

Vote: A verbal vote was too close to determine; a request for the division of the house was called. The motion did not pass: 11 yea; 16 nay; 0 abstaining.

Discussion: Discussion of the original resolution resumed.

Motion: Senator Allen moved to re-define the descriptions for C-, D+, C, and D- stating C- is not satisfactory even though it is listed as such in the resolution.

Second: Senator Carlson seconded the motion.

Discussion: Senator Falconer Al-Hindi agreed that the verbal definitions need to be changed. She further suggested A+, A, and A- should not all be listed as "consistently outstanding."

Senator Allen agreed noting the resolution as-is it does not offer expansion of categories.

Senator Shroder suggested using a completely different scale so professors are not locked into this numerical scale. He further stated he supports more categories for better grading but that he does not believe the scale included in the resolution offer that.

Point of Order: Senator Carlson called a point of order noting discussion was getting too far off the motion at hand.

Clarification: Senator Paterson clarified the amendment as offered by Senator Allen.

Discussion: Senator Smallwood questioned the wording used in the resolution.

Senator Bartle noted the wording was suggested by Senator N. Bacon.

Senator N. Bacon stated she was not referencing a grading system with plus and minus at the time of their conversation.

Senator Elder questioned whether the senate should pass the resolution as affirmative but leave the door open for the details to be worked out at a later date noting it is clear it will take a period of time to fine tune the issue.

Senator Paterson confirmed this could be done but again stated the senate needs to deal with the current motion on the floor.

Vote: A verbal vote was too close to determine; a request for the division of the house was called. The motion did not pass: 9 yea; 12 nay; 7 abstaining.

Motion: Senator Carlson moved to drop all descriptions and quality points.

Second: Senator Shroder seconded the motion.

Discussion: Senator Bartle inquired what would be used in place of the current descriptions and quality points.

Senator Hagen questioned whether the motion included not referring the issue back to the committee to work out the details.

Friendly Amendment: Senator (?) offered the friendly amendment of "that the Committee on Academic & Curricular Affairs recommends definitions and quality points."

Accepted: Senator Carlson accepted the friendly amendment

Clarification: Senator El-Rewini suggested clarifying the proposed motion by adding, "changing the current grading system by adding minus grades" to the sixth paragraph.

Motion Withdrawn: Senator Carlson withdrew previous acceptance of the friendly amendment noted above in lieu of using Senator El-Rewini's suggestion instead.

Friendly Amendment: Senator El-Rewini moved to add, "changing the current grading system by adding minus grades" to the sixth paragraph.

Friendly Amendment: Senator Carlson accepted the friendly amendment and suggested adding "A-, B-, C-, D-" to the end of the sentence. Senator El-Rewini agreed.

Discussion: Senator Engelmann stated the issue was being approached in the wrong way and suggested a quality point system that begins with 0 and ends with 4.0. He noted the letter grades should then be dropped resulting in an infinite ability to vary grades. He also questioned the advisability of getting ride of the quality points in lieu of minus points.

Senator Sobel spoke to in favor of minus grades but stated she'd have trouble voting for them without knowing what they'd equate to in quality points.

Student Senate Trudell asked for clarification that the quality points could still be put back in.

Senator Paterson agreed.

Student Senate Trudell then inquired about the grandfather clause.



Senator Paterson replied that at this point there is no grandfather clause and all students would be graded on the new system.

Senator Hagen spoke against the resolution and suggested going back to inclusion of the quality points.

Student Senator Becker observed the resolution was slowly being dismantled piece by piece. He voiced concern that problems would occur if the quality points were altered but agreed changing that the descriptions would be acceptable.

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

Discussion Continued. Senator Paterson spoke about his initial encounter with UNO's absurd system for evaluation through pressure tactics from students and fellow faculty. He shared that this issue has been a long time coming and stated UNO voted in support of this grading system six years ago. He said he sees UNO as being on the cutting edge and the other campuses as eventually coming around to UNO's way of thinking. Senator Paterson noted it's not about inflation or deflation but inflation, the ability to proportionately assess student progress. He further shared he's been using a 12-point grading system of his own for some time and reminded faculty they have the ultimate decision in whether they use minus points or not. He spoke in support of keeping quality points adding a vote could also be taken for continuing work but it would most likely come back the same. He again urged moving forward with this resolution today.

Senator Hagen referred to the grading system in use when he first arrived at UNO noting each increase in grading scales brings more questions from students who feel they deserve a different grade. He further stated there was a reasoned argument for implementing the upper grade levels covered by the plus system but not the minus.

Senator Engelmann stated there should be a F+ .

Senator Elder commented it is incorrect to say that twice as many grades would cause twice as many arguments. He felt the statement was distracting.

Senator Carroll affirmed data supports that statistically campuses may inflate or deflate grades in off setting ways. The UNO faculty and senate as well as their relationship with UNL's Academic Senate were misrepresented in Senator Paterson's earlier comments. UNL was the one who originally proposed both the current and new grading systems after which UNO followed. He further clarified that, although UNO has moved forward on this issue, they have certainly not taken the lead.

Senator Carlson reminded all of the resolution at hand.

Senator Paterson agreed but noted the discussion was relevant to the resolution at hand.

Senator Bartle defied anyone to deny that graduate students don't need more than four grades.

Senator Elder inquired if more motions could be offered if the amendment was approved.

Senator Paterson confirmed they could.

Senator Carlson stated he did not want a friendly amendment at this point but would welcomed one after this motion is settled.

Motion Clarified: Senator Paterson clarified the motion to amendment was: "drop all descriptions and quality points" and add, "changing the current grading system by adding A-, B-, C-, D-" to the sixth paragraph.

Vote: The motion to amend the resolution passed: yea, 12; nay, 11; abstained, 4.

Motion: Senator Elder moved to add the quality points back in.

Second: Senator Bartle seconded the motion.

Discussion: Senator W. Bacon voiced agreement with Senator Carroll that UNL and UNK should not dictate what UNO values should be. He further expressed similar concerns to that of Student Senator Trudell noting he anticipates voting against the resolution because he, too, doesn't think UNO should feel obligated to go along with the grade change just because UNL and UNK chose to.

Senator File agreed he doesn't think UNO needs feel obligated to UNL and UNK. He further stated he believes one of the most unappreciated groups on campus are those students who are really knock a course dead. He would like to see a differential, a reward so to speak, be established for those student who challenge him in the classroom..

Senator Engelmann spoke to faculty assigning any digital grade between 0 and 4 first and then assign the letter pattern.

Student Senator Trudell pointed out the conversation keeps coming back to class requirements. She further stated the student that works the hardest deserves an "A" and therefore, changing the grading system isn't necessary. She spoke in support of adding "A+" in order to award students who really deserve it.

Senator Elder said he honestly doesn't believe UNO is chasing after UNL's lead but added that even after a month of scrutinizing faculty would probably end up in the same place unless a non-rational factored in.

Senator Smith sited one of the reasons he's opposed to changing the grading system is because it introduces additional grading scales thereby implying precision does not currently exist. He stated he uses all nine grading categories allowed under the current system and is against the process that several fellow senators currently use for grading. He referenced his course divergence which would have deflation resulting in increased difficulty in achieving higher level grades in his courses. He also stated he doesn't want to get into a new grading system not knowing what the results will be.

Prsider Change: Senator Paterson relinquished the floor to Senator W. Bacon.

Discussion Continued. Senator Paterson thanked the students for their participation in this important matter noting that their actions reflected their heartfelt concern for the grading system. He further stated that the issue is about the grading tool itself and suggested it is possible for UNO to create a grading system of its own. He explained what he wants to see accomplished is getting a more comprehensive evaluation system in place.

Student Senator Andrew Barry inquired if faculty would consider raising percentage points.

Senator Paterson replied that was up to each faculty member.

Question Called: Senator Carlson called the question on re-inserting numerical values (quality points).

Second: Senators Baum and Shroder seconded the motion.

Discussion: Not allowed.

Vote: The motion passed.

Senator Smith called for a show of hands. The motion passed: yea, 20; nay, 3; abstaining, 3.

Discussion: Senator Bacon voiced concern for students who transfer into UNO suffering value inconsistency. He suggested grand-fathering those students already enrolled under the present grading system..

Senator Bartle spoke to the serious problem grand-fathering would cause.

Senator Falconer Al-Hindi suggested the Registrar insert a line in all transcript that would indicate all subsequent semester are under a new plus/minus grading system.

Senator Bacon felt the suggestion still wouldn't address problems concerning probation, suspension, etc. and referenced the Engineering Program..

Senator N. Bacon stated there are many things unknown factors as this issue plays out but since it has already been decided not to delay the resolution until December the senate is forced to address the issue as-is.

Senator Sobel suggested adding another paragraph to address this area.

Student Senator Tony Krause interjected there is no good way to speak to the groups involved nor find out how this change will truly affect them.

Student Senator Aaron Becker commented that the senate was just going to have to act on the issue and hope it falls in line or nothing will be done.

Senator El-Rewini noted that the assumption that this new system will deflate grades makes the issue Student Senator Krause spoke to of little concern.

Senator Allen questioned if the grading system will be retroactive for the Spring Semester.

Senator Paterson replied it will not and explained student's grade points will stay where they currently are.

Motion: Senator Sobel moved the addition of the following paragraph, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate encourage such programs and systems which utilize the current quality point system to evaluate student performance (Honors Program, Academic Suspension, etc.) to re-examine their GPA criteria."

Second: Senator Shroder seconded the motion.

Friendly Amendmt: Senator Allen offered the friendly amendment to change "encourage" to "encourages."

Senator Sobel accepted the friendly amendment.

Vote: The motion passed; Senator Sobel abstained.

Motion: Senator File moved to change the quality points for an A+ to 4.33.

Second: The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Senator Paterson queried the student presents for their opinion.

The student representatives present accepted the suggestion enthusiastically.

Senator Carroll stated he felt this action was very high-schoolish.

Senator Smith stated he has a problem with moving grades up into higher and higher categories. He, too, agreed this action was high-schoolish.

Student Senator Trudell commented there's no point in adding 4.33 quality points because it nullifies what the resolution is trying to accomplish.

Student Senator Barry pleaded to keep the grading system as standard as possible.

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

Discussion Cont. Senator Paterson warned those present that the quorum would be lost soon and encouraged moving forward with a vote on the resolution. He further addressed that what seems to be happening is a marked increase in

the skill and creativity level of students as well as increased efforts by faculty to fairly and honestly evaluate their students' work.

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

Vote: A vote to change the quality points for an A+ to 4.33 failed.

Discussion: Senator Carlson added antidotal evidence that top graduate schools sometimes down grade UNO GPAs because of the lack of minus grades.

Clarification: Senator Paterson clarified the amendments to the resolution (see below)

Resolution 2542, 04/11/01: Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs

WHEREAS, the addition of minus grades allows faculty to better distinguish between varying levels of performance, which is a fundamental role of a grading system, and

WHEREAS, most American universities include both plus and minus grades; fewer than 5% use the current scale, and

WHEREAS, both the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Kearney have recently adopted minus grades, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable for a university system to have uniform standards to facilitate inter-campus transfers, and

WHEREAS, in 1995 the UNO Faculty Senate approved a resolution to add minus grades; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha approves changing the current grading system by adding A-, B-, C-, D-.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate encourages such programs and systems which utilize the current quality point system to evaluate student performance (Honors Program, Academic Suspension, etc.) to re-examine their GPA criteria.

A+ 4.0  
A 4.0  
A- 3.67  
B+ 3.33  
B 3.0  
B- 2.67  
C+ 2.33  
C 2.0  
C- 1.67  
D+ 1.33  
D 1.0  
D- .67  
F 0.0

VOTE: The motion was approved as amended.

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

Written Report: March 28 (agenda attachments 30-31)

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

Written Report: A report was not submitted for the March 28th, meeting.

New Charge - Parking Permit Fees: Following Stan Schleifer and Julie Totten's presentation at the March 7, senate meeting, Senator Paterson charged the committee with looking into the issue of increasing future parking permit fees. The fee increase was scheduled for presentation to the BOR on April 7.

New Charge - Draft of NU Policy on Ownership of Intellectual Property: On March 27, Senator Paterson charged the committee (via e-mail) with reviewing the March 23, draft of the "University of Nebraska Policy on Ownership of Intellectual Property." A copy of the draft was also distributed to the entire senate by e-mail.

#### Resolutions

Resolution 0000, 04/11/01: Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum)

WHEREAS, parking has been, and continues to be, a severe problem for faculty, staff, and students, and

WHEREAS, the university administration can at any time initiate new parking fees, or increase established parking fees, without recourse for those having to pay such fees, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the facilities of the south campus with significant infusions of private monies is a most welcome addition to the overall betterment of the university, the urban and the local corporate communities, and

WHEREAS, such a gift should not also be a Trojan Horse bearing hidden additional charges for faculty staff and students, and

WHEREAS, the north campus parking fees are subsidizing free parking and free transportation for the south campus, and

Whereas there are commonly too many buses, or empty buses, it is clear that the buses are not well scheduled; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate does not approve of an increase to an already iniquitous parking fees on the north campus, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the university administration exert every effort to: (1) charge parking fees for the parking lots on the south campus; and/or (2) sell ticket privileges for shuttle-bus use; and/or (3) seek other gifts to subsidize the shuttle buses.

Motion: On behalf of the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare, Senator Shroder moved the resolution.

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

Discussion: Senator Shroder explained the committee's reasoning behind the resolution. Senator El-Rewini clarified employees on the South Campus are required to pay parking fees.

Amendment: A friendly amendment to add "at Ak-Sar-Ben" after "subsidizing free parking" and replace "for the south campus" with "to the north campus" to paragraph five was made. Senator Shroder accepted on behalf of the committee.

Amendment: Senator Smith offered a friendly amendment to replace "on the south campus" with "at Ak-Sar-Ben" in the last paragraph. Senator Shroder accepted on behalf of the committee.

Amendment: Senator Smith moved to strike item "(2)" in the last paragraph.

Second: Senator Allen seconded the motion.

Discussion: Senator File spoke in favor of striking item "(2)."

Vote on Amendment: The motion passed.

Amendment: Senator Bartle moved to strike item "(3)" in the last paragraph.

Second: There was no second; the motion failed.

Discussion: Senator Carroll stated students would pay for parking and questioned how buses could be regimented in order to eliminate empty loads on some of the routes. Senator Hagen asked for clarification that parking is paid for on both the North and South Campuses and whether the unpaid parking referred to on the South Campus is actually UNO property.

QUORUM LOST: Action on above resolution was suspended. The meeting adjourned.

Resolution 0000, 04/11/01: Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum) (agenda attachment 32)

WHEREAS the University of Nebraska at Omaha is a tax-supported public institution that prides itself on openness and access; and

WHEREAS the west side of campus does not abut private land where liability could occur, but instead abuts the public thoroughfares of 67th Avenue, 67th Street, and Farnam Street; and

WHEREAS prior private agreements by UNO administrators with nearby influential neighbors about restricting access on the west should have no recognizable merit or validity under the laws of public access, in the face of the considerable needs of the many student and faculty pedestrians trying to access the campus from the west, and

WHEREAS the west neighborhoods are already well protected by plentiful no parking signs, and can be further protected by more rigorous police enforcement of no parking restrictions upon request of the neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS the high fence and locked gates on the west side of campus unfairly restrict public access and have no merit for a public institution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a new west gate pedestrian access to campus be opened permanently, without a locked gate and with a newly maintained sidewalk from Parking Lot H to Farnam Street, with a new lighting system and an emergency phone system to campus security.

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

Written Report: A report was not submitted for the March 28th, meeting.

Committee on Professional Development: Senator Allen reported on the following

Written Report: A report was not submitted for the March 28th, meeting.

Committee on Rules: Senator Sobel reported on the following

Written Report: The committee meet on Wednesday, March 28; the following resolutions serve as minutes.

Resolutions

Resolution 0000 04/11/01: Committee on Rules (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as the Faculty Senate's representatives from the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs and the Committee on Goals and Directions each for a one-year term from 05/09/01, through 05/08/02, to the Academic Planning Council:

TBA, Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs (to replace Melodee Landis)  
Ann Coyne, Committee on Goals and Directions (re-appointment)

Resolution 0000 04/11/01: Committee on Rules (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as three-year appointments from 08/01/01, through 07/31/04, to the University Committee on the Advancement of Teaching:

Susan Maher, College of Arts and Sciences (to replace Angela Valle)  
Joanne Sowell, College of Fine Arts (to replace Larry Bradshaw)

Resolution 0000 04/11/01: Committee on Rules (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward as a three-year appointment from 08/01/01, through 07/31/04, to the University Committee on Athletics:

Richard File (to replace Leah Pietron)

Resolution 0000 04/11/01: Committee on Rules (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as three-year appointments from 08/01/01, through 07/31/04, to the University Committee on Computer Usage:

Marchel Austin (to replace Kathleen Henebry)  
TBA (to replace Kim Sosin)  
TBA (to replace Deborah Smith-Howell)

Resolution 0000 04/11/01: Committee on Rules (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as three-year appointments from 08/01/01, through 07/31/04, to the University Committee on Library and Learning Resources:

Manoj Sharma ( to replace Carol Ebdon)  
TBA (to replace Juliette Parnell-Smith)  
TBA (to replace Nicholas Stergiou)

Resolution 0000, 04/11/01: Committee on Rules (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward as three-year appointments from 08/01/01, through 07/31/04, on the University Committee on Research (UCR):

Mark Rousseau (to replace Roni Reiter-Palmon, A&S, Social Science)  
Thomas Lorschach (to replace John Hill, Education)  
Gary Day (to replace Douglas Paterson, Fine Arts)  
Roger Hoburg (to replace John Shroder, At-Large)

Faculty Senate Advisory Committee Reports (alphabetical)

Budget Advisory Committee: Senator Douglas Paterson reported on the following

Written Report: No report; the committee did not meet in March.

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

Written Report: See resolution presented in Section IV (above) of this agenda.

Intercampus Resource Advisory Committee: Senator Douglas Paterson reported on the following

Written Report: No report; the committee did not meet in March.

Non-Senate Committee Reports (alphabetical)

Academic Planning Council: Senator Melodee Landis reported on the following

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Professor William Wakefield reported on the following

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

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

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

Graduate Council: Senator Angela Valle reported on the following

Written Report: March 5 (agenda attachments 33-39) (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum)

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

Written Report: A report was not submitted.

Old Business

Shanghai Program Resolution (Readdressed): Senator N. Bacon will propose reconsideration of the Shanghai resolution (held over to 05/09/01 due to lack of quorum).

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.

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

New Business (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3)

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully submitted,

Hesham El-Rewini  
Secretary-Treasurer