

11-14-2001

Faculty Senate Minutes November 2001

UNO Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha
2001-2002 Senate Minutes
Wednesday, November 14, 2001, MBSC Dodge Rooms

Attendees: N. Bacon, Bishop, Blair, Bragg, Bruckner, J. Carroll, M. Carroll, Chung, Coyne, Dickson, Dufner, Engelmann, Fawcett, File, Hagen, Johnson, Landis, Latchaw, Littrell, Nazem, Neathery-Castro, O'Connell, Paterson, Pedersen, Ryalls, Sadlek, Schulte, Shroder, Smallwood, Valle, Thompson, E. Williams, S. Williams, Wolcott

Excused: W. Bacon, Helm, Mande, Mitchell

Absent: Tuan, Zhao

Senator Coyne called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.

Senator Coyne introduced guests Michael O'Connor, Higher Education Reporter, Omaha *World-Herald*, and Carmen Polk, Coordinator, Media Relations, UNO University Affairs.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Officers Reports

President's Report: On behalf of Senator W. Bacon, Senator Coyne reported on the following.

A report of the Board of Regents Meeting, October 19, 2001, was submitted.

The President-Elect will be elected at the December Meeting. Martha Bruckner will be taking nominations. They are due by December 4, 2001.

Work is beginning towards the January Senate College elections. Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Senator Bruckner submitted the Budget Report for October 2001.

Executive Committee Report: Senator Coyne

The Chancellor accepted all resolutions made in May, September, and October 2001, except Resolutions 2585 (Dean's Forum representation), which was denied, Resolution 2600 (Faculty Senate was given notice that they will look at this resolution again in December 2001, because of the confusion with the Graduate Council, which views "C-" grades as being less than "C" grades), and Resolution 2601 (pending outcome of Resolution 2600).

At their meeting last week, the Executive Committee met with John Fiene, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs - Technology, and Lanyce Keel, Assistant Planning Director, Distance Education, Information Tech Services, who asked for Faculty Senate representation on the UNO Distance Education Task Force. This Task Force is charged with the planning of UNO distance education development. President Bacon appointed Bonnie O'Connell, chair of the Faculty Senate Committee of Educational Resources & Services, or her designate, to the Task Force.

Standing Committee Reports

Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Landis

On behalf of the Committee on Academic & Curricular Affairs, Senator Landis moved the following two resolutions, with a change of wording suggested before debate on the first:

Resolution 2604, 11/14/2001: Removal of D or F grades

WHEREAS, the current UNOmaha policy on replacement of grades in courses retaken is convoluted, difficult to understand and inequitable, and

WHEREAS, the most recent grade received by a student repeating a course is the most accurate reflection of a student's mastery of a course, and

WHEREAS, the most recent form of a course would best reflect the current standards required in a field,

THEREFORE, be it resolved,

That all wording be changed on page 20 in the section "Removal of 'D' or 'F' Grades from Grade Point Average" to reflect the policy statement below:

When a course is repeated, only the most recent grade will be computed into a student's overall Grade Point Average.

The motion was approved.

Resolution 2605, 11/14/2001: Academic Freedom Coalition

WHEREAS, the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON) was organized to advance the cause of academic freedom in institutions of higher learning and in elementary and secondary schools across the state of Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, members include the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Academic Senate and American Association of University Professors, as well as the Nebraska Education Association and the Nebraska Library Commission, and

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska at Omaha has a strong commitment to the principle of academic freedom, and

WHEREAS, the cost to become a member of AFCON is \$100 per year,

THEREFORE, be it resolved,

That the University of Nebraska at Omaha Faculty Senate become a member of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska.

The motion was approved.

Committee on Educational Resources and Services:

Senator O'Connell submitted the minutes of the October 31, 2001 meeting. She also reported that she has spoken to Lanyce Keel and a meeting of the UNO Distance Education Task Force has already been set up.

Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare:

Senator Fawcett, vice chair, reported that the committee met on October 24, 2001. At the meeting there was a presentation by Janice Boyer, Dean, University Library and Marc Davis, Manager Building Services, on current periodical browsing area: Between 1993 and 2000 there was a 50% decline in current periodical usage. The former browsing area now houses the video collection, which is strongly patronized by students and faculty. Housing current unbound and bound periodicals on two floors was confusing for students. Under the present arrangement all periodicals are housed together. At the present time there is little money to furnish a central browsing area on the first floor. Available money is being made available for electronic journal subscriptions. Summary: No immediate plans to reinstate browsing area.

Committee on Goals and Directions:

Senator Hagen reported that the committee met on October 24, 2001. The web based survey tool is underway in the ITS office and is going slowly. The committee will continue to work on the project

Committee on Rules: Senator File

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

Resolution 2606, 11/14/2001: Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee:

WHEREAS, the results of the faculty-wide election for the Academic Freedom and Tenure committee have been tabulated, and the following individuals elected,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that

James Shaw replace Thomas Tollman (tenured faculty), and Carol Ebdon replace Alice Schumaker (non-tenured faculty), as members of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee for a three year term, October 16, 2001 through October 15, 2004.

The motion was approved.

Non-Senate Committee Reports

Academic Planning Council:

Senator E. Williams reported that the Academic Planning Council met briefly, on October 12, 2001, to discuss the plans for the council's program reviews for the 2001-2002 academic year. The Audit Indicators for the 2000-2001 Academic Year from the Office of Institutional Research were distributed. A time was established to discuss post program reviews from the previous year. Review visits for Mathematics, Criminal Justice, and Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis, were set for the last two weeks of February 2002. The next meeting of the APC was scheduled for Friday, December 14, 2001.

Alumni Association, Board of Directors:

Senator Bruckner reported that the Alumni Board did not hold its regular meeting in October. Instead, the Directors' dinner was held on October 30. Service awards were presented to three recipients. The next Alumni Board meeting is November 20, 2001.

American Association of University Professors (AAUP):

Senator Sadlek reported that the Executive Committee of the UNO AAUP met twice since the last Faculty Senate Meeting. A regular meeting of the committee occurred on 12 October 2001. An emergency meeting was convened on 2 November 2001 to discuss the AAUP position on the possible effects of the state budget cuts with respect to UNO.

Graduate Council:

Senator Angela Valle submitted the October 8, 2001 meeting minutes.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee:

Senators Franklin Thompson and James Hagen reported that the Committee met on October 24, 2001. Reports were given by each subcommittee: Electronic Portfolio, Measurement, Communication, and Environmental Scan. Draft documents in preparation for the November 16 Advance were circulated and discussed. The minutes of the August 29, 2001, September 26, 2001, and October 24, 2001 meetings were submitted.

Old Business:

Senator Bragg had an issue of concern regarding the report from the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare. He was concerned that the recent decision to change the UNO Library periodical browsing area was made without faculty input. He suggested that, since the Library is central to education, in the future, any decisions that will significantly impact teaching should get input from teachers.

Senator Littrell voiced his concern with how department chairs are selected, especially in light of the newly appointed, by UNO Administration, chair of Black Studies. The Committee on Educational Resources and Services was charged with looking at this carefully.

There being no New Business the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.