

11-13-2002

Faculty Senate Minutes November 2002

UNO Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha
2002-2003 Senate Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2002, 2 p.m., MBSC

Attendees: Akers, Allen, N. Bacon, W. Bacon, Bennett, Bishop, Bennett, Blair, Bragg, Carlson, J. Carroll, M. Carroll, D'Souza, Garver, Helm, Johnson, Krause, Latchaw, Leavitt, Lewis, Littrell, Nazem, Neathery-Castro, O'Connell, Pedersen, Ritter, Sadlek, Schulte, Smallwood, Tixier y Vigil, Valle, Williams,

Excused: Dufner, Metal-Corbin, Wolcott

Absent: Benjamin-Alvarado, Dickson, Mei, Lin, Simpson,

Ed Bogard, Interim Vice Chancellor of Facilities Management and Planning, gave a presentation on energy savings and energy use at UNO.

Senator Sadlek officially called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Introduction of Guests: Senator Sadlek introduced Becky Brown, University Relations, Shay Riggs, Student Government President/Regent, and Marquita Govan, student.

The October 9, 2002, minutes were approved as submitted.

Officers Reports

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

Executive Committee and Administration met on October 2, 2002. Resolutions 2644, 2647-49, were approved with little comment. Resolution 2645, on memorials for faculty members, was sent back to the Senate for reconsideration. They suggested that a minute and a half would be sufficient for the pealing of the campanile bells. Resolution 2600 was reviewed and this time it was accepted. The changes to the web version of the undergraduate catalog will be made immediately by VC Hodgson. Changes in the print version of the catalog will have to wait for next year. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Ed Bogard on energy management at UNO. Student demonstrators recently have made the argument that UNO should reduce energy usage to meet further budget cuts.

Chancellor's Council met on October 17, 2002. The meeting opened with a roundtable discussion of the recent student protests. There was a general discussion of the process for 2003-2005 budget reductions. The Chancellor briefed the Council on what specifically was involved in President Smith's prediction of a \$20 million per year increase in fixed costs. The Chancellor also addressed the question of tuition increases. Rod Oberle gave a presentation on changes to the current NU health insurance policies and another moderate increase in premiums.

Board of Regents met on Friday, October 11, 2002, at Varner Hall. President Smith gave a "State of the University" report. During the regular business meeting a report was given by Professor Neal Topp of our Dept. of Teacher Education outlining how the UNO College of Education and

the Millard School District had teamed up to experiment with using Palm Pilots in the elementary classroom. The second report was given on the EDU on-line assessment system which was developed by Dr. John Orr of the UNL Mathematics Dept., for Web-based evaluation. An acquisition by gift of land adjacent to the Allwine Prairie Preserve to form the Glacier Creek Prairie Preserve was approved.

Senator Sadlek attended the Governance Conference American Association of University Professors. The theme of the conference was the need for faculty and administrators to work together for effective decision making. A secondary focus was on faculty governance at historically black colleges and universities. One subject that was stressed were Faculty Handbooks.

Bell Tower Challenge:

Senator Sadlek commended Senators N. Bacon, and Blair for helping to stack the cans, Senator Metal-Corbin, and Senate Coordinator Sue Bishop for supporting the team during the event, and all those who donated cans of food. The Faculty Senate had the most cans in the faculty/staff division and was awarded a plaque which is hanging in the Faculty Senate office.

Habitat for Humanity:

Senator Sadlek also commended Senators N. Bacon, W. Bacon, and Schulte, and Sue Bishop for volunteering with him on October 25, 2002, at the Habitat for Humanity project.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

Senator Williams submitted the October Budget report.

Executive Committee Report:

Senator Bragg announced that the January meeting dates were rescheduled. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Cabinet January 2003, will meet Wednesday, January 8, 2002. The Faculty Senate will meet Wednesday, January 15, 2002.

Senator Bragg moved the following which was amended and now reads:

Resolution 2650, 11/13/02: Regarding Funding for Programs of Excellence during 2003-2005 biennium:

WHEREAS the state budget continues to be in grave financial difficulty, and

WHEREAS 80% of UNO's budget is in Academic Affairs, and

WHEREAS the university thus faces the prospect of further cuts in faculty lines of non-prioritized programs, and

WHEREAS faculty in non-prioritized programs are just as essential to the well being of the full university curriculum as those in prioritized programs, and

WHEREAS increasing the extraordinary funding for Programs of Excellence is a worthy goal when appropriate state resources are available, but

WHEREAS the proposed increase in the funding for Programs of Excellence for the 2003-2005 biennium (\$3,000,000) would threaten approximately 50 NU faculty lines in essential non-prioritized programs,

BE IT RESOLVED that should the budget remain flat or be cut in the 2003-2005 biennium the UNO Faculty Senate strongly recommends to the Board of Regents that funding for Programs of Excellence not be increased during.

The amended resolution passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs:

Senator N. Bacon reported on the meeting held on October 30, 2002. Those present were N. Bacon, Williams, Krause, Latchaw. They discussed the implications of eliminating "remedial" or developmental courses and directing students to seek instruction at community colleges. Senator Neathery-Castro will also review all of the resolutions the ACA proposed during AY 2001-02 to see whether there is a need to further follow-up to achieve implementation of new academic policies.

Committee on Educational Resources and Services:

On behalf of Senator Dickson, Senator O'Connell reported the meeting was held on October 30, 2002. Senators Wolcott and Smallwood will meet with Campus Security to discuss the apparent lack of consistent security policy/plan for the campus regarding new student IDs, a problem brought the committee's attention by Chris Allen. Senator Bragg will explore what it takes to create an endowed scholarship. Senator O'Connell reported on the AAUP negotiations regarding department Chair search procedures. Regarding the Serials Issues Colloquium, Senator Dickson presented some information from SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Research Coalition. The committee, possibly with help from the Center for Faculty Development, decided to work on a seminar with a SPARC representative as the keynote speaker. Senator Schulte will talk to someone from Financial Aid to gather more information on tuition breaks/scholarships for Iowa students.

Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare:

The committee was charged with discussing and composing a resolution regarding termination procedures at UNO. Senator Johnson moved the following:

Resolution 2651, 11/13/02, Regarding Reduction in Spending, Decision Making, and Termination Procedures:

WHEREAS, the recent state appropriation cuts made it necessary for the university to cut its expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the university terminated 19 staff employees to reduce expenditures, and

WHEREAS, UNO faculty and staff generally felt a lack of input into the decision making process, and input that was given appeared to be ignored, and

WHEREAS the procedures used by the university focused on the potential security risks created by disgruntled employees and that the procedures implied a lack of trust and excessive use of security personnel.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the administration meaningfully involve faculty and staff leaders in a future reduction decision making, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the administration, in consultation with faculty and staff leaders, develop termination procedures that are sensitive to the issues of timing and the manner of notifying employees. Furthermore that such procedures express appreciation for service to UNO and avoid the use of security personnel.

The motion passed.

Committee on Goals and Directions:

Senator Garver reported the committee met on October 16, 2002. They discussed the need of the UNO Library to cooperate more extensively with Love Library at UNL and other libraries in the NU system. They also discussed trying to improve the coordination of the long-rang planning of the UNO Faculty Senate with the "strategic goals" developed by on-campus faculty-staff "strategic advances" and also by "community forums." Many faculty members are concerned that "strategic advances" have sometimes served as means to bypass campus-wide representative bodies in the formulation and articulation of long-range goals and policies. While "strategic advances" serve UNO well by bringing faculty, staff, and administrators together to discuss mutual interests and to define mutual goals, with few exceptions, the UNO employees who attend each "advance" are either administratively appointed or self-selected. Senator Garver, representing the Faculty Senate, attended the October 23rd Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting, at which plans were completed for the November 22nd "strategic advance" and the two November "community forums." The forums will provide no opportunity for faculty members or representatives of the Faculty Senate to participate in discussions with the community leaders who have been invited to attend each forum. The committee is of the opinion that the best way for faculty members to influence future "strategic advances" is to ask to participate in them.

Committee on Rules:

Senator Littrell moved the following:

Resolution 2652, 11/13/2002, Professional Conduct Committee (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 two 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:

Kathleen Danielson (elected)
Graham Mitenko

One representative must be elected by ballot vote to serve a three-year term from October 16, 2002, through October 15, 2005, to replace outgoing member Karen Falconer-Al-Hindi. This newly elected representative will also serve as an alternate for three-years from October 16, 2005, through October 15, 2008.

Karen Falconer-Al-Hindi will continue serving as alternate (replacing William Tapprich) for three-years from October 16, 2002, through October 15, 2005, per Resolution 2416.

The motion passed and the information will be communicated to Chancellor Belck.

Resolution 2653, 11/13/2002: Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (Committee on Rules) (Faculty Wide Ballot)

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with section 6.1 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws the following nominees for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee are brought forward by the Rules Committee for senate nomination. The ballot will be presented to the UNO faculty.

One tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve a three-year term from October 16, 2002, through October 15, 2005, to replace retiring member, Bruce Chase:

Steven Williams
Ziaul Huk

One tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve a three year term from October 16, 2002, through October 15, 2005, to replace retiring member, David Helm:

Sajda Qureshi
Carol Loyd

One tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve a three year term from October 16, 2002, through October 15, 2005, to replace retiring member, Michael O'Hara:

William Corcoran
Richard File

One non-tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to complete the remainder of Carol Ebdon's term from October 16, 2001, through October 15, 2004. Professor Ebdon has received tenure:

Elaine Lahue
Timothy Yontz

The motion passed.

(A similar motion was approved by the Faculty Senate in October, but it was discovered to be inconsistent with senate bylaws. This approved resolution will take its place.)

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee Report

Budget Committee:

Senators Blair and Littrell gave an brief report of conversations with and research done by the entire committee, including Senator Johnson. This included the purpose and structure of the committee.

Non-Senate Committee Reports

Academic Planning Council:

Senator E. Williams submitted the following report: The APC met on October 22, 2002. The Audit Indicators for the 2001-2002 Academic Year were distributed. A time was established to discuss post program reviews from the previous year. Program reviews are tentatively set for February 2003. Team chairs are also looking at vitae for potential outside reviewers.

American Association of University Professors (AAUP):

Senator O'Connell reported that the Chapter Dinner Meeting was held at Fernando's Restaurant on October 25. The AAUP also cosponsored a Retirement Workshop for faculty and staff October 29 & 30 at the Alumni House. In order to lobby for legislative support for academic funding Janet West is organizing an outreach to bring Nebraska State Legislators to visit campus classes. Faculty are encourage to arrange visits from their district representatives to their classes and lectures. The second Chapter meeting this semester will be held November 14, during which progress in negotiations as well as other chapter matters will be discussed. Several executive committee members also plan to attend the State Conference Dinner, November 15, in Lincoln.

Graduate Council:

Senator Lewis submitted Graduate Council minutes of September 9, 2002, Committee C minutes of September 16, 2002, and Committee A minutes of October 28, 2002. The Graduate Council is discussing downsizing from three to two committees. A part-time Graduate Dean is being discussed.

Old Business:

Habitat for Humanity: Senator Schulte thanked those Senators who volunteered on October 25, 2002, at the project on 3624 Redman Street. Another work session is scheduled for November 15, 2002. All are invited.

New Business:

Budget Cut Student Petition: Student President/regent Shay Riggs asked that Senators contact her to have the student petition signed during their classes. When enough signatures are obtained the petition will be given to the Governor.

Service Project at the Open Door Mission: Student President/Regent Shay Riggs also handed out flyers advertising UNO's Student Government and Faculty Senate "Maverick Charity Championship." This is a drive particularly for toiletry items, but any other items will also be accepted. There was a form to register for the event, which will be held November 18 to December 12.

Senator Garver moved the following:

Resolution 2654, 11/13/2002: Student Demonstrations

WHEREAS the October student demonstrations forcefully brought the negative consequences of budget cuts to the attention of the public, and

WHEREAS the demonstrations were conducted in a dignified and appropriate manner,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate commends the organizers of and participants in the demonstrations and encourages all members of the University of Nebraska at Omaha community to continue to raise the issue of budget cuts to the legislature, the Board of Regents and the people of Nebraska.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.