3-6-2019

Executive Committee & Cabinet Minutes March 2019

UNO Faculty Senate

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Present:  Barone, Bereitschaft, Boron, Hale, Johnson, Kealey, Kelly, Schoenbeck, Stacy

Excused:  Huq

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Vice President Barone

II. The Minutes of February 6, 2019, were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report:  Senator Kelly sent the following to all UNO faculty:

Faculty colleagues,

Hello again! I hope this message finds you well. Spring Break will soon be upon us, although the thermometer reading today may indicate otherwise. I would like to update you on a few pressing items.

We received good news from Chancellor Gold about enrollment. Spring enrollment is down 1.9% compared to Spring 2018. This is a slight improvement from the Fall, which saw a decrease of 2.1% compared to Fall 2017. This reduced drop in enrollment resulted in a savings of $600,000. We continue to work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to explore ways to increase student retention.

Thank you to everyone who has shared with me questions about the University’s new health insurance policy as well as my friends and colleagues in Human Resources who have helped to answer some of these questions. A major concern for faculty and staff remains finding providers who are in-network. For those of you who would like to have your physician or provider join the UMR network, please use the form at the following site: https://fhs.umr.com/print/UM0535.pdf. For a searchable list of in-network providers, visit UMR’s dedicated University of Nebraska plan website: https://fhs.umr.com/oss/cms/styles/desktop/global/global/global/views/UniversityOfNEProviderSearch.html. And if you have had bad experiences with the new insurance plan, please continue to contact me.

The Faculty Senate requested Central Administration to increase the number of providers of retirement account service that are more cost effective in their stock mutual fund fee structure. I spoke with Doug Ewald, Vice Chancellor for Business, Finance, and Business Development; he informed me that Central Administration is exploring the possibility of adding another Fidelity fund under what they refer to as their “K-Class”. These funds, sometimes called “institutional funds” offer expense savings to institutional investors and qualified capital pools, like pensions and tax-deferred plans. With respect to overall fund administration, Central Administration is considering issuing an RFP for overall retirement plan administration in 2020. Any move could add to or replace the current providers (Fidelity and TIAA).

Many of you have already taken advantage of the pilot “Block Membership”
program at Campus Recreation, which launched last month. In this program, eligible faculty and staff may select one of three time blocks as their membership choice: Option 1 (6AM-9AM, M-F); Option 2 (11AM-2PM, M-F); and Option 3 (4PM-7PM, M-F). Purchase of this membership option grants an individual access to Wellness Center programs and facilities during their selected time block. This membership option must be purchased for an entire semester at the price of $50 per semester. Thank you to my past and present colleagues in Faculty Senate and on Staff Advisory Council for their time, effort, and support to make this initiative a reality, particularly to President Laura Grams and Senator Griff Elder.

Finally, the Search Committee for UNO’s new Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs conducted interviews with eleven candidates on February 25th and 26th. From that list, we have identified four finalists who will visit campus the week of March 11th-15th and the week of April 4th-8th. The UNO Office of University Communications will release additional information soon.

My best wishes to you all. It has been inspiring working with students, staff, and faculty. I admire your patience and resiliency during a time of uncertainty; it is a continued honor to represent you.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Report: Senator Stacy reported

1. EC&A: No Meeting was held in February due to weather.

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<th>Res. #</th>
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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Newly Elected Senators (term: 2019-2022)</td>
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TO BE FOLLOWED UP

CARRIED FORWARD


IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Kealey reported the Committee met February 27, 2019.

Present: Hale, Matt; Woody, Robert; Randall, Amanda; Schaffer, Connie; Kealey, Burch

Excused: MacArthur, Kelly;

From PENDING:

1. Early College High School: (EC&C sent to A&CA 2/7/18)

FYI: E mail received 2/5/18 from Senator Adams:

At Friday’s English Department meeting, as we discussed Dual Enrollment and other issues, a new program in the Millard School District dominated much of our
discussion and members of the department asked me to take this issue to Faculty Senate. In short, our department has concerns about the various impacts of a program called Early College High School. The program says high school students can earn an Associate degree from Metro and that those credits will fulfill the general education requirements at UNO. Members of my department are concerned about how this might threaten enrollments at UNO and about the quality of such a program (it seems, for example, that a 10th-grade English course could satisfy the English 1150 writing requirement at UNO). I would like to put this on the EC&C agenda as a point of discussion to determine if faculty in colleges beyond Arts and Sciences are also concerned about such a program.

(12/12/18: at the full Senate meeting Past-President Laura Grams will research to see the status of this item.)

— On 2/27/19 the Committee reviewed the Early College Dual Enrollment Course Alignment plan available from Millard Public School’s (MPS) website. In addition the committee reviewed the course descriptions as published in the MPS 2018–2019 Complete Curriculum Guide for a number of courses listed on the plan. We note that only one AP course requires students to take the AP exam to meet the requirements. We were interested to note that MPS’s 9th-grade Speech (007) was one of the courses that mapped into the requirements for the awarding of the Associate’s Degree from Metro. We did wonder if this course in particular and some of the others in general would prepare students to succeed in their major fields of study if they satisfied our Gen-ED requirements through this program.

— Senator Kealey briefed the committee about a conversation he had with an MPS specialist involved in the management and oversight of the Early College Program. The specialist confirmed that students will be awarded their degree based on their successful completion of the plan as outlined (overall GPA of 3.0). They have had low attrition (around 10%) and the first cohort of the program will graduate in May.

— After this discussion the committee determined that there is little discretion or opportunity for the Faculty Senate to do much more than wonder about how those students will fare if they matriculate at UNO. Our recommendation is that the EC&A committee bring this to the attention of the administration and perhaps develop a plan to identify the students from this program that do matriculate at UNO and find some way to evaluate their success. If the data system at UNO collects the date their high school diploma was awarded as well of the date their Metro degree was awarded then it might be possible to identify these students. (The EC&C is sending this to the next EC&A meeting, so it is resolved.)

2. Plagiarism

Senator Qureshi asked if anyone knew of any institutional support in keeping track of student plagiarism cases. Phil Covington, AVC for Student Success, was mentioned. Plagiarism was also noted in the recent Academic Integrity Policy. (9/12/18: This was assigned to the Academic & Curricular Affairs Committee.)

We are still awaiting data and or policy information from Dr. Regina Toman related to grade changes. We have reached out to Dr. Phil Covington on the administrative implementation of the policy.

3. Student Evaluation Responses

— Since student evaluation of instruction moved from paper forms done in class to on-line, the response rate has been so low the data may not be a valid indication
of what the form purports to determine. In some cases the response rate itself has been improperly used in faculty evaluation; especially small sections may use no evaluation. The form itself may be part of the problem, relating to those who submit it as customers rather than learners.

Senator Huq would like to see Evaluation response increased. Hank Robinson will speak to the Professional Development Committee and there will be more to report then. Some questions are: What are the evaluations being used for? Is it cost effective? What information do students have about the evaluations? (On 10/10/18: The task of consideration of the current student evaluation was accepted by the A&CA Committee.)

We had some discussion of this issue as well as the data we are waiting on with respect to how students view the timeliness of feedback. The committee was provided with the relevant section from the Board of Regents Bylaws (5.1.2):

— Students can contribute significantly to the evaluation of instruction. The faculty has the obligation to solicit students’ evaluation of their educational efforts and to make changes in accordance with their best judgment. To assist the faculty in the task of providing the best possible education, students should express their reactions and opinions about the character and relevancy of the instruction to the department or college involved. Each college or school should establish a standing procedure through which student evaluations can be expressed.

— The committee also discussed that it does at times feel as if the response rates are used as one of the dimensions of faculty evaluation. Anecdotes were shared about individual experiences and frustration. (The EC&C is sending this to the next EC&A meeting, so it is resolved.)

4. Proposals that come before us seeking an endorsement:

12/12/18: The committee had some discussion about our specific role with respect to the proposals that come before us seeking an endorsement from our committee and the Faculty Senate. Clearly these proposals already have the support of the faculty behind the proposals and the campus leaders in their chain-of-command. By the time they have reached the committee they have been scrutinized by multiple levels of approval. Some wondered the consequence of voting against or delaying the approval until issues raised by the committee have been addressed. Some members of the committee observed that we need to presume that our colleagues and their leadership have made the best set of choices with respect to the proposals and thus our advisory role is to provide constructive feedback and/or highlight issues we believe may be raised by other stakeholders and suggest these be considered before the proposal moves through the approval process. At least one member of the committee wondered if that were the case is there any substantive value to this process. This is important because our purpose determines our effort. If we are to scrutinize these with a neutral position and make an independent/ separate determination of their worth we would invest significantly more time than if our role is advisory only.

5. A policy to clearly establish the rights of students to seek accommodation around class activities (assignments, attendance and examinations) that are
scheduled and conflict with important religious observations:
We had some discussion of the need for a policy to clearly establish the rights of students to seek accommodation around class activities (assignments, attendance and examinations) that are scheduled and conflict with important religious observations. There is still some uncertainty with regards to the need for this but the committee agreed that Burch Kealey will continue to review policies used by other universities and take up the discussion again at our January meeting.

There was not been any action on this item.

B. Committee on Educational Resources & Services: Senator Schoenbeck reported
the committee met Wed. Feb. 27, 2019.
Present: Adidam, Davidson, Schoenbeck, Surface, Zhong.
Excused: Lee

The committee reviewed two applicants for the Paul Beck Memorial Scholarship. The committee will recommend that these applicants receive awards (one undergraduate, one graduate), but will also ask for the extension of the application deadline to March 20, 2019, in the hopes of receiving additional applications. The total amount available for awards is approximately $5000. This will allow review of additional applicants at the end of March in time for a recommendation in April.

Jaci Lindburg has accepted our invitation to explain the nature of the proposed College Consortium at our March 27 meeting.

The committee reviewed concerns that have been expressed over changes in the campus mail service, and identified a legitimate concern: unsecured mail bins in high traffic areas. The committee will collect information about current standard practices and possible secure alternatives, and offer a recommendation subsequently.

PENDING:
1. Payroll Deduction for Paul Beck Scholarship (2/7/18) (3/7/18): a response from Debra Wilcox (UNO Controllers Office) regarding the possibility that faculty could submit a payroll deduction that would serve as a monthly gift to the Beck scholarship fund. Senator Marlina Davidson has agreed to follow-up.
2. Mail Services Now Under UNMC: Senator Kelly reported that the UNO and UNMC mailrooms have been combined at the UNMC mailroom. Mail delivery is now only once a day. The UNO mailroom window is only open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
   (12/12/18: This item was sent to the ER&S Committee.)
   (2/6/19: EC&C also sent this to EC&A agenda.)
3. Research College Consortium:
   From: Jaci Lindburg <JLindburg@nebraska.edu>
   Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 2:09 PM
   To: Christopher Kelly <cmkelly@unomaha.edu>
   Subject: College Consortium
   Hi Chris,

   Hope you’re doing great. I chatted with BJ this afternoon and he mentioned that Faculty Senate would like to hear more about the online course seat possibilities we are exploring in CFAM with an organization called College Consortium. Please know I am available to come to Senate – with some of the CFAM faculty leadership team who are invested in the project – at a time and in a way that makes sense to you and the group.

Jaci Lindburg, PhD
Director of Digital Learning
C. Committee on Faculty Personnel & Welfare: Senator Huq wrote the Committee met on Feb. 27 in MH 303S.

Senators Present: Claudia Garcia, Ziaul Huq, Ramon Guerra, Marshall Prisbell, Ramazan Kilinc
Excused: Dale K Tiller

Members unanimously elected Dr. Claudia Garcia as the Vice-Chair of the FP&W committee. The committee discussed the six responses received from the survey that was mailed to all UNO faculty. There were two responses that requested revamping of part-time faculty compensation and benefits, case was made about the fact that part-time faculty do not receive any raise although they may have worked for a long time for the university, and they do not receive any benefits at all. Suggestion was made to extend half-off tuition for children of part-time faculty and ability to buy into university health care plan would be nice. Committee felt that these are issues to be addressed by colleges and departments hiring the part-time faculty, and ultimately by the university central administration.

Another response that attracted our committee attention was the suggestion to look at Gender pay gaps within similar programmatic disciplines and across comparable disciplines. This is a pertinent issue that plague many institutions across our nation. It is only proper that there has to be fair and equitable pay for everyone. The committee considers that this is an issue to be addressed by AAUP, and will notify the faculty who brought it up to talk to the union.

One faculty member suggested that the Faculty Senate needs to overhaul the Professional Conduct Committee’s mandate, policies, and protocols without giving any reasons as to why it should be done. We are going to ask him for his reasons, and we will forward his concerns to the appropriate committee. Another suggestion was made about tying up the faculty wellness-based incentive program with faculty professional development and alumni engagement work. Although the wellness program will have a benign effect on professional development, the committee could not figure out as to how this can be operationalized.

One faculty member brought forward an important issue that face mostly new faculty joining UNO. UNO’s transition to web based performance appraisal system Digital Measures, and Concur for travel expense reimbursement has made life easier for some faculty who are computer savvy, and made faculty life a challenge for many that are new or are not good with computers. Among these two systems, Concur is the harder one to master. In some colleges there are administrative assistants who take care of faculty travel requests, and billing, however, not all departments within certain colleges have that support. Faculty in such departments have to do everything themselves. Although, there is help available if one can track down the right person in the Information Services department. The problem is, it is not readily apparent as to who is the right person to seek help from. The committee has decided to look into this matter to make the process of seeking that help more transparent, a little more user friendly.

**PENDING:**

1. Faculty/Staff Safety Processes. 10/2017 cont.: Dr. Gina Toman has been
named Faculty Human Resources Officer and Assistant to the Senior Vice Chancellor. She begins her new role on October 11.

We are interested in the administration developing a website similar to the Student Safety Website.

Note: We felt that the following site makes a good model:
http://academicpersonnel.unc.edu/faculty-policies-procedures-guidelines/

We expect Gina Toman will be help us address the request that there be a flow-chart that will help faculty understand and negotiate the many resources that are available: Ombudsperson, EAP person, counseling, BRT, etc. What information is confidential, etc. This “flowchart” may manifest itself in the form of the website mentioned above.

(3/4/18 Info: Academic Affairs is doing a big website development.)

2. **Accessibility to Classroom IT Equipment**

   (3/7/18): EC&C sent this item was to the ER&S Committee.
   (8/15/18: ER&S moved to have this item sent to FP&W as this seems to be ergonomics.)
   (11/7/18: EC&C more fully defined this item to how to direct our future efforts in trying to understand the design process for all Colleges and how faculty can be involved in this process. Are ADA directives followed, etc.?)

D. **Committee on Goals and Directions:** Senator Bereitschaft reported the Committee met February 27, 2019.

   Present: Senators Bereitschaft, Stacy, Logsdon
   Absent/Excused: Senators Sharif-Kashani, Arbelaez, Tisko

   The committee had a productive meeting with representatives from UNO & UNMC facilities as well as OPPD. The goal was to chart a path forward in bringing solar power generation to the UNO campus.

   Ken Hansen, AVC of Facilities at UNMC, shared experience funding 1,500-panel solar array on UNMC campus. They contracted OPPD (as part of an interlocal agreement) to work with a consultant to plan and install the array, suggested that UNO facilities may want to follow a similar approach. Funding was secured as a low interest loan (2%) through Metro Credit Union and the State Energy Office in combination with energy savings fund at UNMC.

   John Amend, ACV of UNO Facilities & Planning, shared with the group past and current reports and projects related to renewable energy. He also explained the process of developing infrastructure projects at UNO. Mr. Amend suggested avoiding financing the solar project if at all possible.

   Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) has been identified as a potential source of funding, though they highly encourage that any funds be matched. NET dollars have been used on campus to finance EV charging stations. Grants have been available totaling into the hundreds of thousands.

   Pay-back period on solar array expected to be about 7-15 years. Most substantial benefits to the university, however, are likely to be enhanced educational and research opportunities afforded by an on-site solar project. Several faculty have been in contact with the committee and have expressed interest in using the array for teaching and research. UNO’S stature, brand and reputation as a leader in sustainability would also be raised by this effort.

   Moving forward, Mr. Hansen and Amend will be in further contact with OPPD and the State Energy Office, and will consider scope and siting of the project. Ideally, the panels would be situated in a visible location that is also accessible to students
and faculty. Mr. Hansen suggested going big with a 500 KW ($1 million+) rooftop project similar to UNMC.

The G&D committee will further consult with faculty and research NET and other funding opportunities. UNO and UNMC facilities leadership will be in contact with the committee.

**PENDING:**

1. **Facilities Planning and Faculty Representation** (Specifically, which Facilities Planning Committee would be the best on which to have faculty representation before plans are made, not just reported?) (Sent to G&D 2/10/16) (3/4/18 Info: Senator Bereitschaft is checking on this.) (There was a Facilities Planning meeting at 7 a.m. November 18, 2018. All senators were invited. (At the 3/6/19 EC&C meeting it was decided that this was resolved. But the EC&C noted that the Faculty Senate needs to continue to be watchful.)

2. **Solar Panels at UNO**
   Bringing solar energy infrastructure (particularly solar panels and EV charging stations) to the UNO campus and potential funding sources and partnerships. (10/3/18: EC&C was told Senator Richard Stacy would take the point on this.)

**E. Professional Development:** Senator Boron reported the Committee met on Wednesday, February 27, 2019.
   Present: Senators Boron, Cast-Brede, Cooper, DeSanti, Winter
   Absent: Senator Podariu

   We discussed our four remaining charges.

   1. **Faculty Personal Web-pages on the UNO Website**
      It seems that all faculty needs are still not being met, and the burden is being put on the faculty. We are going to try to get Brett Blackman to come to one of our committee meetings to work on this issue further. If senate committee members would like to send priority areas/questions, please send to jboron@unomaha.edu

   2. **Student Evaluation Response Rates**
      We received confirmation that response rates are not being used as a measure of student engagement, and are not used to make decisions or evaluate faculty (yearly evaluations or RPT) in regards to student engagement based on response rates. Thus, we would like to propose the following resolution:

      ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
      **RESOLUTION:** Response rates on Student Evaluations of Teaching will not be used as an indicator of student engagement for RPT decisions and/or yearly evaluations

      BE IT RESOLVED that response rates on student evaluations of faculty shall not be used as a measure of student engagement or play a role in personnel and merit decisions.

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   3. **Faculty Professional Development Leave policies/procedures**
      We have not received any more feedback on this agenda item and will thus consider it closed/completed.

   4. **Creation of an Easily Found List of What Retiring Faculty Need to know**
      We plan to draft a structure that should be housed on the HR website so that
faculty may be able to easily find the information that we have collected.

**PENDING:**

1. **Faculty Professional Development Leave policies/procedures:**
   - (1/10/18: The PD committee is waiting for deans to complete a survey to actually gauge faculty’s understanding of FPD leave policies and procedures.)
   - (At the 4/18/18 EC&A meeting this was discussed with Chancellor Gold and SVC B.J. Reed.)
   - (Resolved at the 3/6/19 EC&C meeting.)

2. **Creation of an Easily Found List of What Retiring Faculty Need to Know for Retirement**
   - (4/11/18: Sent to PD Committee.)
   - (11/14/18: Planned action steps: HR will look at the creation of a list for those planning retirement.)

3. **Distribution of Student Evaluations**
   - Senator Adidam noted that student evaluations and grades are now available to all chairs. Availability of student evaluations to only that faculty member’s department chair, “Least Privilege,” would be a better policy.
   - (9/12/18: This was assigned to the Professional Development Committee to see a change made.)
   - (10/3/18: Is there a mechanism to see the numbers when a student made comments on his/her evaluation?)
   - (Resolved at the 3/6/19 EC&C meeting.)

4. **Student Evaluations Response Rate**
   - The response rate of Student Evaluations has dropped dramatically since hard copy evaluations were done away with. Hard copy response rates were 80-90%, now the response is down to 10-15%. Is there a solution to this? Are there ways to increase the response?
   - (10/3/18: The EC&C sent this item to the Professional Development Committee.)
   - (11/7/18: The EC&C sent this to Senator Kealey and the Academic & Curricular Affairs Committee.)
   - (Resolved at the 3/6/19 EC&C meeting.)

F. **Committee on Rules:** Senator Peterson moved the following two resolutions for the Committee. Both were passed and will be on the full Senate agenda for next week.

1. **Professorship Committee**
   - **BE IT RESOLVED,** that, with the resignation of Gaylene Armstrong, the following faculty member will replace her and serve on the Named Professorship Review Committee (Kiewit, Kayser, and Isaacson Professorships) from 08/01/18, through 7/31/19.
     
     **Tej Adidam.**

2. **Faculty Representative to Campus Compliance Committee**
   - **BE IT RESOLVED** that, with the resignation of Paul Landow, the following
faculty member be appointed as a faculty representative to the Campus Compliance Committee, to complete the three year term 8/1/16 – 7/31/19:

David Carter.

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PENDING:

1. Involvement in Policies (such as IT)

The Senate recommended that it have some involvement in policy making, as in IT Policies. They would like to investigate, engage with people who make policies, like IT, and get that information back to the Senate as quickly as possible. The policies should be technology neutral.

On 2/13/19 the Senate passed this to the Rules Committee.)

V. Ad hoc Committees

A. UNO-UNMC Faculty to Faculty: Senator Kelly reported the Committee met on Monday February 18th. It was concluded that while there has been minimal disruption at UNMC from the change in third-party insurers (from BC/BS to UMR), there continue to be issues at UNO, particularly in faculty and staff finding that their providers are no longer “in-network”. Mental health providers remains an area of concern, due to UMR’s historically lower reimbursement of mental health providers.

The Committee also discussed the feasibility of a UNO-UNMC shuttle. Previously this was found to be cost-prohibitive; Vanessa Rath at UNO Parking Services estimated that the cost for one shuttle with service every 30-60 minutes, running 8:30AM to 5PM Monday-Friday, with an estimated 25 riders per shuttle, would be roughly $9000 per month. It was noted at this meeting (and subsequently at the EC&C meeting) that the Omaha Metro Bus is faster and convenient.

Finally, an update was given on both the UNO/UNMC Chancellor position and on the UNO Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Chancellor Jeffrey Gold will continue to serve in that capacity at both UNO and at UNMC until June 2022. At the time of the UNO-UNMC Faculty to Faculty Committee Meeting, the pool of candidates for the SVC for AA position had been narrowed to 11 (it has since been narrowed to four finalists, with on-campus visits beginning next week).

VI. New Business

A. College Consortium

SVC BJ Reed requested FS President Kelly set up an AdHoc Committee to research the College Consortium. The FS Educational Resources & Services Committee and the FS Academic & Curricular Affairs Committee are both investigating the College Consortium. It will be given to the EC&C for the summer and then will return to the two standing committees, which will then write reports. As this topic is already in both Committees, and they are scheduled to both meeting with Jaci Lindberg in March, there is no reason to have this on the full Senate agenda, nor to set up an additional AdHoc committee.

B. Change in Report Hierarchy of Campus Committees
VII. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. with announcements.

VIII. Announcements

A. Faculty Senate Mtg: Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 2 p.m., ASH 196
B. EC&A Mtg: Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 2 p.m., EAB 200
C. EC&C Mtg: Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 2 p.m., ASH 196
D. Faculty Senate/SAC Awards Dinner: Thursday, April 4, 2019, evening
E. Faculty Senate Mtg: Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 2 p.m., CEC 230/231

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<td>*August 1 or 8</td>
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