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Faculty Senate Minutes January 2003

UNO Faculty Senate
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha
2002-2003 Senate Agenda
Wednesday, January 15, 2003, 2:15 p.m., MBSC Dodge Room

Official Call To Order

Presentation and Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2002, minutes (agenda attachment - pages 1-5)

Officers Reports

President's Report: Senator Sadlek

Board of Regents Meeting: December 2003

The Board of Regents met on Friday, December 13, and Saturday, December 14, 2002, at Varner Hall. BOR committee meetings were held on the afternoon of Friday, the 13th. The first presentation, for the Academic Affairs Committee, was a report on international education. With Dean Gouttierre as one of the presenters, the report highlighted the many impressive opportunities for UNO students to study and travel abroad and for international students to come to study in Omaha. The report revealed a vibrant international presence at UNO. The second report, given by Vice President David Lechner, gave an introduction to university fund accounting. The basic message of the report was that the university has little flexibility in the areas from which money can be cut and even less flexibility in how it can use its various sources of income. The thesis: "Not all money is fungible," i.e., transferable. The state and the university are working together closely to make major contributions to homeland security, both on national and state levels. That was the message of a report given at the main meeting of the BOR on Saturday, December 14th. The report was given by Lt. Governor Dave Heineman and Dr. Dick Raymond. The report was complemented by Dr. Steven Hinrichs' presentation on UNMC's preparations to respond to bioterrorism as well as to nuclear and chemical attacks. In another item of business, the regents extended the contract of President L. Dennis Smith for one semester. His contract will now expire on 30 June 2004. There were two somewhat controversial items of business. The first concerned a contract extension for Pinnacle Sports to have exclusive rights to cover Husker football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and softball. During the public comment section of the meeting, other broadcast organizations complained that they were not offered an opportunity to bid against Pinnacle Sports. They stated that they could at least match Pinnacle's offer. In the end, the regents decided to postpone their decision on extending Pinnacle's contract until other broadcast organizations were able to submit competing bids. The second controversial item was a request that the BOR consider offering domestic partner benefits to University of Nebraska faculty and staff. The original request was made by Professor George Wolf of UNL during the public comment section of the meeting. Supporting statements in support of domestic partner benefits were then offered by the Presidents of the UNO and UNL Faculty Senates on behalf of their constituents. Two opponents of domestic partner benefits also made statements. Since there was no official motion on the floor, the regents listened politely to the remarks but took no action.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Senator E. Williams

December 2002 Budget Report: (agenda attachment - page 6)

Executive Committee Report: Senator Bragg

On Behalf of the Executive Committee and Cabinet Senator Bragg will move the following resolution:

WHEREAS Professor G. Vaughn Johnson has meritoriously served the University of Nebraska at Omaha Faculty Senate in numerous capacities, most recently as chair of the Committee of Faculty Personnel & Welfare, and,

WHEREAS Professor Johnson has retired from the University and must resign his Senate seat, and

WHEREAS his insightful observations have enriched numerous senate meetings and discussions; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate thanks Professor Johnson for his outstanding service to the faculty and wishes him well.

Standing Committee Reports

Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator N. Bacon (No Report)

Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Dickson

Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Bennett

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Garver (No meeting/No Report)

Committee on Professional Development: Senator Blair

Committee on Rules: Senator Littrell

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Budget Committee: (Senators Blair, Littrell)

Non-Senate Committee Reports

Academic Planning Council: Senator E. Williams

The Academic Planning Council met Wednesday, December 18 to review procedures for scheduled February program reviews. The department identified for academic program review by the Academic Planning Council, and the scheduled dates are:

Chemistry - February 13-14

Geography/Geology - February 24-25

Physics - February 24-25

Review Team chairs have been selected and outside reviewers identified. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Council will follow the completion of all of the program reviews.

Alumni Association Board of Directors: Senator Blair

American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator O'Connell

Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Garver

Old Business

For the Good of the Order:

New Business

Adjourn

Announcements:

The Goals & Directions Committee will meet at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, in ASH 288-D.