

## UNO Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, October 11, 2017, 3:30pm – 4:25pm  
**Location:** University Center Innsbruck Room (UC 211 A and B)

### 1. Roll call

		Senate Roster		2017-2018		
#		Representation	First	Last	Term	
X	1	1	Administration	Mahyar	Amouzegar	(17-18)
	2	1	Staff Council	LeeAnne	Sipe	(17-18)
	3	1	SG President	Nigel	Watkins	(17-18)
	4	1	Alumni Assoc		TBD	(17-18) <i>TBD</i>
	5	1	Adjunct		TBD	(17-18) <i>TBD</i>
E	6	1	Business	Dinah	Payne (SE)	(16-19)
	7	2	Business	Joe	Beams	(16-19)
X	8	3	Business	Christy	Corey (SP)	(16-19)
L	10	4	Business	James	Logan	(15-18)
	11	5	Business	Tarun	Mukherjee	(15-18)
	12	1	Engineering	Donald	Barbe	(17-20)
X	13	2	Engineering	Dimitrios	Charalampidis (SS)	(16-19)
X	14	3	Engineering	Ting	Wang	(15-18)
X	15	4	Engineering	Guillermo	Rincon	(16-18) <i>finishing up Christy Ikeda's term</i>
	16	1	Liberal Arts & Education	Robert	Stufflebeam	(17-20)
X	17	2	Liberal Arts & Education	Ivan	Gill	(17-20)
	18	3	Liberal Arts & Education	Kenneth	Farizo	(16-19)
	19	4	Liberal Arts & Education	Zarus	Watson	(17-20)
X	20	5	Liberal Arts & Education	D. Ryan	Gray	(16-19)
	21	6	Liberal Arts & Education	Chris	Day	(17-20)
E	22	7	Liberal Arts & Education	James	Mokhiber (SVP)	(17-20)
X	23	8	Liberal Arts & Education	Peter	Schock	(17-20)
X	24	9	Liberal Arts & Education	John	Kiefer	(17-20)
X	25	10	Liberal Arts & Education	Ed	Chervenak	(16-18) <i>replacing Vern Baxter (15-18)</i>
	26	11	Liberal Arts & Education	John	Hazlett	(16-18) <i>replacing Beth Blankenship (15-18)</i>
E	27	12	Liberal Arts & Education	Robert	Dupont	(15-18)
X	28	13	Liberal Arts & Education	Juliana	Starr	(15-18)
	29	14	Liberal Arts & Education	Cheryl	Hayes	F 2016 <i>Fall replacement, J. Ehrenreich (15-18)</i>
L	30	1	Sciences	Nicola	Anthony (SE)	(15-18)
	31	2	Sciences	Melanie	Stiegler	(15-18)
X	32	3	Sciences	Kenneth	Holladay	(15-18)
E	33	4	Sciences	Wendy	Schluchter	(17-20)
	34	5	Sciences	Greg	Seab	(17-20)
	35	6	Sciences	Gerald	LaHoste	(17-20)
X	36	7	Sciences	Joel Andrew	Webb	(17-20)
X	36	8	Sciences	Steve	Rick	(17-20)
X	37	9	Sciences	Vassil	Roussev	(15-18)
X	38	1	Library	Connie	Phelps (SE)	(15-18)
X	39	2	Library	Lindsey	Reno	(16-19)

X : Present

E : Excused

L : Late

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of minutes was postponed for the next Faculty Senate meeting due to not meeting the required quorum.

## **3. Update from Faculty Senate President**

### *– Retention initiatives:*

The Senate President thanked Peter Schock for authoring the message which was sent to the faculty regarding retention efforts. The message was first sent to the faculty in the English Department. It was then edited by the Senate Academic Board, and was sent back to Peter Schock for approval.

An intervention took place with about 100 students in the academically challenged group. These students, with a GPA of 2.0 or less, were identified across UNIV courses and basic Math courses. Faculty and staff are taking actions to address the issues that these students are facing.

### *– Meeting with Sodexo:*

The Deans and the Provost met with Sodexo to discuss ways to optimize cleaning services. The conclusion of the meeting was that public bathrooms and public places will be given priority. Bathrooms will be cleaned at night and, sometimes, will be cleaned in the morning. Sodexo has been given 30-40 days to change their service structure. There will be random checks by the university to ensure that the requested changes are implemented. Vice President Greg Lassen has asked the Deans to identify bathrooms which should be upgraded specifically for campus orientations and visits.

*Discussion:* A senator asked if faculty should now throw out their own trash. The Provost responded that this will not be the case. However, number one priority will be the public bathrooms, hallways, and atriums. Trash from faculty offices may be thrown out by Sodexo every 2-3 days. The President of Senate mentioned that an additional \$2 million would be required to raise the Sodexo level of service from C to B. A senator asked if blackboard cleaning is included in the service. Another senator responded that the floor crew takes care of blackboards. The Provost responded that we do not have all details yet.

## **4. 5-minute Update from UNO President.**

### *– Daycare:*

Last May the Faculty Senate had a discussion about daycare options. There have been conversations with potential partners and with Delgado (they are under similar circumstances). The university is also looking for outsourcing options, and guaranteed spots at discounted rates.

Senator Ivan Gill mentioned that we looked at this issue in the past and asked the previous President to open a facility on campus with the charter school which is already here. The President confirmed that he is fine with collaborations. Collaboration and partnership are the best options we have. Senator Juliana Starr read a resolution which had been prepared in the past. The charter high school on east campus operates on campus to make their facility open to UNO faculty. The Senate President mentioned that it may not there yet in terms of safety and codes. She asked for a copy of the resolution so that it is posted under this meeting.

– *Salary equality across campus:*

The university is looking into the issue of gender salary equality across campus.

– *Safety:*

The President thanked everyone who helped last weekend to prepare for the hurricane. We were ready and nothing bad happened. He also mentioned that we have a hurricane preparedness site. The easier way to find it is to Google it. The website is very thorough and contains information about actions that need to be taken at different levels. There is specific information about international students and the evacuation protocol.

There will soon be active shooter exercises. Especially after the Las Vegas incident it is appropriate to do so. We are not going to have full-scale exercises, which could cause panic. There will be one session for each college and one make up session.

– *Board meeting:*

There will be a Board meeting next week. The agenda is not out yet. Student fee increases for students will be discussed. The President talked to students in a forum about proposing specific student fees such as for the Computer Science department and for the College of Business.

– *Fall 2017 Commencement speaker:*

Former Joan Higginbotham will be UNO's commencement speaker for the Fall 2017 commencement ceremony. She was involved in work on the International Space Station during a 12-day mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery in 2006. She will be presented with an Honorary Ph.D.

– *Hynes Charter School:*

The President stated that Hynes is a school with tremendous demand and gives an opportunity to replicate what is currently in operation (with Ben Franklin High School), and to open a second preK-to-8th grade charter school on campus. It is important to build community partnerships, but we need to make sure that the university does not lose money. Therefore, we need to have financial discussions in greater detail. We are not there yet, but we will provide updates as discussions continue.

– *Pathways program and admissions:*

There are plans to expand the Privateer Pathways program to a larger population. The BoR is coming up with its own proposal, which may give us an opportunity to change our placement standards. The institution will be able to define their own rules about the admissions criteria. For example, we can use measures other than ACT to determine which students are remedial.

– *Faculty and staff moral initiatives:*

We had a series of appreciation events including Happy Hours, compressed work schedule for staff, wellness initiative, and eliminating parking fees. Privateer Fridays has ended, but if there is interest it can be brought back. We may introduce more initiatives, such as seminars on eating healthy. Salary increases depend on enrollment. The university will address salary increases next Tuesday at 1pm.

– *Information about diversity:*

The President stated that it is important to support diversity growth for faculty and staff. When a search committee makes a recommendation to hire, the EEO office will confirm that we did a good job in terms of collecting applications from a sufficiently diverse group. If not, we may ask the search committee to go back and start the process again. Moreover, when candidates are brought on campus for an interview, we need to make sure that a person from an underrepresented group is included in the pool. Applicant will have to provide a page about diversity, including what diversity is, etc. In Riverside, when they followed this plan they learned a lot about the person, and in 2-3 years they dramatically improved the level of diversity.

## **5. Teaching Evaluation Response Rates:**

Assoc. Provost Caroline Noyes mentioned that although the teaching evaluation response rates have not exceeded 50% yet, they have increased from last time. The response rates have not increased uniformly across-board. More specifically, last time there were 5 departments which had a response rate of 40% and above, while now there are 11-12 such departments. The teaching evaluation forms are now mobile-friendly. She also mentioned that what seems to be driving students the most to complete the teaching evaluations is the request to do so by the instructor. She encouraged faculty to ask students to pull out their phone to complete the evaluations, and to tell students that this is important to them.

*Discussion:* A senator stated that if we do not bring the evaluation rates above 50%, faculty will feel that they have been treated unfairly. Tenure, promotion, and faculty evaluations depend on teaching evaluations. Nevertheless, making teaching evaluations mandatory by placing a registration block or by locking the grades may drive students away. The President asked if a group under the Faculty Senate can look at this issue, and also to find out who has the best outcomes (in terms of evaluation rates) and why. A senator mentioned that one of the issues may be “survey fatigue” from too many surveys. The Assoc. Provost mentioned that the professional advisors can reach out to students using different modalities, and can encourage students to complete their evaluations. The Senate President stated that the Senate Academic Board will look again at what we can be done to help with increasing the teaching evaluation rates. A senator asked if this has been discussed with student organizations. This could help convince students that teaching evaluations matter. The Senate President said that we can also look at what other institutions are doing regarding this matter.

## **6. Budget change**

This topic was not discussed due to technical issues which prevented making the PowerPoint presentation. The Chair of the Budget Committee, Jim Logan, mentioned that the purpose of the presentation would not to debate the budget model but to explain what the changes are. The PowerPoint has been posted to the Moodle site.

## **7. Old Business:**

No old business.

## **8. New business:**

No new business.

## **Adjournment:**

4:25pm