

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/21/2018

1. Roll call

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

The 1/23/2018 Senate meeting meetings were approved unanimously

3. Updates from the Senate President and the Senate Boards:

- It is a good idea for each faculty member to start classes with good news updates about UNO. For example, there was a recent donation of \$1M to a UNO Chemistry lab. Also, the “Explore UNO” event was very well attended. A senator also mentioned that the School of Arts was given permission to hire three administrators.
- Evaluation of administrators: The Dean of the College of Sciences, who was supposed to be evaluated last year, will be evaluated this year. His next evaluation will be in 3 years, and not in two years (in other words, it is not necessary to catch up with the cycle).
- Senate Board reports:
 - Administrative Board (by the Chair of the board, Dr. Juliana Starr): The board was charged to draft a tenure and promotion schedule which is uniform across all colleges and departments. There were some discrepancies in the past. The new schedule will not affect the individual college and departmental procedures, but will makes sure that everyone is on the same page.
 - Academic board update (by board member, Dr. Robert Stufflebeam):
 - In the last board meeting, the program evaluation schedule was discussed.
 - Also, the board is currently working with Beth Blankenship to develop a training program for faculty who teach online. Faculty are often assigned to teach online classes without having prior experience, and many times this happens the last minute before classes start. It is important to change these practices. The board will be looking at what needs to be developed for faculty training.
 - The board also discussed that there is a plan by the university to cancel zero-credit hour courses.

A discussion followed about zero-credit hour courses: Dr. Noyes mentioned that we had 89 zero-credit hour courses in the past few years (from Fall 2012 to Summer 2017). There was a total of 777 sections (297 undergrad, 480 Grad), and about 6000 students taking zero-credit hour courses. These courses do not count towards student credit and the university does not get any funding for them. She asked if the requirement could be rolled into existing courses, so that students are responsible for student outcomes. Co-Op is one of the zero-credit hour courses. A senator mentioned that in their department (Computer Science) there is a zero-credit hour course which simply requires that students take a test. Having this course is a way to track which students take the test. Other senators talked about the 7040 course, and that students take this course to just finish up a few things regarding their thesis. Some senators were concerned that if students had to pay a couple of thousand dollars more (which could happen if 7040 was converted to an 1-credit hour course), it could turn them away. Dr. Noyes mentioned that one problem with 7040 is that, apparently, students can take them many times. Senators suggested adding a requirement so that students can take 7040 only once.

- The UNO Travel department is going through some changes. Therefore, it may take some time to return back to normalcy. The UNO Senate President asked faculty to be try and be as courteous as possible.

4. Update from the UNO President's Office:

The Senate President provided an update from the UNO President's office. The President and the Provost were at meetings and could not make it to the Senate meeting today.

- The Dean of Students search will re-start because the pool of candidates was not sufficiently large. The Provost was asked when we should expect the new search to be completed, and he said that it will hopefully be completed by April. Dr. Noyes mentioned that a total of 32 applications has been received so far. Some candidates have reapplied, and one of them is the final candidate of the previous search.
- The King Lear statue has been removed, because it had to be returned to the UNO Foundation who lent it to UNO in 2011 with an intention to have it returned in three years.
- BoR meeting:
 - There will be a request to charge in-state tuition for neighboring gulf states.
 - A letter of intent is submitted for a Master's program in Cyber Security.
- Fall enrollment update: According to information provided by the President last Wednesday at the SEB meeting, freshman applications are up by 32%, freshman admissions are up by 47%, and graduate admissions are up by 53%. The President also said that 50-60% of admitted students actually enroll.

5. Senate Elections:

The VP of the Senate provided some information about this year's Senate elections:

- We are operating under new bylaws.
- The VP of the Senate also presented the IPEDS data which shows the number of full-time faculty (including instructors) per college from November 2017. Each college should have one seat in the Senate for every 10 full-time faculty members. According to the latest IPEDS data, it seems that all colleges may lose some seats (of course, the Library has a guaranteed seat in the Senate). However, some possible discrepancies in the IPEDS numbers have been observed. The SEB is in charge of interpreting some of the data. In particular, we have asked for an actual list of names, so that we can confirm the accuracy of the data.
- The SEB member elections have to precede the April elections.

6. Report: UNO Athletics Academic Success Effort:

Kirsten Elleby, the Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Enrichment, provided the following information:

- The program is designed to provide an academic, athletic, and social experience. All student athletes believe that they will continue being athletes after they leave UNO, but commonly most eventually stop. The athletics department tries to emphasize that students need to get their degree.
- The program has 3.5 staff members.
- We have a total of 147 student athletes this Spring 2018 semester.
- We have 14 divisional sports at UNO.

- The academic success effort staff should be the liaisons between the academic side and the coaches (although it is possible that some faculty may know some of the coaches).
- We had 94 student athletes with GPA 3.0 and above in Fall 2017.
- There will be a special faculty and advisor appreciation reception to thank the faculty at the next men's basketball game (Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00pm).

7. Progress Report: International Education Advisory Committee:

Nikki Anthony (the Chair of the committee) provide an update about new developments that took place in the last three months. She first reminded the Senate that, last fall, the Senate Executive Board (SEB) met with President Nicklow and Provost Amouzegar to discuss budget issues regarding the division of international education. Then, the advisory committee was formed to assist with the process. In particular, the committee was asked to review the budget and assess the potential for growth. Recently, the committee met with Alea Cot to discuss the budget associated with the various international programs. Alea Cot is currently working on getting the last few remaining budgets ready. Last week the committee met with the Provost and the following were agreed:

- The division of international education should have a minimum fund balance.
- The university will raise the fees for taking courses depending on the number of course hours.
- The percentage will be assessed on the net revenue excluding pass-through cost.

8. Report: Graduate School update

The university has brought in some consultants to evaluate the demand of our graduate programs. So far, most of the marketing material at UNO was developed to target undergraduate students. Now, there will be a shift to target graduate students as well. According to the consultant report, the response times to student requests were vastly different among departments (they vary from 2 days to never).

The consultants are using secret shopping to find how soon they are able to get a reply and to get information. A senator mentioned that this depends on what channels they are using to collect the information. The Senate President mentioned that Amanda Athey will provide an update about the Graduate School in the Senate after the consultants have completed their study.

9. Old Business:

None

10. New Business:

- Dr. Dinah Payne provided an Alumni Association update: The alumni association is working on two events: (1) Cafe and resumes: alumni meet our students one-to-one to provide tips about resume preparation and other advise to help our students succeed after graduation. (2) Dine like a pro: Alumni join juniors and seniors at a special luncheon designed to give them tips about business networking and dining etiquette Some students are not well-educated in this area.
- One of the senators mentioned that although he is no longer Department Chair, he still has a couple of faculty members who appear to be his employees, and who have to be frequently reaffirmed. The reaffirmation process has improved with respect to what it was in the past, but it

still has to happen every 6 months. He proposed a possible exception for retired faculty to have an email account which does not expire. Dr. Noyes asked if this is only about email, and she mentioned that she would ask the next day to find out if this was possible. A senator stated that the removal of past UNO student and faculty accounts was done for security reasons. A senator asked how is the removal of past UNO student email accounts working for reaching alumni and for asking them to continue supporting the university.

Adjournment: 4:50pm