

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Date: 11/16/2017

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>
X	6	1 Business	Dinah	Payne (SE)	(16-19)	
	7	2 Business	Joe	Beams	(16-19)	
X	8	3 Business	Christy	Corey (SP)	(16-19)	
X	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>
X	16	1 Liberal Arts & Education	Robert	Stufflebeam	(17-20)	
	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)	
	20	5 Liberal Arts & Education	D. Ryan	Gray	(16-19)	
X	21	6 Liberal Arts & Education	Chris	Day	(17-20)	
X	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>
X	27	12 Liberal Arts & Education	Robert	Dupont	(15-18)	
	28	13 Liberal Arts & Education	Juliana	Starr	(15-18)	
	29	14 Liberal Arts & Education	Cheryl	Hayes	F 2016	<i>Fall replacement, Jeffrey Ehrenreich (15-18)</i>
	30	1 Sciences	Nicola	Anthony (SE)	(15-18)	
	31	2 Sciences	Melanie	Stiegler	(15-18)	
X	32	3 Sciences	Kenneth	Holladay	(15-18)	
X	33	4 Sciences	Wendy	Schluchter	(17-20)	
	34	5 Sciences	Greg	Seab	(17-20)	
	35	6 Sciences	Gerald	LaHoste	(17-20)	
	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 from Oct. 11 was postponed for the next meeting due to not meeting quorum. (Note: The meeting minutes were at first approved, but it was later during the meeting when it was determined that quorum was not met).

3. 5-minutes with the UNO President

- The ‘Get-to-know-UNO’ event took place this past Saturday. About 2000 people attended the event. This was the 3rd year in a row that attendance for this event has increased.
- The Alumni Gala event a week and a half ago went great. A total of 498 people attended. There was also a significant amount of donations towards the \$5,000,000 goal.
- There were three recent articles of interest to UNO:
 - The first article was in regards to the commencement speaker.
 - The second article was about DXC technology. DXC is the world’s largest IT firm and is moving to New Orleans. The university is negotiating for the past 6 months. Discussions included veterans and security clearance. The discussions went great. The company is expected to make available about 2000 jobs within 5 years. They are looking to employ several graduates (75 by January and 300 by May). The President asked the senators to share this great opportunity with students.
 - The third article was about the Hynes Charter school. (As a reminder, 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.) The Provost was on their campus. The next step is putting the pieces together to make this work.
- In the last Board meeting, all the student fees were approved and the salary raises (1%) were also approved. We need to reinvest and have the 5% raise for next fall, if the enrollment goal of 8500 students is reached.
- A legislative business round table will take place on Dec. 8. The President will be talking to legislators and business leaders.
- This morning the staff council announced a food pantry.
- A ‘Tax Cuts’ bill is currently in the works, and may pass by the end of the month. This may have detrimental effects to higher education. We are trying to request modifications to the bill, but it seems that there will be some kind of a tax cut anyway. According to the bill, scholarships and tuition waivers above a certain level may become taxable. This may affect charitable giving. There is an estimate that there are donors who will drop donations to half. The number of scholarships will also be affected. At the end, this may result in a tuition increase for students. The Provost mentioned that making phone calls has the most impact in affecting decisions.
- November is ‘gratitude month’. The President expressed his thanks to everyone for their teamwork, and for being great colleagues.

3. Updates from the Senate President and Vice President

- *Active shooter training:* The Senate President asked if there was enough interest to have the training again. The training covers the procedure that law enforcement is going to go through during an active shooter event. However, it appears that what faculty and staff were supposed to do in such a situation was not the focus of the training. A ‘run, hide, fight’ video was shown (it can be found at the UNO Police website). A lot of questions asked at the training were in regards to how we can protect our students.
- *DACA Resolution:* The VP of the Senate stated that this issue has been discussed in a variety of ways in the Senate, and formally/informally with the administration. This issue affects students on campus (we do not know how many, yet we know that we have some). He also stated that we have put together a resolution which includes a couple of result clauses to achieve the cause. The rules had to be suspended to be able to vote, and 2/3rds of the vote were needed in order to suspend the rules. After re-counting the attendees it was determined that only 19 senators were present, which did not constitute a quorum.

Discussion: A senator asked what if the purpose of the resolution is to make students and faculty feel comfortable, and if the plan is to make the resolution available to the public. Another senator stated that he agrees with the spirit of the document, but asked the question if we should make this a public document. He also stated that we need to help, but the question is how. Some senators expressed a concern that this resolution may imply that we are a sanctuary institution. The Senate President stated that we will invite our attorney for the first meeting in spring to get some advise about this matter. The Provost stated that faculty and academicians should not worry about stating what they believe.

3. Academic Board Update

Chris Day presented several options proposed by the Academic Board for improving teaching evaluation completion rates. Some of these options encouraged credit-giving (e.g., give credit in class, give coupons), while some considered penalizing students who do not complete their teaching evaluations. Other suggestions included:

- make evaluations easier and shorter (e.g., by reducing the number of questions),
- make evaluations easier to access (e.g., with one click),
- bring back paper-and-pencil evaluations because of the associated high completion rates,
- extend the deadline for completing the evaluations,
- introduce popup reminders (e.g., when students log on to WebSTAR),
- dedicate some time for last day of class so that students can complete the evaluations in class (e.g., on their phones in the beginning of the class or at the end of class),
- explain to students how these evaluations benefit them (e.g., let them know that it is for improving teaching),
- make the numerical results of the evaluations available.

Discussion: Senators asked questions, such as ‘how important are the teaching evaluations’ and ‘how important is achieving high completion rates’. A senator mentioned that giving extra credit to students works (had about 80% completion rate). Another senator responded that this may result in having students simply racing through the evaluations and not providing useful

feedback. Another senator mentioned that going back to paper-and-pencil evaluations through Testing Services will not be an option. Peter Schock stated that their department (English) called Scantron and asked for the cost required to be able to handle the paper-and-pencil evaluations within the department. The total cost is about \$8,000 for the equipment, while the forms are very inexpensive. He therefore proposed a pilot program to go back to paper-and-pencil evaluations, explaining that if we care about teaching evaluations we may have to look into this approach. The Provost offered support to the English department to try this option.

4. UNO Budget Model

James Logan presented some information about the budget model. We had no budget model in the past. At least now we have a process, and we need to give this process a chance. The budget model encourages creativity and entrepreneurial efforts. It does encourage enrollment growth, SCH growth, and student-to-faculty ratios, and incentivizes the use of strategic goals rather than historical budget. It also gives more control to colleges with respect to how funds are allocated within the college. It is a very transparent process. One can visit the Senate's Moodle page and "play" with the model to create different possible scenarios and see how this affects each college's budget.

5. Old business

None

6. New business

The VP of the Senate mentioned that the international education advisory board had a meeting to discuss the issues brought up in the Senate earlier in the semester.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 5pm.