

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 26 March 2025

Meeting Called to Order by Faculty Senate President Connie Phelps (CP)

(Numbers reflect Agenda Items)

1. Roll call

Faculty Senate Roster/Sign In

		Representation	First	Last	Term	Committee	Sign In
1	1	Administration	N. Tina	Johnson	24-25		
2	1	Staff Council	Coleen	Maidlow	24-25		
3	1	SG President	Joshua	Trochez	24-25		
4	1	Alumni Assoc	Dinah	Payne	24-25		
5	1	Adjunct	David	Lambour	24-25		
6	1	COBA	DJ	Min	24-25	D	
7	2	COBA	Cherie	Trumbach	24-27	SE, B	
8	3	COBA	Greg	Price	23-26	C	
9	4	COBA	Bridget	Bordelon	22-25	D	
10	5	COBA	Kabir	Hassan	23-26	A	
11	1	COE	Ting	Wang	23-26	SE, D	
12	2	COE	Damon	Smith	24-27	B	
13	3	COE	Satish	Bastola	24-27	C	
14	1	COLAEHD	Juana	Ibáñez (S)	24-27	SE, B	
15	2	COLAEHD	Lisa	Verner		C	
16	3	COLAEHD	Ariya	Martin	22-25	A	
17	4	COLAEHD	Dan	Rule	22-25	B	
18	5	COLAEHD	Max	Krochmal	24-27	B	
19	6	COLAEHD	Brian	Beabout	23-26	A	
20	7	COLAEHD	David	Beriss	24-27	B	
21	8	COLAEHD	Marla	Nelson		A	
22	9	COLAEHD				SE, D	
23	10	COLAEHD	Marc	Landry	23-26	Gen Ed.	
24	11	COLAEHD	James	Mokhiber	24-27	SE, D	
25	12	COLAEHD	Michelle	Wade	23-26	A	
26	1	COS	Jackie	Atallah		SE, C	
27	2	COS	Phoebe	Zito	23-26	Gen Ed.	
28	3	COS	Steve	Rick	23-26	B	
29	4	COS	Simon	Lailvaux	23-26	D	
30	5	COS	Chris	Summa (VP)	23-26	SE, A	
31	6	COS	Rachel	Clostio	23-26	A	
32	1	Library	Connie	Phelps (Pres)	24-27	SE, D	
33	2	Library	Lindsey	Reno	22-25	B	

Key: Bold: Elected Senate Governance

Blue: Senate Executive Committee

Committees

A - Academic

C - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

B - Student

D - Administrative

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

2. No minutes presented from February Senate meeting
3. Edwin Litolff – has not confirmed that he can attend; he may be here
4. Shannon Williamson – University College

Dr. Shannon Williamson (SW), interim director of University College. Please familiarize yourself with QEP Arrive and Thrive messages.

- Louisiana Meauxmentum Framework, Statewide Board of Regent initiative. Interlacing components: everyone, affordability, learning mindsets, choices, pathways, milestones, engagement.
- University College is a welcoming zone. GPS – Growth mindset, purpose and relevance, sense of belonging. All programming at the University has this GPS in functioning.
- University College Units: Academic Advising, Career Services, Orientation & Transition Programs, TRIO, -- not yet staffed: tutoring and coaching, student employment
- Advising Update – meta-major. cluster of similar fields with overlapping courses in year one. Broad career focus within each meta-major. Will facilitate identification of major based on student interest versus getting an alphabetized list of all majors.
- 5 meta-clusters: Culture, Society & Arts; Enterprise and Planning; Learning and Health Sciences; Innovations in STEM; Exploratory (undecided or IDS)
- UNIV 1001 volunteers needed. 10-15 sections need to be taught. Advisors will each teach 2 but not enough advisors to teach 15 sections. Volunteer position this fall. Will be requesting release time with this course into the future.
- University College Faculty – still in progress. Eligibility? Deliverables? How is faculty selected? Incentives? After first year once process is worked out will likely be a 2 year rotation. Hoping for faculty participation in setting up framework.

Questions/Comments:

Gregory Price (GP): How do Meta-major clusters relate to STEM? SR Titles do not indicate that non-Innovations in STEM majors are not STEM.

SW: Clusters are based on shared career goals and shared coursework. Career integration is part of these clusters.

SR: involving faculty advising recommended.

SW: This system should help faculty mentors avoid paperwork associated with advising.

SR: Chemistry would be useful for health science majors, too, but advisors tend to send them to Biological Sciences instead.

SW: faculty can come and address advisors as a group about these considerations. Clusters can be adjusted as needed.

LR what do you want staff to do with paperwork?

SW use Handshake to find jobs, connections between employee and employer. Workstudy has to be certified by financial aid but otherwise Handshake would be useful.

CM lots of things in the works.

SW: email -- mwilli4@uno.edu – please email with questions or if we want a faculty standalone session, CP will get it set up.

5. Faculty Senate President Report (CP)

The roll out of UNO Faculty Senate Fund has been interesting. All faculty and staff were contacted. This is an analog fund raising effort – only operating with checks. No online deposits accepted. There is no GoFundMe due to high costs. Waiting for checks to issue the grants if applicant does not have a UNOFCU account. Form will be updated to check a box with their band information and the University will verify furloughed personnel band status. JA – competition between departments.

FSEC – Two recent meetings with President Johnson. The first meeting was requested by President Johnson to alert us to the transition to the LSU system. Board of Regents approved the transfer to the LSU system this morning. Recommendation has to go to Legislature and SACS, too. One question from a Regent asked if Tulane would be interested in taking UNO into their system. Another Regent suggested that University may have to close. Rick Gallo spoke for UNO. He said that UNO will not close because it has wonderful programs. He pointed out timeline of him arriving two months after President Johnson got appointed. He said the school will be in a better position financially, too, by the time the decisions are made.

Questions/Comments:

David Beriss (DB) What was suggested regarding what the benefits of moving?

DJ Min (DJM) - Report does great job of discussing the great programs but doesn't discuss big differences. Some recommendations with how to take care of things if transfer does or doesn't happen. No pros or cons listed but move still recommended. Legacy debt needs to be taken care of.

CP: chief reasons for move is money. When there is a change of systems there is money associated with the change that the legislature can appropriate. They will not address structural deficits but legislature can provide money for including some of the legacy debts.

Ting Wang (TW): last year LSU system had a profit. Even if they don't cover the debt they can help faculty retire with 2 million dollars. Tulane engineering faculty have talked with him about the potential to buy out the Engineering program from UNO.

CP - President and VP of Faculty Senate meet with President monthly. CP wanted entire FSEC to meet in that meeting which President Johnson has been willing to accommodate. Questions get asked and answered.

Second FSEC meeting -- Misti Cordell (Chair of the Louisiana Board of Regents) and Kim Hunter Reed (Louisiana Commissioner Higher Education) are making tours of all campuses and talking with students. Came to campus last week. Met with FSEC last week and had great things to say about our students. FSEC was able to discuss what made UNO unique and special. CP pointed out how our students are doing local research so our students are already integrated into the community. This meeting was referenced at the Board of Regents meeting.

Questions/Comments:

Steve Rick (SR): will MC and KR be making a report on this? B o R is very impressed with our students, too.

CP: President Johnson would like to have public budget hearings. This will become part of the budget process.

Two admitted student events after May 1. May 1 is deadline for applying. Regular event used at other universities so we will do it, too.

Admits – how are we doing? Last few reports are that Freshman applications are up by 3% but yield is lower. Transfer students are flat.

President Johnson wants us to focus on transfer students and making things easier for Delgado student to transfer in. Process to transfer in is not clear and student experiences have not been positive.

Need faculty input/committee on computing and technology.

Upcoming Senate elections. By-laws say elections must be held by April 1. Next Senate meeting we will elect new officers.

Next Zoom update session to be decided.

Questions/Comments:

Joel Attalah (JA)- Are there details on post- May 1 “Welcome to UNO” meeting?

CP – none yet.

DJM – chairs got an email about it. Envision it as a Mambo Week. Take a mock class. Take tours of the buildings.

Cherie Trumbach (CT) – ACT being taken this week. Perhaps folks are waiting to apply until their ACT scores are in?

DJM – university transfers situation is is they want us to look at our programs and the articulation matrix. Make sure they work. Upper administration is trying to help with flexibility on the matrix because the 2-year schools are not adhering to the matrix well. Why aren't they adhering? All speculation.

6. Committee Reports

Academic Committee – Chris Summa (CS)

- Principle recruitment done by Dione Bergeron, who is now gone. Randall Langston is taking over the recruitment slack. Dr. Langston has the list that CS provided them with listing faculty willing to help with recruitment. Admissions and recruiting issue is that Dione Bergeron loss. How do we know who has been admitted so we can invite folks into the departments? That information is not available.
- If ICE shows up, send them to the President's office.
- Anyone on visas should not leave the country.
- RisePoint programs are considered low completer programs without academic partnerships. Chairs have gotten an email that admissions are no longer accepted so students can finish their degrees.
- RisePoint MA programs that are being cut:
 - M.F.A. Fine Arts
 - M.S. Earth and Environmental Sciences
 - M.B.A. Tax Accounting
 - M. Ed. Curriculum and Instruction
 - M.S. Applied Physics
- Board of Regents determines which programs get cut.

Questions/Comments:

Bridget Bordelon (BBo) – what will happen with the cut programs?

Brian Beaubout (BB) – teach out. Chair meeting today for program closures. AP programs that are not low enrollment continue as normal. We get to teach the courses. Any courses in pipeline will fall off. If faculty want to continue them will be moving forward.

BBo – compensation contract for past classes is not clear.

DJM – lots still going to be decided. Some integrated. Some thrown away.

CS – It was not a good contract for us. You can continue the program with your materials.

BB – front up costs and they guaranteed students so first year was big increase and second year was big drop off likely due to us not paying for the contract and no one did marketing for the programs.

BBo – teaching compensation got cut and don't know where the funds for the compensation are.

CS – Each of subcommittees was going to put together pros and cons for moving into LSU system. Don't know any of the parameters. Still soliciting input.

CP – 2011 move from LSU to UL had list of policies and how it was resolved for UNO.

CS -- will post it to Canvas.

Administrative Committee – DJM

- 3 tasks. Task one: Colby Stoever (Office of Institutional Research) and Darryl Kruger (Provost) provided faculty number data sets for upcoming Senate elections. We have a bylaw that states how to figure out how many Senators to use. We may not have enough faculty to get all the work done to make sure we have enough senators to do all the work.

Questions/Comments: CS -- 2 senate positions go to COS and -1 senate position to COLAED. All other senate position counts stay the same.

- 2) draft of how to evaluate President. to be released to Senate.
- 3) faculty grievance policy. have a policy that the UL system doesn't like. Provided a Louisiana Tech policy and draft is almost done and sent to the Senate.

Questions/Comments:

CP – old policy is legacy from the LSU system

JA -what wasn't liked about LSU system?

DJM – too much back and forth. steps were pretty much the same. We liked more due process time. UL didn't. Makes it a longer process. One process more timely, one covers more options.

Budget Committee – (SR)

- Not much to report. Hope to meet with officials next week to clarify where cuts have been made or not made.

Questions/Comments:

Greg Price (GP)- projections for next year?

DJM – Dean said 82-85 million year budget assuming flat enrollment.

Courses and Curricula – Lindsey Reno (LR)

- 10 March meeting. Minutes handed to Senators. Robert Mitchell said there is a backlog of catalog changes that have not been implemented from 2024. Once they are done with curricula training they will address the backlog. Some of 2024-2025 updated. Not anything approved from Fall 2024 – Spring 2025.
- Gen Ed – remind faculty they have an assessment obligation and Nancy Bigio can provide assessment help. African American History added to Gen Ed. Adopted as Humanities and it is not clear that it was accepted. College of Business has submitted 4 1000, 1001, and HRT 2050, to be considered as GEN Ed.

International Education – Jim Mokhiber (JM)

- Closure of Kyoto campus. closure of Intensive language program. IEAC is subset of Senate. Meeting with Scott Penzer and Provost April 4 meeting. Ad Hoc meeting with questions and

moving forward plan. There was a 3-year plan for BAIS program but now have to figure out how to work it.

7. Old Business? No

8. New Business

TW – Follett Access Textbook Program contract, 2019, was entered into to save students money and make books available on the first day of class. Originally provided whatever format of text that was requested by faculty. Note that if you do not provide information about what books you're providing, they will apply whatever books you had in place from last semester and it causes problems for the students if those courses are not being offered or if it is not the intended book. The problem with digital texts is they can't be saved. We need to be able to request hard copy access. Manager here at UNO wants to help us. Follett manager at corporate level wants to order only digital copies. Student survey indicates they think Follett is a scam. Opt out option has to be done early in the semester before class starts. It might not be possible to change contract. UL board decided how to do Opt Out program. Need to spread the word throughout the faculty that faculty have to be specific about hard copy or digital copy. Be sure to specify whether or not you have a book for your class as well with Follett. Students with scholarships get their books paid for.

DJM - Follett is not just textbooks. Fee covers all the resources requested for class. Some classes go below fee cost. Some classes go over the fee cost. Individual students need to be calculating whether or not they should opt in or out.

Adjournment. 3:00 pm