

## UNO Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 3:30pm – 4:45pm  
**Location:** University Center Innsbruck Room (UC 211 A and B)

### 1. Roll call

		<b>Senate Roster</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>		
#		<b>Representation</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Term</b>
X	1	1 Administration	Mahyar	Amouzegar	(17-18)
	2	1 Staff Council	LeeAnne	Sipe	(17-18)
X	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)
	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)
E	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)
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)
	25	10 Liberal Arts & Education	Ed	Chervenak	(16-18) <i>replacing Vern Baxter (15-18)</i>
X	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)
X	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)
	33	4 Sciences	Wendy	Schluchter	(17-20)
	34	5 Sciences	Greg	Seab	(17-20)
X	35	6 Sciences	Gerald	LaHoste	(17-20)
E	36	7 Sciences	Joel Andrew	Webb	(17-20)
X	36	8 Sciences	Steve	Rick	(17-20)
	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 September 5 Meeting

The meeting minutes were distributed by email prior to the meeting. Some changes were made between the time that the minutes were distributed and the 9/19/2017 Senate meeting. There changes included a few typos and also adding the name of the person who sponsored the resolution regarding international programs. A senator asked a question about what constitutes an excused absence. Absences may be excused for various reasons, including class conflicts. Senators may notify the Secretary of the Senate when they cannot make the Senate meetings. The minutes of September 5<sup>th</sup> were seconded and approved unanimously.

## 3. Updates from Faculty Senate President and Other Updates

- The Senate President stated that the recall of DACA (the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) is being discussed. The DACA is the “Dreamers” program for immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and who were given a special status. The Vice President of the Senate stated that the diversity cabinet met about potential ways to address anxiety, and that an informal group of faculty has come together to discuss about the issue (Tulane has 75 people who came up to address this issue). The Senate President mentioned that right now we do not know how many of our students are affected. We do not have the numbers, but we know that we have some students who are affected. As of 10 days ago, no Louisiana or Texas university has stood up against the recall. Tulane has stood up, but Tulane is a private university.
- Carol Lunn announced some activities associated with the Office of Research.
  - o An extension to Innovate UNO was sent out till Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year the schedule of this program has been completely changed. This is the feeder system to participate in the undergraduate research program in Louisiana, and there is an effort to motivate more undergraduate students to participate. This year we are hosting the academic summit here at UNO, so that all our system’s institutions will be on campus. Moreover, this time there will be cash awards. The winner of each category will receive a \$200 award and the second will received a \$100 award. If graduate students win, they will receive a \$2,500 award applied towards their tuition. Currently the faculty participation is low. Faculty are encouraged to participate if they have something which they would like to showcase.
  - o The internal grant programs are ongoing. The deadline is October 20<sup>th</sup>. There are three different categories: \$15,000 for SCORE grants, \$7,500 for creative endeavor, and \$17,500 per PI (up to three PIs) for interdisciplinary grants. Internal grant proposals are peer-reviewed by the Research Council. The Office of Research has only received two proposals so far.
  - o The awards which are given out to faculty have been completely updated. There are two completely new categories, namely the Creativity, Research, and Scholarship awards. One award is available for tenured faculty, and one is available for tenure-track faculty. These are nomination-based. Deans have to submit the nominations to the Office of Research by October 20<sup>th</sup>. Faculty may be nominated by Department Chairs, and Chairs can be nominated by their Deans.
- Dinah Payne made an announcement about the Distinguished Alumni Gala. The event is on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National World War II Museum. There is a special place on the website for donations to support students, faculty, and staff members, and hopefully some tickets can be funded this way. Because of the cost of the venue, the ticket prices could not be reduced. Dinah Payne asked people who are interested in going to the Alumni Gala to let her know. She can then try to find out which faculty, students, and staff may get the donated tickets.
- The Senate President announced that a “Questions for Administrators” link will be made available on the Faculty Senate page soon.
- The UNO President could not attend the Faculty Senate meeting, but the Provost was present to answer questions. A senator asked about the status of Sodexo. The Provost responded that the Deans will be meeting with Sodexo next week in order to find ways to optimize the service provided to UNO by Sodexo. There may have to be more meetings in the future. A senator asked if outsourcing to Sodexo has provided any savings to the budget. The Provost responded that this analysis has not yet been done.

#### 4. Retention Initiative

Dr. Tumulesh Solanky (Chair of the Math Department) made a presentation regarding the various retention initiatives which are ongoing at UNO.

**History and Subcommittees:** In 2015, UNO founded the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee which started looking at various types of retention. During the summer months of 2015, this committee was split into three subcommittees, namely Enrollment, Retention, and Scholarships. The retention subcommittee organized a retreat (led by Dr. Solanky) and about 80 faculty and staff attended. The objective of the meeting was to look at UNO datasets (ACT scores, high school GPAs, etc), and in particular, to look at 20 variables and the interactions between them. A total of 13 “gaps” were identified, and 13 corresponding action teams were created. Currently, we have these action teams, plus a steering committee, which oversees those. The subcommittees are:

- Summer Bridge Program,
- Math and English: students that do well in Math and English tend to do well overall,
- Registration Barriers,
- 15 to Finish: the student loan is small, therefore students seem to be motivated more when taking enough hours,
- Intrusive Advisement,
- Housing: e.g., a computer lab was created in the dorms, and there is now some tutoring in the dorms,
- Black Male Initiative: moMENTun initiative -- one of the cohorts with low retention was black male students,
- Peer Mentoring: last year there was a pilot in some Biology classes, but we need to extend the initiative this year,
- Student Engagement and Community Building: students said that they do not feel as being part of the campus, and they also said that they plan to bring TV sets and games from home -- the initiative was that we are creating a lounge in the UC to have a lot of activities and also a welcome center,
- FYE and Orientation: the objective is to support the incoming freshmen and to give information they need,
- Career advising,
- Academic Success of First Year Students: a kind of a new action team to help out students who are struggling early

In the last two years we had open forums to discuss the work done by the different subcommittees. About 60 faculty members are serving in the action teams.

**Some Data Analysis:** Dr. Solanky presented data about the impact of first-Fall GPA on retention. There is a very low retention rate for first year students with first-Fall GPA less than 2.00. In the last three years it is somewhere about 11-16%. However, data shows that these students did not necessarily have significantly different ACT score or high school GPA from students with better first-Fall GPA.

**Discussion after the Presentation about Retention:** A senator asked if we are looking into factors outside academic success. Dr. Solanky responded that we have done so in the past, yet this year we will do so more rigorously. A senator stated that students who are not enrolled early in courses which are in their major often lose interest. Dr. Solanky responded that this was brought up in a meeting the day before. The associated data has been pulled out, so that we will be able to look into this issue further. A senator asked if the difference in GPA between students who leave UNO and students who stay at UNO is not statistically significant. Dr. Solanky responded that it was the ACT scores who were very similar even for student groups with very different UNO-GPA. A senator asked if it possible that some students get low grades exactly because they drop out. Assoc. Provost Dr. Noyes said that she will be looking at various issues, e.g., students that are not returning due to low GPA, changing intrusive to proactive advising, introducing faculty to the EAB platform, class attendance policies, and “UNO Cares”. She strongly encouraged faculty to use “UNO Cares” if they have students who are having issues (not showing up, showing changes in behavior). She talked about the idea of contracting online tutoring so that students do not have to be at UNO and be constrained by their schedule. She also talked about offering a second UNIV course more academic in nature for students in academic trouble. The purpose of the course will be to introduce students to different active learning strategies. A senator mentioned that what we have heard about retention is focused on first time freshmen which, however, is only a small percentage of the total student population. There are many transfer students, but there does not seem to be as much discussion about them. Dr. Solanky responded that all those numbers are available and they had been looked at during the retreat. A senator said that we need to look at the big picture. We lose more than a third of the first-time full-time freshmen. We need to be proactive. We know who is not performing well. We need to make an effort before midterms to make a difference. Dr. Solanky said that based on his experience as Chair of Math we identify

students in 1000- and 2000-level classes, and figure out why there are doing poorly. A senator mentioned that there is often a speculation that UNO loses students because we do not have a football team or a nice campus. However, the retention data presented dismisses this notion. A senator stated that when we call students who do not plan to return, a frequent issue is lack of money. The same factors who stop them held them to finish may be the same which determine if they can take 15 hours. A lot of students may not be able to take 15 hours.

## **5. International Education Resolution**

A resolution was brought up by John Hazlett in the last Faculty Senate meeting (Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>). After the meeting, the Senate Executive Board (SEB) met with the President and the Provost to discuss the resolution. Moreover, the SEB met with Alea Cot, the Assistant Provost for International Education and Director of International Education. As a result of these meetings, the SEB is going to form a Faculty Advisory Committee which will support the international program efforts. John Hazlett stated that the resolution is no longer necessary since the formation of the Faculty Advisory Committee is on the way. Moreover, there is no reason to move on with the resolution because there was not a motion, but if there is any formal reason to do so, the resolution is withdrawn.

**Feedback by the Provost:** The Provost stated that part of the reason why he joined UNO was because of the international programs. He wants the summer programs and international education to be successful. He likes the program and he likes it to grow. He does not want the programs to be weaker but to be stronger. At the same time, we want to look at the campus as a whole, and each college and program plays a part. We all make up the University of New Orleans and we each play a part. We have a budget for each college, and the idea should be the same for the extended campus. There should be an overhead which should be coming back to the university so that we can invest back to academic programs and the faculty. The charge will be on the real revenue, so the overall effective rate will be much less. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to find a way to have a transparent budgeting model. The Provost had asked for the budget and the budget analysis for each one of the international programs in order to determine the effect of growing the programs by 5% or 10%, or the effect of applying an overhead of 30% to the programs. Different programs have a different overhead, and we will pick the one that makes sense for each program.

The Faculty Senate President stated that she personally believes that when the President and Provost state that their objective is not to hurt the international programs she believes them. These programs are a good match to our QEP initiatives, and there are many reasons to keep them. The faculty senate will do whatever possible to help with this effort and to help the international programs go through this budget issue. An update about international education will be provided a little later in the semester.

## **6. Old Business**

There was no old business

## **7. New Business**

The Senate Vice President said that he is preparing a list of Frequently Asked Questions (e.g., what is the different between the Faculty Council and the Faculty Senate, how do the Executive Board meetings work, how resolutions are introduced, etc).

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm