Executive Committee & Cabinet 08/07/02 Minutes - Page 1

Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha
2002-2003 Executive Committee & Cabinet Minutes

Wednesday, August 7, 2002, 2:00 p.m., RH 414

Attendees: N. Bacon, W. Bacon, Bishop, Blair, Carroll, Dickson, Garver, Sadlek, Williams,
Absent: Johnson, Littrell,
Excused: Bragg,

I. The meeting was called to order at 2 pm, by the Secretary/Treasurer, Senator Williams.

II. Presentation and Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sadlek submitted Senator Bragg’s report of the July 18, 2002, Board of Regents meeting.

B. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report: Senator Williams presented the Budget Report for July 2002.

C. Parliamentarian: James Carroll responded to the request from Senator Shroder at the May Senate meeting that problems with Grievance Committee timelines be addressed. He reported that the problems all arose from use of an unofficial short form of the committees procedures, and that no changes to the UNO Faculty Grievance Committee Policies and Rules of Procedure were required.

IV. Old Business:

A. Resolution 2640, Regarding Chair of the Cabinet: Senator Sadlek

BE IT RESOLVED, that according to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska, Article VI, Section 3, the senate president appoints the following senator chair of the Cabinet:

Laura Dickson.

The vote was six in favor and none opposed. The motion passed.

B. Faculty Senate Retreat: Senator Sadlek

Re: Planning for the August 21, 2002, Faculty Senate Retreat was begun. Chancellor Beleck will be unable to attend until 2 PM. Vice Chancellor Hodgson will also only be available in the afternoon. The committee felt that it would be best to have the Senate and Standing Committee meetings after these presentations. The Faculty Senate Coordinator will check to see if the Riverview Lodge at
Mahoney State Park is available from afternoon to evening, instead of from 8 am to 5 pm, as was reserved. Joyce Crockett, of Technology Services, would also like to make a presentation of the new services and support offered. It was also suggested that the Senate also invite one or more of the following to speak at the Retreat: the UNO Student President/Regent, the new NU Vice President, Jay Norene, and the president of the AAUP, Mike Peterson. Senator Sadlek will arrange the speakers.

C. Finals Conflict with Commencement:

Senator Sadlek reported there is a 1-3 p.m. slot for finals on the Friday of Commencement. This goes against Resolution 2623. VC Hodgson and Wade Robinson agreed the Friday afternoon exam problem remains and responded:

‘Our two options are:

1. As we did last term, we can contact every graduating senior who potentially has a conflict with Commencement. Last semester, there were roughly 80 such students, but in fact none of them actually had a final on Friday afternoon. However, our plan was to inform them that under the terms of the Senate Resolution, they could request to re-schedule their exam so as to enable them to attend Commencement. The drawback here is that while we are able to accommodate all students in this way, we cannot accommodate faculty who are holding exams at that time.

2. We can start the exam week at noon on Friday of the week before Commencement, so that Friday PM examinations become the first rather than the last. This would enable both faculty and students to attend Commencement, but would potentially remove a class day from some classes which had planned to meet on the last day in the afternoon.’

Discussion was held on these. Some suggestions were to revise the finals schedule to fit in a shorter time block, or start finals on Saturday so finals would end no later than noon on Friday. Senator Sadlek will convey to these suggestions to VC Hodgson.

D. Budget Crisis:

Senator Sadleksent two e-mails to the entire faculty this summer, updating them on the current budget crisis and asking for their thoughts. He received disappointingly few replies, but among those were suggestions to trim the athletic budget, tenure buyouts, or ask outside foundations, etc., for funding. Cabinet members expressed concerns that if adjunct faculty were cut some required courses could not be taught, and reiterated President Smith’s concerns for accessibility and affordability. The first specific information on cuts being considered may come at the August 15 EC&C meeting scheduled with Chancellor Belck.

V. New Business
A. Faculty Senate Website (“Committee, Task Forces, Boards”):

The Faculty Senate coordinator is tasked with updating the Faculty Senate Website. On that website is a page titled “University Committees, Task Forces, Boards.” It is linked from the Faculty Senate home page by “Campus-wide Committees.” The link from the UNO site index titled, “Committee, Task Forces, Boards, Etc.,” was disabled with the departure of the last Faculty Senate coordinator. Sue Bishop, the current coordinator, asked for guidance on what should be added, kept, or deleted from the “Committee ...” page. Senator Sadlek charged the Committee on Goals & Directions with this challenge. He also asked that the Committee on Rules be kept in the loop, as many of the committees have representatives from the Senate.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.