2004-2005 Faculty Senate
Minutes

Wednesday, September 8, 2004, 2:15 p.m., MBSC Dodge Rooms


Excused: Fruhling, Metal-Corbin

Absent: Shaw

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

II. The August 18, 2004, minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Bacon reported the Chancellor’s Council met on August 19, 2004. Chancellor Belck described the University of Nebraska’s “Omaha strategy” which will support the new business development strategy being employed by the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Belck left for China and Japan on Wednesday, August 25 and will reinforce our institutional connections in both countries. Registrar Wade Robinson presented the initial Fall enrollment figures. Both student numbers and student credit hours are down about 2%, but freshmen numbers are up 8%. Graduate student enrollment is also up. Minority numbers were generally maintained at their past low levels although enrolled African Americans numbers were down. The Chancellor added that in response to critical assessments of minority recruitment and retention, she is forming a Native American Cabinet which will take its place beside the African American and Hispanic Cabinets which help her with minority issues. The Faculty Senate submitted the names of Brigette Ryalls, Jody Neathery-Castro, Doug Paterson and Graham Mitenko for the Athletic Director search committee. We are urged to submit names for the Chancellor’s Medal, honorary degrees and the Order of the Tower to the Honors and Awards Committee. Interim Fine Arts Dean Bob Welk advised the Council that the constitution for the new college will be presented to the Senate mid to late semester. I also reported on the Senate retreat during which our observations about minority students met with a bit of discomfort on the part of the administration.


IV. Executive Committee: Senator D’Souza moved the following resolution:
Resolution 2752, 09/08/04: Replacement for Senator Wakefield
WHEREAS Senator Bill Wakefield resigned with regret from the Faculty Senate so that he might fulfill his duties as interim Athletic Director, and

Whereas the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has accepted Senator Bill Wakefield’s resignation, effective immediately, and

Whereas, the first runner up of the last College of Public Affairs and Community Service election for Faculty Senator was Paul Sather,

BE IT RESOLVED that Paul Sather is seated as a permanent replacement for Bill Wakefield for a term to end in May, 2007.

The motion passed and Senator Sather was welcomed.

V Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Akers reported that the committee will need to discuss the ongoing saga of "dual enrollment," and the Center for Faculty Development.

B. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Watson reported the Committee on ER&S met on 25 Aug 2004. The Committee reviewed its goals for the upcoming year. Marsha Watson contacted John Fiene and requested information on a specific date that the faculty and student myFolder web space would be made available; Feine has replied that no specific date has yet been set, but that he expects it will be within the next couple of weeks. Watson also reported that construction of student e-Portfolios now has the highest priority. The Committee agreed to review Executive Memorandum 16, as well as IS&Ts current policy, and the various policies of other institutions of higher learning, before attempting to compose a resolution on ethical and responsible faculty use of web space. Senators Shaw and Pasco have agreed to work together to revise the Paul Beck Scholarship procedure to include maintenance of an alternate list, as well as to look into scholarship financing with an eye towards increasing awards. Finally, during its discussion of the high tech classroom availability issue, the Committee agreed to invite John Feine to its October meeting for a friendly, informational discussion of ITS current plans and/or policies regarding all three technology issues.

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Skreija reported the committee met on August 25. It is engaged in drafting two resolutions to be presented to the Faculty Senate. One resolution is to urge the administration to make UNO a smoke free campus. The other is to urge the administration to take steps so that the criteria and practices regarding promotion, continuous appointment and merit based salary adjustments closely reflect the published Regents' Guidelines. Specifically, that teaching and service performance are given due consideration in decisions regarding those matters.
D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Allen reported the committee met on August 25, 2004. Those members present were Allen (chair), Benjamin-Alvarado, Fruhling, Garver, Wetig. Guests were Jim Freeman, David Ciccotello, Wade Robinson. The committee invited Freeman, Ciccotello and Robinson to talk about the status of minority recruiting. The discussion centered on the committee’s desire to develop a plan and to use that plan to argue for more money from Lincoln in ways the administration cannot. Research still must be done. Freeman will get census materials from OPS when it becomes available in late September. The committee, through Senator Bacon, will ask the academic deans to provide a list of any minority recruitment activities of their college recruiters. It was agreed that Ciccotello would serve as a non-voting member when the committee met on recruiting issues.

E. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Adkins reported the committee met on Wednesday, August 25, 2004. Present: Senators Adkins (chair), Bramlett, Corcoran, Kosloski, and Patterson. Guest: Sufi Nazem, former chairman of the Faculty Senate Professional Development Committee. Dr. Nazem briefed the committee on the progress made in 2003-2004 and the status of a number of issues. The committee discussed issues related to funding of travel and equipment. Senator Paterson will research the funding level of each college; the status of the mentoring proposal undertaken by the committee in 2003-2004; and the report of the "Magenta Team" and the status of the Center for Faculty Development and the University Committee for the Advancement of Teaching. Other issues to be addressed at future meetings are (1) status report from the University Committee on Research, (2) the transition to digital portfolios, and (3) how to create greater dialogue and collegiality among faculty and across college boundaries.

F. Committee on Rules: Senator Arbelaez moved the following resolutions. All passed.

1 Resolution 2753, 09/08/04: Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee Nominations

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with section 6.1 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws the following nominees for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee are brought forward by the Rules Committee for senate nomination. The ballot will be presented to the UNO faculty. One tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve a three-year term from October 16, 2004, through October 15, 2007, to replace retiring member, James Shaw:

Linda Parker (tenured faculty)
Maria Elvira Villamil (tenured faculty)

One non-tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to replace retiring Elaine Lahue from October 16, 2004, through October 15, 2007:

Mark Scherer (non-tenured faculty) Pete Simi (non-tenured faculty)
2. Resolution 2754, 09/08/04: Faculty Grievance Committee: (Ballot Vote by Senate)

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Bylaws, section 6.1, Faculty Grievance Committee, the following faculty members are brought forward by the Rules Committee for ballot election by the senate.

One full professor will be elected from the following two nominees to replace James Hagen, for a three-year term from September 16, 2004, through September 15, 2007:

- Robert W. Smith (full professor) ELECTED
- Dale Krane (full professor). ELECTED

One assistant professor will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Karen Hayes, for a three-year term from September 16, 2004, through September 15, 2007:

- Jeanne Harrington (Asst Professor) ELECTED
- Candice Batton (Asst Professor).

One member of the Faculty Senate Faculty Personnel and Welfare committee will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Pamela Jean Owens as the committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare representative for a one-year term from September 16, 2004, through September 15, 2005:

- Henry D’Souza from Committee on Faculty Personnel & Welfare, ELECTED
- Pamela Jean Owens from Committee on Faculty Personnel & Welfare.

3. Resolution 2755, 09/08/04: Professional Conduct Committee (Ballot Vote by Senate)

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 1.1 of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Professional Conduct Committee's Rules and Procedures, the following four nominees (all tenured faculty ranked assistant professor or above) are brought forward by the Committee on Rules for ballot election by the full senate as follows:

- Lisa Boucher (Elected)
- Donna Dufner
- Zhenguan Wang
- James Dick (Elected).

Two representatives must be elected by ballot vote to serve three-year terms from October 16, 2004, through October 15, 2007, to replace outgoing members Carol Mitchell and Rebecca Morris. These newly elected representatives will also serve as alternates for three-years from October 16, 2007, through October 15, 2010.
Carol Mitchell and Rebecca Morris will continue serving as alternates (replacing Sunny Andrews and Richard Stacy) for three-years from October 16, 2004, through October 15, 2007, per Resolution R2593.

VI Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON): Senator Paterson volunteered to be the Faculty Senate Representative.

B. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Fruhling submitted the following report: The UNO Alumni Association Meeting was on August 17. Mr. Steve Bodner is the Chairman of the Board. Gayle Roberts, SAC president, presented information to the board on "Spirit - UNO" and Patty Patton Shearer, the new UNO's Women's Basketball Coach, discussed the upcoming season. The association has several activities planned for the first UNO football game against UNK. Also, one of UNO's important fund raiser, the Chancellor's Scholarship Swing, is organized by the Alumni Association.

VII The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.