Executive Committee & Cabinet Minutes

Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 2 p.m., ASH 196

Attendees: Anderson, Corcoran, Glaser, Randall, Shaw, Skreija, Watson

Excused: Adkins, Bacon

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m.

II. The September 7, 2005, minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Glaser reported


2. Executive Committee and Administration met September 21, 2005. The administration accepted our resolutions from the previous faculty senate meeting without comment. We discussed resolutions #2608 and #2623 which recommend that the university schedule commencement ceremonies so they do not conflict with any final exams. This has been an on-going problem. The administration is open to suggestions on how to resolve it. Wade Robinson is also looking into the number of seniors attending Friday afternoon classes. The administration confirmed that we are changing “Dead Week” to “Prep Week” and encourages everyone to refer to “Prep Week” in their syllabi and department announcements. I reported to the administration about the four faculty senate presidents’ meeting and our upcoming meeting with President Milliken. I also reported that the Academic and Curricular Affairs Committee is working on the issue of faculty posting grades with students’ social security numbers. John Christensen feels there needs to be a clarification of procedures regarding faculty plagiarism. The Graduate College has been notified that their current catalogue (2003-2004) is incorrect and the proper committee to notify is the Faculty Professional Conduct Committee. Convocation is Oct. 12th.

3. Chancellor’s Council met September 22, 2005. The Chancellor talked about South Campus Development. Robinson reported on UNO’s disaster preparedness program. Robinson and Jim Leslie reported on homecoming activities and open
John Fiene talked about the MIT consultant visit; John Preston was hired to help UNO increase faculty research connected to business and finance, which can then be used for commercialization purposes. There is an extensive capital campaign underway, the goal of which is to reach an endowment of (about) $143 million. Most of this is for new building and improvement to existing buildings. The General Education Think Tank met 9/23/05 and worked on student outcomes and assessment for our general education requirements. Hurricane Katrina: UNO has adopted the University of New Orleans. Students and staff will be coordinating donations to the other U.N.O all year. There is also a collection for the family of our football player who is from New Orleans.

4. Board of Regents met September 16, 2005. The BOR voted to purchase land from the Aksarben Trust in order to expand the UNO campus southward, and to do so without resorting to eminent domain. Jay Noddle presented the vision for the expansion, which (at this point) includes shops, research buildings, street parking, cafes, pedestrian and bike paths, and a movie theater. The Regents had a significant discussion about Miliken’s Strategic Framework. Hergert expressed that there is an appropriate emphasis on academic excellence and Wilson, who is chair of the Academic Committee, said he would like us to be at the top of our peer groups for faculty pay. The Regents approved UNO’s Center for E-portfolio Based Assessment, as well as the Master’s in Arts of Language Teaching. Furthermore, the regents are pushing LB 605 which would fund building improvements on all NU campuses. As part of this effort, they will be hosting state senators for tours of each campus. UNO will be visited on October 31st.


IV. Executive Committee Report:

A. Approval of Executive Committee Action: Senator Adkins reported

On behalf of the Executive Committee Senator Adkins moved approval of the following action, taken by committee at its special meeting of September 28, 2005, called to respond in timely fashion to the vice-chancellor. The motion passed and will be presented to the full Senate next week.

Resolution Regarding Appointment to Select Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, At the request of Vice Chancellor Christensen, the Executive Committee appoints two Professors:

Henry D’Souza (Social Work),
Lourdes Gouveia (Sociology),

to join two Unit members selected by the Administration, to convene a Select Committee and render advice “Pursuant to 3.6.1 (Termination for Adequate Cause) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (p. 14).

IV Standing Committee Reports

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A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Anderson reported the committee met and
   1. Scott Tarry provided a summary of the Gen Ed Think Tank where student learning objectives began to be reformulated in keeping with AQIP guidelines.
   2. We are continuing our investigation into the Center for Afghanistan Studies.
   3. We are continuing to monitor the dual enrollment program.
   4. The following resolution regarding grade posting using social security numbers was passed and will be brought before the full Senate next week:

   **Resolution regarding the Use of Social Security Numbers to Post Student Information:**

   Whereas, identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation; and

   Whereas, students may be particularly vulnerable to this crime; and

   Whereas the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides specific rights protecting the confidentiality and access of student information at UNO; and

   Whereas, the public disclosure of social security numbers is prohibited by FERPA; and

   Whereas, the University of Nebraska at Omaha provides a method through which faculty may securely post student grades with Blackboard.

   Therefore be it resolved, the faculty senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha strongly discourages the public posting of student social security numbers or any portion thereof in any form by faculty, staff, or administrators; and

   Therefore be it further resolved, that we specifically encourage the use of Blackboard to communicate assessment and evaluation information to students.

B. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Pasco reported the ER&S committee met on 28 September. Senators Watson, Shaw, Williams and Thorp, and Lanyce Keel (ITS Representative), were in attendance. This meeting was devoted to the investigation and resolution of complaints received by the committee in August from faculty Mac users. A small group of faculty Mac users filed complaints regarding primarily two issues: (1) the upgrade of Lotus Notes in August caused an incompatibility with Mac, resulting in a number of faculty and students who, for a short time, could not access their email accounts from off campus, and (2) a general perception by the Mac user community on campus that ITS was not supporting Macs, and had no intention of doing so. Committee members reported that the following actions were taken immediately after receiving the complaints:

   · Senator Pasco met with Associate Vice Chancellor John Fiene and discussed the issues raised. Senator Pasco set up a meeting between ITS and Mac users. Fiene
and members of the UNO ITS staff will provide a short presentation regarding recent efforts to resolve known issues concerning Macintosh and UNO software/tools. The meeting will allow us to find out what the issues are, where there are clusters of Mac users and what their concerns might be. Other important goals for the meeting are:

- To identify technology and support issues for Macintosh users on the UNO campus
  - To identify strategies currently engaged by ITS to resolve technology and support issues for Macintosh users on the UNO campus.
- To establish a systematic communication process for the purpose of 1) resolving current areas of concern, and 2) disseminating information about issues that develop in the future.

Senator Watson met with a group of ITS staff who were exploring the option of ITS becoming an Apple distributor. Any profits realized would be used to help fund a full time position for an ITS Help Desk Mac specialist, who would provide support to all Mac users on campus. Also, Lanyce Keel, the ER&S committee’s ITS representative, informed the committee:

- ITS acknowledges that because of budget constraints, more money does end up being spent on PC-compatible software which is most useful to the campus community as a whole.
- ITS tested the Lotus Notes update on Mac machines prior to the summer upgrade, and had no problems, then Mac changed their browser. This incompatibility problem was identified, addressed, and resolved by ITS as quickly as possible.
- ITS will increase number of people at service level for Mac. They recognize that Macs are a better match for some disciplines/students.
- ITS is exploring becoming a Mac distributor. Any profits realized will be used to fund a full-time Mac person at the Help desk. That position should be filled in the next 6-8 weeks.
- Blackboard is also an issue for Mac users, and may become more of a problem. Blackboard is now working hand-in-glove with Microsoft—so incompatibility issues may be expected to increase between Blackboard and Macs.
- ITS is also interested in putting together a Mac users group.

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Skreija reported the Committee met on September 27, 2005. Present were Stuart Bernstein, Barbara Hewins-Maroney, Elaine Lahue, Graham Mitenko, Andris Skreija (chair), Lauree Tilton-Weaver. Guest: Lourdes Gouveia. Skreija reported that he had met with UNO Ombudsman John J. McKenna who stated that he had had only one exit interview to date. Tilton-Weaver reported that she had conducted a “web” search regarding why faculty in general and especially minority and female faculty leave academic positions. She characterized the results as voluminous however mainly based on opinion and little information based on structured research. The committee decided to continue investigating what is available on the UNO campus regarding motivation faculty have for leaving. It also discussed the feasibility of forming focus groups on campus to ascertain how minority and female faculty feel about their jobs here at UNO.

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Bacon reported the following resolution was formulated by the committee, it was passed and will be brought before the full
Senate next week:

Whereas the University of Nebraska at Omaha is a metropolitan university of distinction, serving the needs of students from the entire metropolitan population, and

Whereas the Iowa counties of Pottawattamie, Mills and Harrison are economically, socially and culturally part of the greater Omaha metropolitan area, and

Whereas articulation agreements with Iowa Western Community College promise still greater integration of the curricula and degree programs of Iowa Western and UNO,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha strongly encourages the University of Nebraska to offer in-state tuition to residents of the three aforementioned Iowa counties for matriculation at UNO.

E. Committee on Rules: Senator Randall reported 484 ballots were mailed for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and 259 voting envelopes were returned. Of those, two ballots were returned in unsigned envelopes, one envelope was empty, one ballot had “abstain” written across it, and eighteen were returned after the deadline and were never opened. Thus, 237 ballots were counted. The results are as follows and will be moved at next week’s Senate meeting.

Regarding Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (For UNO Faculty Ballot Vote) (completion):

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 four nominees to serve a three-year term from October 16, 2005, through October 15, 2008, to replace retiring members, William Corcoran, and Carol Lloyd:

- Carey Ryan (tenured faculty) ELECTED
- John Noble (tenured faculty) ELECTED
- Dwight Haworth (tenured faculty)
- Richard Stacy (tenured faculty).

And one tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve a two-year term, to balance term endings, from October 16, 2005, through October 15, 2007, to replace retiring member Steven Williams:

- Robert Smith (tenured faculty)
- Joan Latchaw (tenured faculty). ELECTED

And one non-tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Carey Ryan, who has received tenure, from October 16, 2005,
through October 15, 2008:

Juan Casas (non-tenured faculty)
Peter Szto (non-tenured faculty). ELECTED

V Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Randall reported the Alumni Association met September 20, 2005. Discussion items included planning for the UNO centennial in 2008 and the association's contributions to that. Chancellor Belck updated the board on planning for South campus.

B. UNO Spirit Committee: Senator Bernstein submitted a report stating the Spirit Committee met and submitted the following proposal to the Chancellor for the 2005-2006 academic year:
   1. Sponsor one event per week to encourage participation in campus activities. Three of these events are to be organized events and one event is be a scheduled "Spirit Day."
   2. Promote "pride" in UNO by promoting the wearing of school colors and encouraging campus participation in service activities.
   3. Hold an end of year "finale", yet to be determined.

VII New Business

A. UCR Funding was discussed and President Glaser charged the Professional Development Committee with researching the stated objective or criteria for UCR funding and how and why the funds are distributed.

B. Faculty Grievance Committee: On behalf of the Executive Committee and Cabinet Senator Adkins moved the following, which passed and will be presented to the full Senate at next week’s meeting:

   Regarding Formation of Ad-hoc Committee on Faculty Grievance Committee Procedures:

   Be It Resolved, the Faculty Senate President will form an Ad-hoc Committee of three to five members to support the revision of Faculty Grievance Committee policies and procedures, especially with respect to time lines. The committee will report to the Senate before May

C. 12th Annual Bell Tower Challenge (10/19/05): Senator Glaser will ask for three Senate volunteers to be the Faculty Senate team.

X The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.