Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2006, 2 p.m., MBSC Dodge Rooms


Excused: Bernstein, Edick, Nordman, Pasco, Tilton-Weaver, Williams

Absent: Ottemann

Presentation: Chancellor Belck gave an overview of the UNO Ten Year Master Plan.

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

II. The March 8, 2006, minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Glaser reported:

1. Executive Committee and Administration met March 22, 2006. The Master Plan was discussed and Urban Design Associates will be coming to campus on 3/28 to report their progress. There was an extended discussion about the University Committee on Facilities Planning and what their role is regarding the Master Plan and other facility changes. Jim Buck will be calling a meeting to let that committee know about recent developments. We agreed that it is important that faculty attend as many programs as possible during Honors Week, that faculty are encouraged to attend the graduation ceremony, and participate in the May Advance. The search committee for the new IS&T dean is doing phone interviews. There is also a search committee for CEO of the Alumni Association. The four faculty senate presidents will meet with President Milliken for lunch on April 20th. It is anticipated that we will talk to him, again, about insurance and benefits, and on-going assessment efforts. I encourage you to tell me about other concerns you know the faculty have that would be appropriate to discuss.

2. Chancellor’s Council met March 23, 2006. Senator Shaw attended and reported the Food Court in Milo Bail Student Center is slated for expansion and renovation during Summer 2007. Seating will be upgraded to include booths and track lighting. The project is projected to cost $900,000, and funding is slated to come from "bond surplus money." This funding source requires approvals from the Board of Regents, the Post-Secondary Coordinating Commission, and the
Legislature. Food Services anticipates that service will remain available during the entire renovation, primarily in the Maverick Buffet. Honors Week is scheduled for April 3-7, with Faculty Honors Convocation on Thursday, April 6 and Student Honors Convocation on Friday, April 7. All four companies which responded to the Request for Proposal for Student Housing departed from the project parameters, so the RFP will be sent out a second time. Urban Design Associates is scheduled to return to campus on March 28 and 29 to meet with various groups about the Campus Master Plan, especially as it relates to developing Aksarben Village. Vice-Chancellor Christensen reported on progress in planning the renovation of the Engineering Building. Alternate space on campus has been found for all classes except those in Architecture. The particular needs of that program may require an off-campus location. Work continues to find space for KVNO/UNO TV and the Aviation Institute's Simulator. Vice-Chancellor Buck noted that several alternatives are being developed for relocating faculty and staff, and that he expects to call a meeting of the Facilities Planning Committee in early April to discuss them. Vice-Chancellor Christensen noted that the search for a new Dean for the College of Information Science and Technology is proceeding quickly. He also reported that the search for a new Dean for the College of Communications, Fine Arts, and Media remains incomplete. (Since this report was written, Gail Baker has been offered and has accepted the position.) Chancellor Belck reported that the candidates interviewed for CEO of the Alumni Association were all highly-qualified, and that she expects someone to be hired soon. During the roundtable part of the meeting, Shelton Hendricks (Dean, College of Arts and Sciences) reported that his college has scheduled a reception to recognize several part-time instructors for their excellence in teaching. I told him after the meeting that I would be sure that the Faculty Senate heard about this. We depend a lot on our part-time colleagues, and too often colleges and universities neglect to recognize their contributions.

3. Chancellor’s Written Response to Resolutions: The chancellor approves Resolution 2810, regarding nominations to the Student Publications Committee, and will appoint Marsha Kruger for a term beginning with the receipt of her letter of appointment. The chancellor acknowledges receipt of Res. 2813 regarding the Proposal for a School of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

A. Treasurer’s Report was submitted by Senator Shaw and was approved as written.

IV Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Anderson reported that the committee met March 29. Present: Deb Anderson, Scott Tarry, Mark Scherer, Randall Adkins, Peter Wolcott, & Nancy Edick. Guest: James Hulstein. Mr. Hulstein, Student Senate Representative, reported that undergraduate students often are unaware of the grade appeal process. He also reported that although the student handbook is available on-line, students either don’t know how to find it or they don’t look through it for the grade appeal policy. Further, he reported that each college has its own unique process and students may not be aware of this. After
much discussion, the committee decided to help James collect data regarding grade appeals in order to determine whether there is a need to include the policy on each syllabus. The committee is asking Academic and Student Affairs to make the student handbook more prominent on the UNO web-page so that students have easier access to academic policies. Also moved and passed was:

**Resolution 2814, 4/12/06: Student Rights and Policies:**

WHEREAS students have the right to be informed of policies and procedures governing academic and student affairs, and

WHEREAS the academic catalog is not prominently displayed on the UNO website, and

WHEREAS college policies and procedures governing academic and student affairs are displayed inconsistently,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the faculty senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha recommend that the UNO Administration make every effort to prominently display the undergraduate and graduate catalog as soon as possible.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the faculty senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha recommend that the colleges make every effort to prominently display college-level policies and procedures governing academic and student affairs.

B. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Watson reported the committee met on 29 March, 2006. Senators Pasco, Thorp, Shaw, Ortman, and Watson were in attendance. The committee reviewed and ranked the completed applications for the undergraduate full-time, graduate full-time, and graduate part-time Paul Beck Scholarships. No applications for the undergraduate part-time scholarship were submitted, so the $450 reserved for that scholarship was divided into thirds and added to the original awards. The committee awarded the scholarships as follows:

Undergraduate, Full-time ($1150.00):
   Winner: Melanie Hrabak
   Alternate: Anna Speed

Graduate, Full-time ($1150.00):
   Winner: Amanda Gerding
   Alternate: Todd Widhelm

Graduate, Part-time ($600.00):
   Winner: Julie Cherica
   Alternate: Linda Peterson

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Skreija reported the committee met March 29, 2006. Present: Stuart Bernstein, Barbara Hewins-Maroney, Lauree Tilton-Weaver, and Andris Skreija (Chair). Absent: Elaine Lahue and Graham
Mitenko. Members of the Committee continued discussing utilization of focus groups to gain insights regarding the intellectual and social climate on campus experienced by women and members of minority groups. At the moment the feeling is that the focus groups should meet during the 2006 Fall Semester; and we should have 3 groups. There was discussion of the kinds of topics the focus groups should consider. There was also some discussion regarding candidates for the focus group leader position. Among other issues, were the questions of availability and the leaders' schedules. There was further discussion regarding probable costs connected with these groups and possible sources of funding.

D. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Corcoran reported the committee met Mar 29, 2006. In attendance were: Steve Bullock, Bill Corcoran, Doug Paterson and Victor Winter. We considered funding possibilities for UCR, sponsored projects, and grant writing workshops. Essentially we agreed to the need for investigation of these areas to be able to make reasonable recommendations. Each of the attending members were assigned areas to investigate. There was also a concern with the ease of accessing of E-notes.

E. Committee on Rules: Senator Randall reported the meeting was held March 29, 2006. Incoming senators were assigned to standing committees. That list will be reported at the May meeting. We will compile the results of the Faculty Survey in April.

V Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON): Senator Paterson attended two meetings. The organization is concerned about the termination of a high school faculty member, feeling it has to do with the Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier ruling.

B. Academic Planning Council: Senator Reilly reported that the Program Reviews for Communication and Public Administration have been completed and are either in final draft form or have been sent and responded to. They both went very well.

C. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Randall reported the search is still ongoing for a new CEO. There are multiple exceptional candidates.

D. Graduate Council: Senator Paterson reported the Council has not been able to hold a meeting because there has not been a quorum. They will try again soon.

E. Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Bacon reported there was a presentation of Centennial plans for 2008. The Advance is May 8, 2006.

F. UNO Spirit Committee: SAC President Sweaney reported several events had been held and were well attended. Another event is planned for May to end the year. After a summer hiatus, the events will start again in the fall.

VI Old Business
A. Regarding Revision of Senate Bylaws and the Faculty Grievance Committee Policy and Rules of Procedure (from the Ad Hoc Committee): Discussion was opened on this resolution from the Ad Hoc Committee, distributed at last month’s meeting. Senators expressed four concerns:
1. That time lines were specified inconsistently,
2. That the rules omit explicit instruction on receipt of the ‘copy of any addendum from the grievant’ to be supplied with the report to the Chancellor,
3. That the revised rules omit the sentence "The reply shall include an explicit statement to the effect that the committee has been provided with all the information used by the respondent" contained in VII.B of the current rules, and,
4. Future application of the rules will be improved if the language clearly recognizes the need to treat 'materials which might reasonably be expected to be relevant' as required by the AAUP contract (section 3.8.2).

A motion was made and passed to refer the resolution to the ad-hoc committee to address the concerns recognized.

VII New Business:

A. Senator Bacon moved the following resolution, which was seconded and passed:

Resolution 2815, 4/12/06: 2005-06 Wrestling Team and Coach Mike Denney

WHEREAS the University of Nebraska at Omaha 2005-2006 wrestling team won both the National Dual Meet Championship and the NCAA Division II National Championship, bringing honor and recognition to the entire athletic program and to the University, and

WHEREAS this year’s championships continue a brilliant winning tradition for the wrestling team, and

WHEREAS the wrestling team maintains a collective 3.3 grade point average, epitomizing the best in student-athlete achievement,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha salutes the 2005-2006 wrestling team and Coach Mike Denney and his staff, wishing them and the wrestling program continued athletic and academic success.

VIII The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.