Executive Committee & Cabinet

Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2008, 2 p.m., MBSC State Room

Present: M. Bacon, Boucher, Boyer, Miller, Sollars, Tarry

Excused: Elder, Noble, Paterson

Absent: Gershovich

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

II. The August 6, 2008, minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sollars reported

1. The Chancellor’s Council met August 28, 2008. Lucas Seiler presented Student Government’s plan to present UNO with a Centennial Project gift of a Maverick statue to be placed on campus. Artists’ renderings will be obtained within the next few weeks. A crisis preparedness video called “Shots Fired” will be shown throughout the campus. The Emergency Preparedness Committee was asked to provide information about what would happen in the case of a violent attack on the UNO campus. It is difficult to detail response standards for each floor of each building. One of the videos is set on a college campus and plans are to use this video for students. This may also be the more appropriate video for use with faculty. Reserved funds (approx. 8 million) have been obtained to redevelop Roskens Hall. Many Elsevier journals and their online access have been cut resulting in a savings of $150,000 per year. The library will provide interlibrary loan for access to articles in those journals. Elsevier has consistently raised prices and not included online access to articles even when the library subscribes to the hard copy of the journal. Other Universities are also dropping the use of Elsevier journals. Centennial events have been announced for October 8-12. Note that some of the events require advance notification of attendance and some have a fee to attend. The Ward Connerly “American Civil Rights Institute” backed petition to end affirmative action had 136,000 signatures, more than the 112,000 needed to be placed on the ballot. UNO will continue to monitor the potential outcome of the passage of this initiative.

B. Treasurer’s Report: Senator Boucher presented the August Budget Report, which was approved.
IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Gershovich reported

The committee met for the first time this year on Wednesday, August 27. Present: John Bartle, Moshe Gershovich, Carson Holloway, Charles Johannasmeier, Carol Mitchell. Absent: Thomas Sires (new member of the faculty Senate and the committee, substituting for Senator George Morcous during F08). The meeting was devoted to a discussion of the revised proposal for an new B.S. in IT Innovation, submitted on August 19, 2008 by the College of Information Science and Technology. The original proposal, which had been submitted to the A&CA committee in late Spring 08, raised some profound questions which were articulated, during the summer, to Dr. Jerry Wagner, the initiator of the proposed B.S. Unfortunately, the revised draft of the proposal does not appear to have fully addressed those concerns. The committee decided therefore to invite Dr. Wagner, as well as a representative of the IS&T college (Dean Hesham Ali, or Associate Dean Deepak Khazanchi) for our meeting in September to further explore the matter.

B. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Boyer reported the committee met on August 28th. Members present: Boucher, Boyer, Kercher, Laquer, Ritzman, Stanton. Guests: John Fiene, Bret Blackman, and Lanyce Keel from ITS.
John Fiene discussed the drafts of two policies and asked for input. He hopes to finalize the “Restricted Data Security Policy” and the “University of Nebraska at Omaha Privacy Policy” by the end of the semester. UNO must make every effort to ensure that information such as Social Security Numbers, motor vehicle operator’s license numbers, credit or debit card numbers, or other sensitive data is made available only to people who need that information for a specific purpose. A form has been developed that employees would need to fill out and have approved in order to access restricted information. The privacy policy describes circumstances that may require UNO to access or monitor personal information.

**Other ITS issues discussed:**

**Blackboard upgrade:** Senator Ritzman indicated that the Grade Center in the new release of Blackboard was very slow and asked if there were plans to make it possible to save all grades at one time rather than save each grade individually. Lanyce Keel said she was aware the new release was slow and that she would look into what might be done. There is no plan to be able to save all grades at one time. On August 29, 2008, a fix to speed up the system was completed. Using Firefox version 2 was also encouraged.

**Email alternatives:** Senator Kercher asked if there were any possibility that email systems other than Lotus Notes might be possible. John Fiene explained that Lotus Notes was selected by Central Administration. The committee will draft a resolution requesting that alternative email systems be examined.

**Safe Assign:** Lanyce Keel provided a report of the Safe Assign Pilot Project. The pilot is going to be extended for 2008-2009 academic year because there are still some issues that have not been resolved.

**Automated Test Scanning:** Faculty members may drop off tests for scanning and the results will appear in faculty ebruno. Faculty will have to print or send emails to students. ITS will no longer print test results.

**SIS:** John Fiene indicated that a decision on a vendor for the new Student Information System would be made by the Board of Regents on September 5th. Implementation will take about 2 years. Committee members inquired as to whether existing data will be ported to the new system. There was also a discussion of how to engage faculty in the implementation process. Senator Boucher asked about the possibility of an electronic wait list for students trying to get into filled classes. This is currently available to CBA students but it was suggested that the new SIS system should have this feature so it might be best to wait until that is available.

**MAC users:** The committee express concern that not all applications are tested for MAC and that MAC users often have problems. John Fiene states that about one-fourth of ITS employees are MAC users and they try their best to test new applications.

**C. Committee on Rules:** Senator Miller reported the committee met August 27, 2008. Those present were: Present: N. Bacon, Bernstein, Chundi, Holley, Mitenko and Miller. Members of the Rules Committee discussed current committee openings on the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, the Faculty Grievance Committee, the Professional Conduct Committee, the Library and Learning Resources Committee and the Technology Resources and Services Committee. Data from the spring recruitment survey was used to select possible volunteers and committee members agreed on contact procedures. We hope to secure volunteers and have a slate.
prepared for the September Senate Meeting. The following resolutions were approved for the full Senate meeting next week:

1. **Resolution: Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (Senate then for UNO Faculty Ballot Vote):**

   **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. Two tenured faculty members will be elected from the following four nominees to serve three-year terms from October 16, 2008, through October 15, 2011, to replace John Noble and Carey Ryan, whose terms are expiring:

   - James Shaw (tenured)
   - Robert Smith (tenured)
   - Juliette Parnell (tenured)
   - Jayaram Betanabhatla (tenured).

2. **Resolution: UNO Faculty Grievance Committee (for Faculty Senate Ballot Vote)**

   **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.

   Two Associate Professors will be elected from the following four nominees to replace Chris Marshall and Victor Winter, for a three-year term from September 16, 2008, through September 15, 2011:

   - Franklin Thompson, (Associate Professor)
   - Maria Villamil, (Associate Professor)
   - Janice Rech, (Associate Professor)
   - Matthew Harden, (Associate Professor).

   One member of the Faculty Senate Faculty Personnel and Welfare committee will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Jack Heidel as the Faculty Personnel and Welfare Committee representative for a one-year term from September 16, 2008, through September 15, 2009:

   - Karen Dwyer
   - Jay White.

3. **Resolution: UNO Professional Conduct Committee (for Faculty Senate Ballot Vote)**

   **BE IT RESOLVED,** that one representative must be elected by ballot vote to
serve a three-year terms from September 16, 2008, through September 15, 2011, to replace outgoing member Bob Nash. 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:

Joe Bertinetti  
Joyce Neujahr.

The newly elected representatives will also serve as alternates for three-years from September 16, 2011, through September 15, 2014.

Bob Nash will continue serving as an alternate(s) (replacing Kathleen Danielson) for three-years, from September 16, 2008, through September 15, 2011, per Resolution R2803.

4. Resolution to Fill the Library and Learning Resources Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward to complete terms on the Library and Learning Resources Committee:

James Hagen (to complete Jeanne Harrington term: 8/1/06-7/31/09)  
____________ (to complete Karen Hein’s term: 8/1/07-7/31/10).

5. Resolution to Fill the Technology Resources and Services Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following names go forward to complete terms on the Technology Resources and Services Committee:

Donald Rowen (to complete John Reidelbach’s term: 8/1/06-7/31/09)  
Joyce Neujahr (to complete Karen Hein’s term: 8/1/07-7/31/10).

The committee also discussed the designated senate issue: “University Committees need to MEET”. The committee agreed to make contact with 15 university committees this fall. Rules committee members will share the following information when they make their contact: (1) Verify the name of the chairperson and thank them for their service. (2) Ask if they have a current membership list for their committee or explain how to find that list. (3) Encourage them to contact committee members and schedule regular meetings. Committee contact assignments were agreed upon and should be completed by September 24.

VI. Old Business

Senator Sollars presented statistics regarding the Thompson Learning Community:

78 new this Fall  
68 are first-time freshman  
5 sophomores
4 juniors
1 senior
29 students are from Underrepresented populations (37%)
49 students are First Generation College Students (63%)

**Race/Ethnicity**
- Asian/Pacific Islander - 2;
- African American/Black - 15;
- Hispanic - 9;
- Indian/Alaskan - 1;
- Unknown - 2;
- White - 49

**Gender**
- Female - 44;
- Male - 34

**Colleges**
- Arts and Sciences - 21;
- Business Administration - 19;
- Public Affairs and Community Service - 4;
- Communication, Fine Arts, and Media - 3;
- Education 3; Engineering (UNL) - 5;
- Information Science and Technology - 3;
- University Division - 20

**ACT**
- 19 & below - 13;
- 20-23 - 23;
- 24-28 - 29;
- 29 & above - 3

**Fall Housing**
- On Campus - 30;
- Off Campus - 48

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**VIII. New Business**

**A. The “Green Omaha Coalition”**

wanted to know if Faculty Senate has an interest in working with them on sustainability issues within the Senate and/or across campus. [www.greenomahacoalition.org](http://www.greenomahacoalition.org). One of the Coalition’s founding partners is UNO. However, they are only a year-old organization and are looking for inroads to working with UNO. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed, consisting of Senators Sollars and Boucher, Professor Adkins, and Coordinator Bishop, to see if there is an interest in collecting more information.

**B. The University-Wide Calendar** was sent to the Faculty Personnel and Welfare Committee to review

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X. The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

XI. A video called “Shots Fired” was presented by Mary Sweaney, from UNO Hr, to those
members of the EC&C who could stay after the meeting.