Present: Adams, Eesley, Elder, Grams, Miller, Nash, Ostler, Woody

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Vice President Grams

II. The Minutes of January 4, 2017, were accepted as written.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Woody wrote to all faculty February 1, 2017

Among members of the faculty and staff, there is understandable widespread concern about a possible budget reduction for the 2018-2019 biennium. Chancellor John Christensen, Senior Vice Chancellor B. J. Reed, and Vice Chancellor Bill Connolly have given assurances that they will keep faculty and staff members informed. From my several meetings with senior administrators, the message has been reassuring, namely there have been no irrefutable decisions, the competency of the NU leadership is impressive, and there is no reason for any emotionality (my term).

NU President Bounds has said, of course, that he wants to shelter the academic sector. I believe that he and our UNO senior administrators will be, as much as possible, safeguarding all sectors of UNO.

As you may have seen in newspaper accounts, President Bounds is monitoring proposed sizeable expenditures from UNO (i.e., $10,000 or more). An NU colleague provided me with the number for requests to fill open UNL faculty and staff positions and the number that was authorized by President Bounds; reportedly, he approved the majority of the requests (the only requests denied were for staff, not faculty).

President Bounds held a meeting with the four Faculty Senate Presidents. He provided details about the Budget Response Team, described in previous emails. The bottom line, so to speak, was: yes, the academic sector will receive optimum protection, but the next few years will likely bring a rather flat trajectory for State revenues, which will require reasonable accommodation by the campuses. As reported by the UNO administration, thus far, there have been no specific decisions about budget issues.

Relevant to budgeting, NU President Hank M. Bounds will conduct an open forum on the budget process on February 3rd at 1:30 p.m. in the UNO Alumni Center. I encourage everyone to attend the forum and “engage” in the budget process as much as seems appropriate.

At the January meeting the NU Board of Regents received budget-related information. The estimated shortfall is, indeed, significant and must be dealt with in an immediate and efficacious manner (however, specific numbers, such as what will be finalized governmentally, are still unknown). As a point of reference: (1) The State’s financial growth and allocations, although deserving of appreciation, have not
kept pace with inflation impacting State agencies (including NU). It was quipped that the only remedy would seemingly be for the State’s population to increase. (2) The campus budgets have the following approximate State-related expenditures: salaries and benefits, 81%; utilities, 6%; and other, 13%. There are, of course, some funds that are restricted (e.g., from the Foundation) and other revenues and expenditures. (3) It is important for decisions, including from governmental sources, to recognize the long-term benefits that the higher education system brings to Nebraska (e.g., training health care professionals and personnel for other critical jobs, and impact on the overall economy for the State). President Bounds emphasized that, although tuition will likely need to be raised and cuts in expenditures will be needed, the fundamental objective is to protect academic integrity and affordability for students. Budget reports shall be submitted by March 27th and the Budget Steering Committee will report to the Chancellors by April 10th.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Report: Senator Eesley reported

1. EC&A: January 18, 2017
   Senators: Dale Eesley, Laura Grams, Robert Nash, Robert Woody
   Administrators: Chancellor Christensen, SVC BJ Reed, VC William Conley,
   AVC Deborah Smith-Howell, Vice Chancellor Dan Shipp
   - Chancellor Christiansen: Shared a fact sheet on NU. Will have one
devolved more specifically for UNO. The numbers could get worse than the $13
million – has the potential to be raised up to $20 million. The appropriations
committee is aware of the impact of these issues and may not make all of the
proposed cuts. Will know more in February. He believes President Hank Bounds
is doing a very good job advocating for NU. He publicly has stated that he wants
to protect academic affairs to the extent possible. NU share of state budget has
dropped significantly, and in real inflation-adjusted dollars has decreased over
time.
   - SVC BJ Reed: There are a large number of task forces working on budget
cuts. They have 75 days and will report to President Bounds. We have no target
or clear direction from the President’s office what that means for academic and
student affairs. Bounds wants vertical rather than horizontal cuts. Deans will be
looking at academic and research priorities in order to be prepared. At the right
time, faculty will be brought into the process after some preliminary work and
data collection has been made. UNO is 16% of the budget, may not be treated
proportionately.
   - Vice Chancellor Conley: This budget cut is being handled differently than he
has seen before. The President isn’t passing down a certain number to cut.
Faculty should attend the February 3rd forum: strategic planning in the morning
and budget in the afternoon.
   - Bill Conley will send information about parking options in the West garage or
CEC for faculty senators from Scott campus.
   - President Woody addressed the issue of coordinating UNO security related
personnel/units. Campus sponsored international travel with students is adopting
some standardized set of policies for information collection, travel policies.
   - Bill Conley mentioned that emergency services have been moved to public
safety. Baxter Arena security has been brought in-house. We may partner on
dispatch or other ways with UNMC. UNO public safety will eventually have
more of a sworn-officer approach, with 50% of the force as sworn officers.
Currently, funding is inadequate. Currently, we have four sworn officers. Neither UNMC or Kearney have any sworn officers.

### 2016-2017 Resolution Action Table

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<tr>
<th>Res. #</th>
<th>Date Senate Passed</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Admin Accept</th>
<th>Sent for Senate Action</th>
<th>Denied</th>
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<td>Development of Task Force to Examine the Role of Part-time Faculty in the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s Strategic Mission</td>
<td>5/20/15</td>
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**TO BE FOLLOWED UP**

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<td>5/13/16</td>
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**CARRIED FORWARD**

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2. **Treasurer’s Report**: Senator Eesley (January 2017) (agenda attachment– pg. 10)

### IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. **Committee on Educational Resources & Services**: Senator Eesley reported
   In attendance: Senators Azadmanesh, Eesley, Kelley, Nordness, Robins

1. **Digital Measures Update w/Candice Batton**: *(to ER&S 11/3/16)*
   **Memo from Candice Batton**: See Attachment pg.11-12. Senator Azadmanesh felt that DM still did not meet specific departmental/college needs. He will check with his department chair to see if he is familiar templates for customizing reports from DM and if they meet the departmental/college requirements.

2. **Disability Letters, etc.** *(to ER&S 8/17/16)* To reorganize how disability letters are sent out. Rather than one letter per student have one letter listing students for each faculty member. There should be a follow-up with information/instructions so faculty know how to apply accommodations.
   **Committee, based on information provided by Senator Nordness, recommends not change to this practice. Faculty are responsible for getting clarification about how to apply accommodations.**

3. **Blackboard/Canvas** *(to ER&S 8/17/16)* There were questions about a possible move to Canvas from Blackboard, and the testing process of Canvas. Karen Hein will be invited to discuss FCE/API and matters related to the discussion of adopting Canvas vs. Blackboard. ER&S will also invite a Canvas expert from UNL, such as the UNL Faculty Senate President, and Bret Blackman, Chief Information Office, Information Services to discuss the topic further.
   **Canvas Task Force Agenda from Joyce Crockett.** *(See attachment – pg. 13)*

4. **Class Scheduling/Classroom Space** *(to ER&S, 10/14/15)*
   **Phone call with Alison Junker**: There is an informal agreement that departments get to fill it specially designed classrooms first, but then anything left open Alison
is free to schedule. They get to assign classes to the room, and submit to Alison, who prioritizes those requests. For Fall 2017, she needs them before she begins scheduling February.

5. **Speaker for International Programs:** On 12/14/16 or 1/11/17 Faculty Senate Mtg.? Sent to Educational Resources & Services Committee to decide if a presentation is necessary or if this information can be put in writing and sent to the Senators (sent to ER&S 11/2/16). Committee recommends to EC&C to request a memo. Faculty Senate time should not be used for outside groups to provide information that is not controversial and / or requires input from faculty.

6. **Request for Blackboard Information to be Retained:** (to ER&S 11/2/16)

   Email Received 11/1/16:
   “I suggest we consider asking that “gradebook” information be retained on Blackboard (and Canvas if we switch) for 3 years. It is currently saved for 2 years (6 semesters including summer semesters). Faculty are “strongly encouraged” to save grade information for 3 years. The online gradebook included in Blackboard is a convenient and secure location to have the information stored. Yes, we can download the information and save it, but then we need to worry about keeping it secure to comply with privacy laws and policies, whereas it is already secure on Blackboard. “

   Not addressed at this meeting, remains pending

PENDING:

1. **Class Scheduling/Classroom Space** (to ER&S, 10/14/15) (dismissed by EC&C 2/1/17)

2. **Blackboard/Canvas** (to ER&S 8/17/16) There were questions about a possible move to Canvas from Blackboard, and the testing process of Canvas. Karen Hein will be invited to discuss FCE/API and matters related to the discussion of adopting Canvas vs. Blackboard. ER&S will also invite a Canvas expert from UNL, such as the UNL Faculty Senate President, and Bret Blackman, Chief Information Office, Information Services to discuss the topic further. (dismissed by EC&C 2/1/17)

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3. **Disability Letters, etc.** (to ER&S 8/17/16) To reorganize how disability letters are sent out. Rather than one letter per student have one letter listing students for each faculty member. There should be a follow up with information/instructions so faculty know how to apply accommodations.
4. Digital Measures Update w/ Candice Batton: (to ER&S 11/3/16) (dismissed by EC&C 2/1/17)

5. Speaker for International Programs: On 12/14/16 or 1/11/17 Faculty Senate Mtg.? Sent to Educational Resources & Services Committee to decide if a presentation is necessary or if this information can be put in writing and sent to the Senators. (sent to ER&S 11/2/16). (dismissed by EC&C 2/1/17)

6. Disability Designation Process/Testing Center Capabilities (from Gary Krause) (to ER&S 1/4/17)
   Senator Grams will make the first reply to Prof. Krause. This issue was sent to the ER&S Committee to look at, to the extent that these issues overlap with other ER&S Pending items.

B. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Elder reported the Committee met on Wed Jan 25.
   Present: Dale Tiller, Joy Chao, John Noble, Griff Elder, Juan Casas
   Driving conditions/class conflicts prevented Pauline Brennan and Marshall Prisbell from being there.
   Agenda: UNO’s practice and policy regarding Green Card expenses for International Hires.
   We created a document that records the facts, as we are aware of them, and are in the process of confirming these facts with James McCarty.

PENDING:
1. UNO Constituency Safety & Well-being: (in Faculty Personnel & Welfare, 5/15)
   Senator Scherer reported better education, coordination and communication of information to all constituencies on how to facilitate the health, safety and well-being of ALL of its constituents:
   a. Student Safety Website—very impressive but would like to see a Faculty and Staff Safety website
   b. Confusion on resources for faculty staff (Ombudsmen, EAP person, counseling, Behavioral Review Team, etc.). What information is confidential? What is not? Where to go?
   c. BRT: Student Concerns—Student is the focal person or person of concern and faculty, staff and students can report here? If is the person of concern is a faculty or student, where does a faculty or staff person report? What are the mechanisms for dealing with the issue(s)?
      • On 10/12/16 this topic will be postponed until March 2017.
2. Green Card Green Card expenses for international hires.
   • We have decided to postpone this issue until January when Joy Chao comes off of FDF and returns to the committee. We need her experience to help us understand this topic.
3. Wellness Initiative concerning HPER fees and possible consultant. (8/17/16 goal of FP&W)
4. Bias Assessment Response Team
   Sent to the Faculty Personnel & Welfare Committee to decide if a presentation is
necessary or if this information can be put in writing and sent to the Senators.
(Sent to FP&W 11/2/16).

C. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Ostler reported the Committee met January 25, 2017.

In Attendance: Dan Hawkins, Elliott Ostler, Richard Stacy

The Goals and Directions Committee met to discuss its part in the UNO Strategic Plan with Dr. Deb Smith-Howell. She talked in detail about the University’s Strategic Plan, how the Colleges are interacting with the university plan, and what Goals and Direction could do to assist. Additionally, given the current national political climate, G&D discussed the possibility of plans aimed at supporting our international students. Finally, we continue to discuss actions that can be taken to help with recruitment for Faculty Senate and other important university committees.

Pending:

1. Facilities Planning & Faculty Representation (Sent to G&D 2/10/16)

As important and continuous decisions are made regarding facilities and facilities planning on campus, we would like to see more faculty involvement in these plans, and be allowed frequent opportunities to engage in discussion with administration about facilities planning. The one committee the Faculty Senate is aware of is the University Committee on Facilities Planning, which meets once a year. The University Committee on Technology Resources, Services & Planning meets more frequently, but its primary focus is on the technology needs of the campus.


3. Unit Based Recruiting. Units/faculty being involved in recruiting at unit level. (Sent to G&D 8/17/16)

4. How to Encourage Faculty to Serve on Faculty Senate (12/7/16 sent to G&D)

D. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Adams reported the Committee met on January 25th.

Present: Senators Adams, Winter, Feng, Nordman Excused: Senator Boron

Scott Snyder, Chief Research Officer and President of the Nebraska Applied Research Institute (NARI) generously spent the entire meeting with us.

Snyder shared the history and current status of NARI and elaborated on:
- the three core operations—Data Science, Modeling, and Cyber Security
- Opportunities for faculty to utilize NARI equipment/facilities for research and teaching
- the potential for faculty, departments, and programs to develop curriculum to integrate with NARI
- the potential for workforce based opportunities for students
- the contract based model for research, where NARI hires researchers to help faculty with projects that come via NARI or those that faculty bring to NARI
- the potential for NARI and NARI related projects to add GTA/RA lines as well as undergraduate internships
- the First Data building and plans for remodeling

Much of the information shared with is available on the NARI website:
http://www.unomaha.edu/research/nebraska-applied-research-institute/index.php

As a committee, we asked questions about how money will move through NARI.
to faculty as well as how faculty doing research through NARI will have that work valued by RPT committees particularly when faculty engagement in contract based work may not lead at all or as quickly to traditional forms of publication. Snyder assured us that processes would be in place to make sure financial resources from these projects would be properly channeled to faculty, programs, and departments. He was receptive to the need for continued work with RPT committees, programs, and departments to make sure NARI related projects are supported and valued by RPT.

Given that our committee’s questions were addressed, if there are no further questions or concerns from the full Faculty Senate, this item will be considered complete by our committee.

Because Scott spent an hour with us, we did not get to any other business, so our review of FDF and intellectual property documents will resume at our February meeting (those should be the other old business items from prior reports).

**PENDING:**

1. **10/2016:** We are interested to learn more about the newly formed [Nebraska Applied Research Institute](https://www.nari.unl.edu) and how the institute supports faculty research across disciplines (or if it is particularly focused on select disciplines/lines of inquiry) (PD 10/2016) (dismissed by EC&C 2/1/17)

2. **10/2016:** Given a growing number of questions and concerns about Faculty Professional Development Leave policies/procedures, our committee will be gathering information (policies/procedures) at all levels (regents, university, colleges, departments) and comparing those documents in order to explore questions, including:
   a. Can faculty get a full year of leave if waiting until 12 years of service instead of at 6 years?
   b. What are the earning restrictions while on leave (sabbatical)?
   c. What documents govern how leave is prioritized/awarded?
   d. What are the criteria for leave across colleges/departments? How consistent are these?
   e. Who all reviews and/or weighs in on these decisions?
   f. What language does the AAUP contract have regarding leave/sabbatical?

3. **10/2016:** Concerns have been raised about the ownership of research/creative activity/intellectual property, particularly with regard to software, but we are exploring this issue broadly, with the following questions:
   a. What policies/practices describe intellectual property?
   b. How does ownership of intellectual property work with “new” technologies, like the Digital Commons?
   c. How or to what extend are royalties/fees received from books, research, or creative activities impacted?

   [Because Victor Winter raised this issue but was not at our meeting, we are asking him to speak more about this at our next meeting. Depending on where this goes, we may need to talk with administrators from a range of offices as well as the Dean of the Library]

**E. Committee on Rules:** Senator Nash reported the Committee met on January 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Criss Library Faculty Study.

*Present:* Samantha Clinkinbeard, Jeremy Johnson, Olivier LaForge, Bob Nash, Kathy Peterson.
Absent: Paul Landow (excused).

Olivier LaForge (Finance, Banking & Real Estate) was welcomed to the committee as a replacement for Wei Rowe for the remainder of the spring 2017 semester.

The annual “Committee Service Preference” survey is scheduled to be mailed out to all faculty members by February 10.

Work on making Faculty Senate standing committee assignments for 2017-2018 will begin when this year’s election results are known.

In finding a mid-year replacement for the University Committee on Excellence in Teaching, it was learned that Faculty Senate resolution #2527 (December 13, 2000) originally specified that one committee member should be a “first year faculty member holding a Ph.D.” The Rules Committee will be reviewing this stipulation, and clarifying the rationale behind it.

The following resolution was passed by the EC&C and will be presented to the full Senate next week:

RESOLUTION: Replacement on University Committee on Excellence in Teaching

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following faculty member is recommended to complete the one-year term of service (08/01/16-07/31/17) of Jennifer Harbour, who resigned January 2017 from the position of first-year faculty member:

Matthew Patton, new faculty member holding Ph.D. (to replace Jennifer Harbour) (term: 08/01/16-07/31/17).

F. Committee on Academic & Curricular Affairs: Senator Miller reported the Committee met at the Criss Library on 1/25/17 at 2:30 p.m.
Present: Stu Bernstein, Jodi Kreiling and Holly Miller
Absent: Ken Dick, Laura Grams and Burch Kealey

Committee members discussed the Center for Human Rights proposal. Several question arose that need further discussion. Since a quorum wasn’t present, voting was postponed on the Center for Human Rights and the UNO Academic Integrity Procedures and Policy.

The next A & CA committee meeting is set for 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 in Criss Library.

PENDING:
1. Request for Faculty Working Committee for Definition/Discussion of Student Academic Integrity (from Candice Batton) (to AC&A 1/6/16)
2. Review of Center for Human Rights (to A&CA 11/1/16)

V. Old Business

A. Proposed response on Re: SR 16/17-009 (Senator Woody) The following note will be sent to Student Government President:

Dear President Davlin:

On behalf of the UNO Faculty Senate, I express appreciation for the concern about instructors’ use of learning management systems (LMS). The resolution from the Student Government was considered by the Committee on _____. However, The
Faculty Senate Parliamentarian reported provided a reminder that the Bylaws of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents specify that all decisions about academic matters shall be made by the faculty. The views expressed by the Student Government will, of course, be given appropriate consideration in the future.

Thank you for your information.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Woody
President, UNO Faculty Senate

PENDING

A. Grading Policy Change for “F” “FW” Grades (Policy draft 11/02/15 by Financial Support and Scholarships Office, updated 11/15/15.) (Another issue to note is verification of attendance.) (Fall 2016 w/ Senator Grams and Executive Committee)

B. Regulated Data (to EC&A agenda 10/2016)
And Retain Data on Blackboard, etc., for at least 3 years. (EC&A agenda 12/21/16)

C. Summer Work: The EC&C saw that the matter of service in summer months was added to the September 2016 EC&A agenda to start discussion with administration. Most faculty have 9-month/academic year contract, so on-going service on university committees, task forces, etc. which meet during the summer months is, as yet, unpaid. (See also standing committees working on aspects: A&CA, FP&W 8/17/16.)

D. UNO Public Safety Document (Director, Charlotte Evans (12/7/16 Senator Elder volunteered to work on this.)

E. Student Government LMS Resolution, 12/1/16: Learning Management System Requirement. (to EC&C 1/4/16 Pending) This issue was discussed and the EC&C are working on a response. President Woody will write a brief response, quoting Board of Regents Policies, acknowledging the Student Government Resolution. It will be discussed more in February.

F. Participation in UNO Faculty Senate (Fall 2016 to EC&C Pending)
1. Need to encourage and strengthen participation on UNO Faculty Senate.
2. One possibility might be to change the FS Constitution
3. Discussions with Colleges
4. Go to Chairperson mentor(s)?
5. Go to Board of Chairs

VI. New Business

A. Faculty Senate Membership Changes:
1. A&S Senator Jessiline Anderson resigned from the Senate in January 11, 2017, due to class scheduling. Dr. Juan Casas, Psychology, will complete the term to May 10, 2017. He will also take her place on the FP&W Committee.
2. CBA Senator Wei Rowe has a class scheduling conflict for Spring 2017. Dr. Olivier Maisondieu Laforge, Finance, Banking & Real Estate, will temporarily replace her for Spring 2017 only. He will also temporarily take her place on the Rules Committee.
3. CBA Senator Jinlan Ni has a class scheduling conflict for Spring 2017. Dr. Zhigang Feng, Economics, will temporarily replace her on both the Senate and P.D. Committee for Spring 2017 only.

B. Military-Affiliated Mural:
Rec: 1/26/17
Mr. Anthony Flott, Dr. Bob Woody, and Ms. Sue Bishop:
The Office of Military and Veteran Services at UNO is creating a military-affiliated mural in the Milo Bail Student Center. This is a great opportunity for military-affiliated students, staff, faculty, and alumni to share their experiences by sending in photos of themselves and/or their family members in uniform. Mr. Cecil Hicks suggested that we contact you in regards to pushing this out to the faculty, staff, and alumni of UNO. Your support in this project would be greatly appreciated! Included in this message is the email campaign we sent to our students for your reference and convenience. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kirsten Lewis
Assistant Veterans Coordinator for Outreach
Office of Military and Veteran Services I MBSC 117
University of Nebraska at Omaha I military.unomaha.edu

This issue will be passed to the full Senate next week.

C. CourseLeaf: Senator Grams
Rec: 1/30/17
I've heard some concerns about CourseLeaf from department chairs, since they are having to make numerous changes via the Registrar's office that departments are supposed to be able to handle themselves now. There are also notes and enrollment restrictions departments cannot even see or change from their end.

This issue will be sent to the Board of Chairs.

D. Immigration Ban: The following resolution was moved by Senator Grams. It was passed and will be sent to the full Senate next week.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS the Message from the University of Nebraska Leadership on the Recent Executive Order on Immigration dated January 30, 2017 states that,

"Together our campuses make up a richly diverse community of scholars from around the globe, representing countless ethnicities, faiths, backgrounds and academic disciplines - all brought together by a common desire to learn, to create a better future, and to use the power of education to change the world.

“Our diversity is what makes the University of Nebraska an outstanding institution of higher learning. Universities like ours have a proud history of serving as talent magnets, where the best minds come to the table to solve the world's biggest challenges.

“Today those challenges are great. Cancer, hunger, poverty, infectious disease, climate change, national security. These demand the world's best thinking. Now, more than ever, we must be more inclusive, not less. And universities should lead the way.

“Our pledge to you is that the University of Nebraska will keep working every
day to be the place where all feel welcome, valued, and safe. Where each student has access to an excellent education and our faculty and staff are able to pursue their world-class work."

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska Omaha reaffirms the values of the university as stated in this Message.

VII. **The meeting adjourned** at 3:50 p.m. with announcements.

VIII. **Announcements**

A. **Faculty Senate Mtg:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 2 p.m., CEC 230/231 (Presentation: Matt Morton, Phishing, etc.)

B. **EC&A Mtg:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2 p.m., EAB 200

C. **EC&C Mtg:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 2 p.m., ASH 196

D. **Faculty Senate Mtg:** Wednesday, **March 8, 2017,** 2 p.m., **CBA / MH 218**

E. **Faculty/Staff Awards Banquet:** Wednesday, April 26, 2017, *(Probably MBSC Ballroom, 6:30 p.m. Social, 7:15 p.m. Dinner.)* Invitations will be sent, RSVP required.

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<td>June 1</td>
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<td><em>July 6 (July 4th is on Monday)</em></td>
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<td><em>August 10</em></td>
<td>August 17, 2016 (Retreat) <em>(3rd Wednesday)</em></td>
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<td>December 7 <em>(Prep Week 12/5-10/2016)</em></td>
<td>December 14 <em>(Finals 12/12-15/16)</em></td>
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<td><em>(Commencement 12/16/16)</em></td>
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<td>January 4th <em>(Semester begins 1/9/17)</em></td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>March 8 <em>(Spring Break 3/19-26/17)</em> <strong>MH 218</strong></td>
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