



**2020-2021 Faculty Senate
Minutes
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
Zoom**

I. Official Call to Order: President Ostler at 2:03 p.m.

II. Minutes of November 11, 2020 were not voted upon to be approved.

*New language for President Ostler's proposal were not included in the minutes;
approval has been delayed until January's meeting*

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report: Senator Ostler

1. Academic Calendar Considerations: As you all know, the Academic and Curricular Affairs Committee is conducting a survey on the viability of a J-Term, which would be an optional and independent 3-week term in January (please respond to this survey if you have not already done so). Currently there is a great deal of interest in this option among the students, and other NU campuses have discussed J-term and various additional modified calendar options as well. With many discussions happening now, the NU System has stated that students might benefit from being on a system-wide calendar as opposed to having 4 distinct calendars because there are students who are enrolled in courses on multiple campuses and find themselves having to navigate different calendars. As a result, discussions on a unified system-wide calendar have re-emerged. The NU system is taking feedback from the campus administrations on calendar questions so it is likely that they will be interested in our findings. Be prepared for this topic to emerge again and be prepared to answer questions about the logistics of various calendars. If you have questions, please let me know so I can carry information forward to Academic Affairs.
2. Reminder of Distinguished Professor applications/nominations: Last year at this time, SVC Kopp initiated a program of *Auxiliary Appointments* to the Faculty Contract including Distinguished Associate Professor, Distinguished Professor, and Distinguished Lecturer Appointments. This was supported with a formal Faculty Senate Resolution last year. A unique nomination/application, and selection process will be carried out within each of the colleges and annual honorariums will be significant. A formal nomination process has been approved for several of the colleges and these appointments are about to be named. Please be looking for the nomination criteria from your resident college.
3. Chancellor's Search Update: The search firm AGB Search has been selected to guide the search for the next UNO Chancellor. President Carter has stated that this search needs to include as much input as possible from UNO students, Staff, and Faculty, and should include significant input from the Omaha community as well. To that end, the Search Advisory Committee has been involved in monitoring and advising on several Listening Sessions that have happened over the past two weeks. These listening sessions were well attended and included

some good commentary, but we still expect and need more input to develop the Position Profile so that we can effectively recruit the best candidates. We are looking for a candidate that understands UNO's position in the Omaha Community, understands our unique contributions to the NU system as a Metropolitan Institution with close ties to the community, and will build on our academic strengths and community partnerships in a way that honors our existing needs/plans but also with a vision of growth for the future. AGB and the Search Advisory Committee are still collecting data from students, staff, faculty and community members. If you want to contribute, please forward comments and perceptions to either or both of the following addresses:

- a. Sally.mason@agbsearch.com
 - b. Garry.owens@agbsearch.com
4. The Office of Digital Learning and the Center for Faculty Development have been offering courses in "Humanizing Online" in response to student requests for Zoom delivered instruction to be more interactive and social. The Digital Learning crew made a limited number of spaces available for online training in Humanizing Online. Demand is approximately triple what they had originally anticipated but they are still hoping more people sign up. For more information on schedules/dates go online to Information Technology Services <https://www.unomaha.edu/academic-affairs/digital-learning/programs/faculty-development.php>

B. Secretary's Report on EO&A Meeting: Senator Surface

1. F&A Response from SVC Kopp (Attachment 2): The ER and S committee is working on the topic of F and A allocations. The document (attachment 2) that you see has been collected from most of our Deans. It is important to note that every college will typically have different procedures. ER and S will continue working on this, and if you have questions that you would like to have addressed, I encourage you to send an email to the chair of the ER and S committee, Senator Richard Stacy. stacy@unomaha.edu
2. Discussions were held about the COVID-19 virus and the University's current challenges. The campus rate of transmission is low and is likely between roommates.
3. For the Spring semester, a requirement for COVID-19 testing before entering campus in the spring is highly expected.
4. Because of issues with Fee's courses must remain either on-line or face-to-face for the entire semester.
5. Dr. Kopp reported that the spring semester student enrollments for undergraduates are down. Graduate courses are slightly up. We are encouraged to do what we can to connect and encourage our students to continue their studies.
6. The group discussed the Chancellor search. Dr. Kopp commented that a significant draw to campus might well be the healthy collaboration between the faculty and administration. **He was especially complimentary of the faculty senate for our work with the administration.**
7. The group honored Matt Hale for his work of creating a solid collaborative environment with his leadership. Matt will finish his leadership with the Senate at the December Senate meeting. Thank you, Matt!

8. Cathy Pettid reported that President Carter is preparing a fund for students who need depression or other medication but either cannot afford it or do not want to share the information with their parents to use the family's health insurance.

Res.#	Date Senate Passed	Title	Admin Accept	Sent for Senate Action	Denied/Deferred/In Progress	Final Action/Resolved
4422	11/11/20	Faculty Advancement Resolution				Resolved
4423	11/11/20	Bylaw Change				Resolved

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Wessling

1. Emailed faculty FAQ document Nov. 11, 2020
2. Senator Stacy gave approval to directly send faculty concerns/questions to AAUP instead of going through the Educational Resources & Services committee. Document was sent Nov. 11, 2020
3. Reviewed small set of questions and concerns generated by the FAQ doc. These will be forwarded to SVC Kopp. A new FAQ's doc will be sent out to faculty along with the proposed academic calendar.
4. Faculty will be survey Nov 20-Dec 4 to discern their current stance on the J Term. A two-week survey window is a good faith effort to gather as many faculty responses as possible. ACAC will use the survey results to make a recommendation or resolution to faculty senate at the Jan faculty senate meeting.
5. SG President Jabin Moore has extended an invitation for ACAC members to attend SG's Dec. 3rd meeting to discuss the J term and proposed calendar. We have accepted his invitation and requested a list of questions or topics they would like us to address.

B. Committee on Educational Resources & Services: Senator Stacy

1. **Facilities and Administration (F&A) Issues**
 - a. The Committee postponed discussion of F&A issues until the January meeting
2. **Paul Beck Memorial Scholarship**
 - a. There are no updates on the Scholarship
3. **Student Fees**
 - a. The Committee discussed the memorandum from Chancellor Gold about student concerns with fee issues. It was consensus of members that the Chancellors message was satisfactory and there is no need for further discussion or resolutions on the topic.
4. **Open Educational Resources (OER)**
 - a. Jaci Lindberg met with the Committee to explain OER and to answer questions from the members. She is asking that ER&S support the concept and seek support from the full Senate. Full discussion among members was postponed until the January meeting when Jaci again will be present

5. Class Size and How Class Size is Determined

- a. Class size and how determinations of class size across campus are made will be discussed at the January meeting

C. Faculty Personnel & Welfare Committee: Senator Helm

1. We continue to work on developing a flow chart that will provide easy and informed access to university resources available to faculty seeking a resolution to a conflict.
 - a. We had a productive discussion with Laura Wakefield. While her role in HR is primarily staff related, she did introduce us to a number of resources available to faculty regarding educating individuals prior to and following a conflict
Laura recommended that we have a conversation with Vanessa Warren, HR's Academic Human Resources Officer, to learn more about the services HR provides to faculty regarding conflict resolution
2. We communicated with Cathy Pettid regarding BRT services for faculty. Cathy explained the while faculty would never be excluded from BRT services it is a resource designed primarily for student related issues. However, during the COVID pandemic faculty are expected to utilize the BRT for all COVID related problems.
3. With the objective of completing this project by the end of Spring 2021 we identified the current tasks needing to be completed:
 - a. Interview the following people:
 1. Kristina Hoffman – ADA
 2. Cecil Hicks - Title VII
 3. Vanessa Warren – HR
 4. Angie Eikenberry - AAUP
 5. Candace Batton - AA
 - b. Flow Chart Design - Senator Huq has volunteered to develop the flow chart
 - c. Flow Chart content - Senator Helm has volunteered to finalize the content related to each UNO resource providing the following information:
 1. Name of UNO unit, related web links
 2. Contact person
 3. Scope of complaints
 4. Process
 5. Outcome
4. Senator Garcia agreed to Chair FP&W starting January 2021

Current List of UNO services for flow Chart

Ombuds Services - Connie Schaffer (interviewed 9/20)

Professional Conduct Committee - Information available via Senate Website

Faculty Grievance Committee - Information available via Senate Website

Title IX - Sarah Weil (interviewed 10/20)

ADA - Americans with Disabilities, Kristina Hoffman

Title VII - Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, Cecil Hicks

Human Resources - Aileen Warren (interviewed 10/29, Laura Wakefield interviewed 11/23)

AAUP Mediation - Angie Eikenberry

Academic Affairs - Candace Batton

Deans

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Schulz

1. No meeting; no report

E. Professional Development: Senator Rech

1. No meeting; no report

F. Committee on Committees: Senator Anderson

1. No meeting; no report

VI. Non-Senate Committee Report(s)

- A. Ad hoc Committee on Academic Integrity policy:** *The work for the committee is near completion.*
- B. Ad hoc Committee on Teaching Assessment:** *The first meeting has been held, our next meeting is tomorrow morning and we will be sharing a “Statement of Intent” following our next meeting.*

VII. New Business

A. President-elect nominations

Senator Liz Wessling has received three nominations and has been elected the 2021-2022 President of the Faculty Senate

VIII. Adjourn at 3:24 p.m.