

**2021-2022 Executive Council Minutes  
Wednesday, June 2, 2021**

**Present:** Ammons, Carroll, Circo, Gandhi, Jenkins, Jones, Nero, Ostler, Shaw, Siy, Wessling

**I. Official Call to Order** at 2:03 p.m. by President Wessling

**II. Approval of the Minutes** of the May 12<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting was postponed until July.

**III. Officers' Reports**

**A. President's Report:** Senator Wessling

1. Charly Steed - Human Resources team will soon be launching a new employee engagement and recognition platform on June 1<sup>st</sup> called "People Are Everything"— it will allow for employee-to-employee recognition and celebration and has already been in practice at UNMC for a number of years with great success. Aileen Warren, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources was contact for Maverick Daily article.
2. Drew Neilsen – Campus Policy Review Timeline Concerns -Prep Week Policy was up for review April 28. Maverick Daily article was published notifying faculty and staff about policies up for review May 13<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to find a way to maximize the 30-day review window when campus policies are placed on the website for faculty and staff to review. I asked if he could coordinate a Maverick Daily announcement to be published on the first day a campus policy is up for review. He thought this made sense and would speak with UComm. He has offered to email me when a new policy is going to be up for review so I may get the work out to faculty senate as soon as possible.
  - a. Policies can be reviewed earlier than the three-year policy rotation period if earlier review is warranted. Drew said, “The three-year term is the maximum time before a policy is reviewed to three years the maximum time we allow to ensure our policies remain current and applicable. If this policy warrants an earlier review – in one year - we can certainly do that.”
3. SVC Kopp – Prep Week Policy Concerns- I was confused as to why a policy would be written about a pilot concept before the pilot had even happened. SVC Kopp said “We need to document exactly what is expected. I like to have things in writing so there is no confusion. If there are adaptations for the future we can certainly do so.” Follow up statement when I clarified that policy does not necessarily mean permanency, rather a communication of expectations which can be revised as warranted at any time in the future, SVC Kopp replied, “All policies can be revised. Obviously, we hope we established something here that will be a long-term benefit, but we did commit to reassess.”
4. Jane Meza – Update to the campus policies regarding mask wearing and social distance requirements on campus was sent to our UNO email May 18, 2021. The International Travel Policy expires June 30<sup>th</sup>, and she anticipates an updated policy will be in the works soon as the current policy is about to expire. She anticipates more updates to our policies as changes come in from the CDC and the Douglas County Health Department. Any revised guidelines for the Fall 2021 Semester will be issued as public health conditions develop.

5. SVC Kopp - Fall Academic Planning Groups will be the same as last year.
  - a. Academic Programs/Instruction/Research- Sarah Edwards [skedwards@unomaha.edu](mailto:skedwards@unomaha.edu)
  - b. Facilities/Business Operations/Dining/Housing/Cleaning – Larry Morgan [lmorgan@unomaha.edu](mailto:lmorgan@unomaha.edu)
  - c. Student Services/On-Boarding/Counseling/Advising – Cathy Pettid [cpettid@unomaha.edu](mailto:cpettid@unomaha.edu)
  - d. Communications (Internal & External) – Makayla McMorris [mmcmorris@unomaha.edu](mailto:mmcmorris@unomaha.edu)
  - e. Events and Athletics (concerts/gatherings) – Kristina Cammarano [kmjuarez@unomaha.edu](mailto:kmjuarez@unomaha.edu)
6. Service Opportunities:
  - a. Sarah Edwards/Drew Nielsen – They are looking for faculty representation from each college to work with Drew Nielsen on an attendance policy committee. The goal of the committee work will be to consolidate and align multiple attendance policies UNO current has into one policy that will support and encourage communication between faculty and students regarding attendance expectations. Academic Affairs is not seeking to create a prescriptive attendance policy. A Maverick Daily article will be published in the fall when all faculty return to maximize distribution and the potential for participation.
  - b. Sarah Edwards/Jeanne Surface - Teacher Evaluation Ad-Hoc Group looking for any faculty that would like to participate in the October pilot of the revised evaluation instrument and process. Please contact Jeanne Surface if you are interested in participating. (update from ad hoc group provided see other committee reports)
7. Communication Plan – I would like to update faculty at least monthly over the summer via faculty senate email after our EC meetings, sharing opportunities to serve and highlights from each committee's reports. Having faculty senate liaisons from each college is ideal during the fall and spring semesters, but it doesn't always work out as planned and faculty may not hear the news and opportunities for a variety of reasons. FS members are going to be encouraged to continue to communicate FS news to their respective colleges, but I plan to send out monthly update in the fall and spring, unless there are any objections.

*Senator Ostler suggested that the communication plan focus more on college members and liaisons passing on information so that less work falls to President Wessling. President Wessling expressed that she was open to ideas, but that a clear communication plan needs to be put into place before the retreat in August. Senator Ammons suggested that the Board of Chairs and Directors could be of assistance with this.*

#### **B. Secretary's Report on EO&A Meeting: Senator Siy**

1. Attendees:  
FS Executive Officers: Elliott Ostler, Derrick Nero, James Shaw, Harvey Siy,

Liz Wessling.

Administration: Jeffrey Gold, Sacha Kopp, Candice Batton, Ken Bayles, Sarah Edwards, Doug Ewald, Jane Meza, Cathy Pettid, Deb Smith-Howell, Charley Steed.

2. Introductions were shared between the administration and the newly elected FS executive officers.
3. AVC Batton is working with Deans to assemble a body to represent the concerns of adjunct faculty. SVC Kopp would like to see someone from FS join this body.
4. Chancellor Gold expressed appreciation for UNO faculty and working with great leadership in FS, collective bargaining, and Student Senate. Chancellor Gold also hopes we extend the same warm welcome to incoming Chancellor Li. UNO is on an amazing trajectory of growth and excellence.
5. Chancellor Gold also mentioned that a program statement for Kayser Hall and the Samuel Bak collection is being taken to the Business and Finance Committee of the BOR this Friday (5/21). This is the first step towards the renovation of Kayser Hall and the formal beginning of the private philanthropic fundraising activities to support the Bak collection and the center for holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies.
6. AVC Pettid is working in the fall with the FS A&CA committee crafting master syllabus language about available wraparound services so that everyone starts on the same playing field when classes start in the fall.
7. AVC Bayles apprised the new executive officers of ORCA's reorganization this past year to better support all disciplines through the appointment of Assistant Vice Chancellors for Arts and Humanities (Kristin Girtten), and Social Sciences (Emily Wright). AVC Sara Myers will cover the STEM areas. They are excellent resources for assisting faculty seeking funding opportunities.
8. SVC Kopp mentioned that Academic Affairs is working on an update to a memo to faculty, aggregating teaching-related policies, including the new policies approved this year. This memo will be sent out in August before Fall semester.
9. SVC Kopp also noted that it is about this time in the calendar year when departments begin working on Spring 2022 course schedules. This year, the work will also include scheduling courses for the new three-week January session.
10. Cecil Hicks accepted a position as the Chief Human Relations Officer for Omaha Public Schools. Drew Nielsen (Chief Compliance Officer) will take on his Title IX and ADA compliance responsibilities. The incoming Chancellor will determine who will take on his DEAI responsibilities.
11. President Wessling provided some FS updates, including the election results with most appointments filled, the continuing discussion to resolve the issue of fitting required science lab hours with the Study Days in the 2021-2022 academic calendar, and the amended FS bylaws to include meeting remotely as a permanent option.

<b>Res.#</b>	<b>Date Senate Passed</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Admin Accept</b>	<b>Sent for Senate Action</b>	<b>Denied/Deferred/In Progress</b>	<b>Final Action/Resolved</b>
4439		Faculty Senate Presidential Appointments (a-e)			In progress (appts a&e resolved)	
4438	5/12/21	Election of Faculty Senate Secretary/Treasurer				Resolved
4437	5/12/21	Election of Faculty Senate Vice President				Resolved
4436	5/12/21	Appt. of Parliamentarian				Resolved
4435	5/12/21	Appt. of Chair of Committee on Committee				Resolved
4434	5/12/21	Standing Committee Chairs			In progress (PD Chair still needs to be elected)	
4433	5/12/21	Bylaw Revision for Electronic Meetings				Resolved
4432	5/12/21	University Committees (a-g)				Resolved
4431	5/12/21	Campus Committees (a-e)				Resolved
4430	5/12/21	Mbrshp of 2021-2022 Fac Sen Standing Comms.				Resolved
4429	5/12/21	Part-Time Faculty Resolution				Resolved

**C. Treasurer's Report: Senator Siy (May 2021)**

Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Operating Budget May 2021													
Expenses Paid: By Month	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	YTD
521100 Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
521200 Communications	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	0.00	242.00
521500 Print & Copies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.42
521800 Dues/Subscriptions/Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
521700 Engraving	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
524200/900 Rent Conf Fac	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>520000 (Op. Exp./Serv.) Total</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>26.42</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>246.42</b>
5311/5314/531900 Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	258.59	131.00	420.06	0.00	809.65
531300 Catering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>530000 (Op. Supplies) Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>139.00</b>	<b>1,959.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>313.81</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>258.59</b>	<b>131.00</b>	<b>420.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,301.46</b>
541100/500 Lodging/Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
541400 Mileage:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>540000 (Travel Expense) Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Non-Personnel Services</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>161.00</b>	<b>1,981.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>335.81</b>	<b>106.42</b>	<b>280.59</b>	<b>153.00</b>	<b>442.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,547.88</b>

  

Year To Date:	Budget	Spent	Pending	Balance	Bal. %	Comments							
520000 Operations	2,000	246	0	1,754	88%								
530000 Supplies	3,785	3,301	0	484	13%								
52000 & 530000	5,785	3,548	0	2,237	39%								
540000 Travel	775	0	0	775	100%								
Total Non-Pers. Services	12,000	3,548	0	8,452	70%								

#### IV. Standing Committee Reports

##### A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Circo

- This month the committee focused on the issue of Study Days in the revised Prep Week policy. It was our impression that from previous comments from Dr. Kopp that the "no exemptions" component of the policy is pretty much a done deal. The committee determined that a meeting with Dr. Sarah Edwards would be an appropriate place to start to determine the likelihood of any effort on our part being fruitful as she would be the appropriate AVC to address accreditation concerns in chemistry.
- A meeting was scheduled with Dr. Edwards on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Below please find the agenda:
  - Topic for Discussion:
    - Prep Week policy currently under review and the potential impact on upper-division lab sciences and the chemistry department's American Chemical Society approved curriculum for the BS degree.
  - Concerns:
    - ACS guidelines for approved chemistry programs:  
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/policies/acs-approval-program/guidelines-supplements.html>
    - ACS Guidelines, Section 5.6: "The certified graduate must have 400 hours of laboratory experience beyond the introductory chemistry laboratory. Laboratory course work must cover at least four of the five traditional chemistry subdisciplines and may be distributed between the foundation and in-depth levels .... **virtual laboratory experiences that replace activities that are traditionally performed hands-on cannot be used as part of the**

**400 laboratory hours."**

**3.** Are there alternative ways to address the situation?

**4.** What are some solutions?

**c.** Discussion

**d.** Adjourn

**3. Notes from the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

**a.** Sarah has met or is having meetings with the faculty members who have responded to the proposed revised policy during the 30-day review period. She has been communicating with Alan Gift.

**b.** To summarize the issue raised by Alan:

**1.** To satisfy ACS accreditation requirements, students must take 400 lab hours beyond the general chemistry sequence. At UNO, this translates to taking 8 lab courses that each have 50 hours per semester (3000 minutes = 200 minutes per lab for 15 labs).

**2.** Students should get the same lab hours regardless of which lab section they take. Lab schedules are spread out from Monday to Friday.

**3.** With Study Days, students in the Thursday/Friday sections will have 14 labs. As a result, all students in the unaffected sections will also have 14 labs. The problem is more acute in spring since it is shorter by one week.

**c.** For Fall semester, Sarah and Alan had talked about possibly moving a study day into finals week. This would compress or shift finals schedules, both of which are not feasible. Holding lab sessions during finals week also produces schedule conflicts for students. Virtual labs were also ruled out since ACS will not recognize the lab hours.

**d.** A solution would be to move the affected lab sections from Thursday/Friday slots to earlier in the week. This involves moving CHEM [234]xxx labs, though it is still unclear how this would affect lecture schedules.

**e.** Another solution is to add a couple of open Saturday labs to make up for the missing lab, i.e., give students a couple of Saturday options to do a lab. Schedule-wise, this seems the least disruptive option.

**f.** Sarah will look into the possibility of having an exception to the Study Days in the fall, perhaps with some understanding that affected lab courses will work out appropriate schedules to fit within the Study Day constraints in spring.

**4. Next steps:**

**a.** Follow-up on the request to allow some exceptions to the policy. Considering that it was posted late in the academic year owing to the need to finalize the J-term proposal, perhaps exceptions for the Fall semester would be reasonable, with the understanding that affected classes will try to work in the Study Days in Spring. Dr. Edwards reports she will look into it.

**B. Committee on Educational Resources & Services: Senator Shaw**

1. No meeting; no report

**C. Faculty Personnel & Welfare Committee:** Senator Gandhi

1. No meeting; no report

**D. Committee on Goals and Directions:** Senator Jones

1. No meeting; no report

**E. Professional Development:** Senator Ammons

1. No meeting; no report

**F. Committee on Committees:** Senator Nero

1. No meeting; no report

**VI. Non-Senate Committee Report(s)**

**A. Ad Hoc Committee to Inform Teaching Evaluation Practices:** Jeanne Surface - The AdHoc group for the replacement of the SEEQ Course evaluation has had a busy semester. The first instrument (a mid-semester Student Climate Survey) has now gone through 6 student focus groups. It is with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to roll out the pilot into sections with professors who have indicated the willingness to pilot this summer. We will have feedback data by August. This will allow us to amend the survey and roll out version 2 of the survey in October.

1. While the mid-semester student climate survey provides for student voice and allows for real-time feedback for faculty, we are still in need of a replacement for the end-of-year SEEQ. Those discussions will begin in the fall.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Agenda for Aug 18 FS Retreat**

*The senators made several suggestions of possible speakers for the August retreat. It was also suggested that the lunch break should be shortened to allow time for small breaks throughout the day. A finalized schedule will be decided on at the August council meeting.*

**B. FS Representative to join the Adjunct Faculty Committee organized by SVC Kopp and AVC Batton.**

*Senator Jones volunteered to join the Adjunct Faculty Committee.*

**VIII. Adjourn at 3:39 p.m.**