

2021-2022 Executive Council Minutes Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Members: Circo, Gandhi, Jones, Nero, Ostler, Rech, Shaw, Siy, Wessling

- I. Official Call to Order at 2:02 p.m. by Vice-President Shaw
- II. Approval of the Minutes of October 6, 2021

III.Officers' Reports

A. President's Report: Senator Wessling

1. Emailed Chancellor Li follow up after Oct. FS EO&A meeting. In an attempt to make sure our conversation regarding masking/social distancing policy changes at this point in the semester were clearly expressed, I sent Chancellor Li the following email summary:

Fact: Faculty will be divided in what they want. Here are different viewpoints our faculty may have regarding the decision-making process on mask mandates and social distancing.

- **a.** Some faculty will want to be empowered to make decisions regarding classroom management including whether masks are mandatory.
 - 1. Faculty will need to know they have administrative support to mandate, not highly encourage, mask wearing.
 - 2. Faculty will need to know the steps for reporting any compliance issues.
 - **3.** Faculty may have no choice but to continue to mandate masks as they partner with groups outside campus and must abide by their health protocols.
- **b.** Some faculty will want UNO to follow all CDC & DCHD guidelines
 - 1. I worry about your comment that made it sound like Dr. Meza is not in support of lifting a mask mandate because UNO is in Douglas county not Lancaster county. Even the slightest hint that Dr. Meza feels data pertinent to decisions at UNO are not being used properly will be worrisome for some faculty.
 - **a.** The UNO Covid Dashboard shows a slight, positive trend line
 - **b.** Douglas County Health Department shows we are still in a High Risk of Transmission.
 - c. CDC guidance on mask wearing is: If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.
 - **d.** The county data does not support lifting the indoor mask mandate. We are heading into cold and flu season with the potential to also increase covid transmission with colder weather moving more people indoors, removing the mask mandate seems premature

- 2. I worry about saying you want UNO to be in concert with what UNK and UNL are doing regarding the mask mandate. Decisions about health and safety measures should be made using UNO's campus data and UNO's county's data. The decision to take away a mask mandate should not be done merely to give the appearance of unity with the other NU campuses, nor should what UNK and UNL are doing play a role in this decision for UNO.
- c. Some will want to have scientific data to support decisions
 - 1. I worry about your comment that the H&K mask mandate was lifted this week because you, yourself do not wear a mask when working out and did not want to be a hypocrite. This could be interpreted that you are making decisions about mask mandates based on personal preference. Some pushback would be that you put the UNO mask mandate into action when you did because the surrounding county health data supported this decision and even if you personally do not like to wear a mask when working out as a leader you should model expected behavior.
 - 2. A natural pushback to your comment to remove the mask mandate as a reward for low covid numbers on campus would be that the numbers are low on campus *because* of the interventions we have in place: mask mandate, social distancing, testing, vaccination efforts. Why should we take away a measure that is working because it *is* working?
- **d.** Dr. Meza's office should share the new findings about social distancing ineffectiveness when the social distancing policy is lifted. Was the social distancing unnecessary because of mask wearing?

Chancellor Li contacted me shortly after she received this email to reassure me, she is working with Dr. Meza and looking at all of the data before making any changes.

- 2. Spring 2022 Update SVC Kopp. Starting in Spring 22 (including 3-week January session) we will go back to the capacity allowed in each room by virtue of the fire code. This means we will no longer require 3' distancing.
 - **a.** Of 331 classrooms on the campus
 - 1. 164 classrooms will have no change (in other words, the pre-covid fire code seating was evidently already at 3' distancing)
 - 104 classrooms will have <10 seats added, ranging from a 2% to 30% change in seats in those rooms
 - **3.** 63 rooms have >10 seats added. The most added seats are in Strauss Concert Hall and CPACS101, since those had been set for every other seat to be conservative.
 - **4.** The average number of seats added in a classroom is 16%
- 3. UNO's 2021 Top Risks and Related Risk Mitigations Update from Barbara J Brey, CPA, CIA, Director of Internal Audit and Advisory Services
 - a. Attached PowerPoint is the risk assessment presentation that Chancellor's

Li and Gold finalized and presented to the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee of the Board of Regents on Thursday, August 12. (Attachment 2)

4. Strategic Planning Faculty Sessions update from Dr. Deborah Smith-Howell UNO will host facilitated conversations around UNO's strategic plan. Facilitated conversations are web-based, structured discussions where participants can provide input about UNO's strategic direction. The discussions will be facilitated by Dr. Doug Derrick, associate dean of the College of Information Science and Technology. Check out the article in the Maverick Daily https://www.unomaha.edu/news/events/strategic-planning-forum.php for

Daily <u>https://www.unomaha.edu/news/events/strategic-planning-forum.php</u> for more details. These are primarily brainstorming sessions where participants will provide input on UNO's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

The facilitated conversations mark the first step in this renewed process that will build upon our previous successes. While this is certainly not the only opportunity to provide input into UNO's strategic plan, input is especially important. We need the perspectives and expertise of a broad range of students, staff, and faculty—please register to be part of the facilitated conversations and encourage your colleagues to participate in this effort.

Please note: all sessions will include up to 30 participants and comments made are completely anonymous. Each session will last approximately 90 minutes and can be done anywhere participants have a network connection. After the facilitated conversations, a thematic analysis will be created and a survey will be sent to all campus stakeholders to gather additional feedback.

Faculty session dates: Nov. 3 10-11:30am; Nov. 12 11:30am-1pm; Nov. 18 3:30-5pm

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

- 1. Attendees: Li, Kopp, Edwards, Batton, Smith-Howell, Steed, Wessling, Nero, Ostler, Shaw, Siy
- 2. Vaccination mandate for university personnel on federal contracts. The university is working to comply with the presidential executive order (Executive Order 14042) requiring everyone working on federally funded contracts to be vaccinated. There are 136 UNO faculty, staff and students affected.
- **3.** Funds from American Rescue Plan. President Carter has put in a request to the legislature for \$195M from the American Rescue Plan. Of that amount, \$25M represents UNO requests.
- 4. Discussion on lifting the mask mandate. UNK lifted their mask mandate on 10/15. UNL could potentially lift theirs at the end of October when Lancaster County lifts their mask mandate. Chancellor Li is considering the possibility for UNO. While each campus has independent masking policies tied to local conditions, the campuses attempt to operate with consistent policies. The chancellor is aiming to balance the requests of stakeholders who want the mask mandate lifted with those who want to keep the mandate and anticipates pushback either way. It was noted

that the H&K workout area no longer requires masks. UNO is keeping a close eye on any possible spike arising from this. If the current infection rate holds, the mask mandate might be lifted. Should the mask mandate be lifted at some point in the future, faculty will still be able to require masking in their classrooms.

- 5. Chief Diversity Officer search. The search is underway, with the assistance of a national search firm. The challenge is getting a pool that is big enough. Dr. Sydney Ribeau, past president of Howard University, is helping with the search process. The closing date for applications is end of October.
- Spring and J-session calendar is live. There are about 80 courses for the J-session.
 5-6 courses are study-away (local versions of study abroad courses) and are mostly full, speaking to the degree of student interest in experiential learning.
- 7. Research grants update. UNO received \$17M in sponsored grants in the first quarter of the year, a high number compared to previous years. This speaks to the volume of faculty research and creative activities going on in the past year.
- 8. Concerns about reduced social distancing in classrooms. SVC Kopp noted that there did not seem to be any significant negative impact in changing the social distancing policy from 6 feet to 3 feet, even accounting for the fact that some classrooms may already not be following the 3-feet distancing guidelines since desks and chairs can be easily moved around. Going forward, the plan is to return classrooms to full density, relying on a mask mandate (possibly faculty-driven) and encouraging vaccination.
- **9.** Book orders. Steve Dubey, the new course materials assistant manager at the UNO Bookstore, is looking for suggestions on how to get faculty to send in their book orders in time for the J-session. ER&S Committee will met with him at the next committee meeting.
- 10. Updated Winter Weather Policy. The proposed winter weather policy will change snow days to remote learning days. Pres. Wessling shared faculty concerns that this change could make it easier to the administration to call inclement weather days more frequently, which would be detrimental to some courses that are unable to conduct lessons remotely, e.g., science labs. SVC Kopp sought to allay those concerns and reassured faculty that inclement weather announcements will not be increasing just because it is easier to call them. The weather committee plans to call inclement weather days using the same weather conditions as in previous years.
- 11. Using the J-session as a way for failing students to catch up. Pres. Wessling also relayed concerns from faculty about an apparent directive from Academic Affairs to use the J-session as a way for failing students to catch up, as this seemed to imply forcing faculty to give Incompletes to failing students and forcing faculty who are off-contract to work during the J-session. SVC Kopp clarified that this is not a mandate. He merely wanted to share the solution from one department that offered a creative way of using the J-session to help their students in a high DFW course. SVC Kopp stressed the importance of getting DFW rates down and felt we should celebrate such departmental initiatives.
- **12.** The lack of consistency in how Incompletes are handled. Following up on the previous point, AVC Edwards raised a concern that there is no consistency in how Incompletes are dealt with. She cited the need to have a contract between the

student and faculty to have a plan, a set of expectations, and an end date for resolving the Incomplete. Additionally, a policy is needed to handle the situations where the faculty is no longer with the university. SVC Kopp also suggested to use Incompletes as a way to help students who might otherwise be failing. Pres. Wessling will bring this to the Senate to see if there is interest in reviewing the Incomplete policy.

- **13.** Follow up to the gap in new faculty health insurance. SVC Kopp clarified that offer letters to new faculty come out of Academic Affairs, with language from HR regarding insurance information. Cari Zimmerman in Academic Affairs is the point of contact to follow up regarding offer letters.
- 14. Variability in how colleges offer course releases to new faculty. SVC Kopp explained that course releases are part of the negotiation between deans and new faculty and there is no expectation that there would be the same policies across colleges.
- **15.** Student retention initiative. Pres. Wessling shared the pushback from faculty on the language used in the campus priority message on student retention focusing on lowering DFW rates, which appears to imply that faculty are solely responsible for high DFW rates. SVC Kopp clarified that the intention is not to penalize faculty for students' final grades, but to encourage them to help students through early intervention, frequent feedback, high impact practices, etc., and to encourage departments to have consistency of expectations and objectives across sections of the same course, to consider adding prerequisites for high DFW courses with no stated prerequisites, to explore guided pathways for struggling students, etc. While there is agreement that faculty and administration both want students to succeed, and that faculty should explore ways to do better, it is important for administration to also acknowledge that many external factors contribute to the loss of 30% of our students every year. Many urban students live very complicated lives, a wicked problem that cannot be adequately addressed despite the available support services from the university and faculty. Efforts from universities with similar student populations that have managed to increase their graduation rate should be studied and perhaps we can learn about what more we can do at the faculty, department, and institution level. SVC Kopp urged faculty and administration to work together to get a more favorable outcome for our students.

Res.#	Date Senate Passed	Title	Admin Accept	Status
4442	10/6/21	University Committees (a-c)		Completed

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

Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Operating Budget October 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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.00
521500 Print & Copies	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.13
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
520000 (Op. Exp./Serv.) Total	22.00	22.00	22.00	53.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	119.13
5311/5314/531900 Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00
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
530000 (Op. Supplies) Total	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
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
540000 (Travel Expense) Total	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
Total Non-Personnel Services	22.00	22.00	22.00	53.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	119.13

Year To Date:	Budget	Spent	Comments			
520000 Operations	2,000	119		1.881		\$10,686 has been deposited into our accounts as a budget surplus from last year
530000 Supplies	3,802	0	0	3,802		\$37 spent for new President's gavel
52000 & 530000	5,802	119		5,683	98%	
540000 Travel	775	0	0	775	100%	
Total Non-Pers. Services	17,263	119	0	17,144	99%	

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Circo

- 1. Present: Chris Moore, Harvey Siy, Jodi Benenson, Todd Robinson, and Deb Circo.
- Survey Question Development for Study Days/Prep Week. The committee is working on developing draft questions for a survey regarding faculty experience with study days and prep week. The goal is to have draft questions ready for Executive Council review on December 1st and then present to the faculty senate on December 8th.
- **3.** Hate and Bias Statement. The committee has reached-out to student government regarding the Hate and Bias Statement that was developed last year. We are aware that the University of Nebraska system-wide group is discussing the matter, so we reached out to student government to determine if we need to revisit this issue, or let it work its way through the larger bureaucracy. The issue is how the policy regarding hate and bias, and how to report incidences, can be added to master syllabi or placed on Canvas.

B. Committee on Educational Resources & Services: Senator Shaw

- 1. Steve Dubey, Asst. Manager for the UNO Bookstore, described how supply chain disruptions are slowing the receipt of textbooks ordered by faculty. He strongly encouraged faculty to submit orders as soon as possible, because most publishers/distributors are taking four to six weeks to ship textbooks.
- 2. Committee members recommended that the UNO Bookstore work with University Communications to post reminders in MavDaily. We also noted that the several UNO colleges have faculty email lists, and that the Deans' offices may also be willing to send reminders. Reminders are very likely needed, because in

previous semesters only 20% to 30% of faculty have submitted orders by the UNO Bookstores optimal deadline.

- **3.** Senator Vnuk suggested that faculty could stagger orders so that books that will not be needed until mid-semester are ordered later. This can help reduce the UNO Bookstore's workload at the beginning of a semester.
- 4. The committee also recommended that the UNO Bookstore prepare a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document specifically for faculty, to help address any recurring issues.
- 5. In related conversation, Mr. Dubey stated that about 70% of UNO students charge their textbooks against their UNO account. When faculty direct them to Amazon, Chegg, or another source, students must front the cost of the textbooks and seek reimbursement.
- 6. Mr. Dubey also noted ebook versions obtained through the VitalSource.com (the UNO Bookstore's partner for ebook purchases) can help with supply bottlenecks, but many UNO students still prefer print textbooks. Senator Shaw stated that the library can look into purchasing ebooks, but the major textbook publishers (Cengage, Pearson, McGraw-Hill, etc.) rarely sell institutional licenses for individual textbooks.

C. Faculty Personnel & Welfare Committee: Senator Gandhi

1. We met on Oct 27th. We are working on a document intended to be a webpage for grievance-related resources for faculty. We will begin sharing it with stakeholders that were interviewed by the committee last year for feedback.

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Jones

- 1. The committee met on 27 Oct 2021 and discussed the following:
 - **a.** The first Part-Time Instructor Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Nov. 9th. We report outcome after it is held
 - **b.** The Winter Weather FAQ Draft was discussed. As requested by Katrina Jenkins, the feedback was sent separately to her.

E. Professional Development: Senator Rech

- 1. Present: S. Ammons, J. Rech (Chair); Absent: S. Jawed-Wessel, W. Melanson, M. Perkinson, D. Volkman (Due to accidental meeting cancellation on Outlook by the Chair)
- 2. The committee met to follow up with Dr. Kopp on the motion passed by the Senate last year regarding training for directors/chairs regarding maternity/paternity leave. Dr. Kopp referenced pages 49-51 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and specifically states "a female faculty member will normally be excused from instructional duties during the semester...". He indicated he had spoken with the Deans and given them direction this summer, which was to be communicated to Chairs/Directors. When Senator Ammons suggested that policy some scenarios could be shared to suggest how leave is to be handled, Dr. Kopp responded that he felt that "limited" the Chair/Director and was concerned that the interpretation could be that all leave was to be handled in a specific way. He encouraged us to report to him if we were aware of any

concerns regarding leave. After Dr. Kopp left our meeting, Senator Ammons suggested that possibly sharing "what not to do" vignettes would be useful with Chairs/Directors. We will explore this option further. The committee urges anyone with concerns regarding leave to contact a member of the committee. He has agreed to come to the 10/27 meeting to have conversations with the committee.

- **3.** Discussion of the limited travel funds available for faculty this year. This item will appear on the November agenda.
- 4. The committee will meet next on 11/23 (new meeting date) with Dr. Ken Bayles (ORCA) to discuss how our committee can work with ORCA to support faculty.
- 5. The committee would like to meet with Dr. Connie Schaffer to discuss how the PD committee can work with the Office of Faculty Excellence to support faculty. An invitation to the December or January meeting will likely be extended.

F. Committee on Committees: Senator Nero

1. No meeting; no report

VI. Non-Senate Committee Report(s)

A. University-Wide Fringe Benefits Committee Meeting Report

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Winter Weather Policy Feedback:
 - 1. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs (Senator Circo)
 - **a.** Language there are courses that cannot be conducted through alternative work sites
 - **b.** Assumptions are being made regarding equity what supports will be provided for faculty and students?
 - **c.** There are logistical issues for students as well as faculty regarding having capabilities to quickly move to an online course if they do not have laptops or internet access.
 - **d.** It may be very difficult for faculty and students to make the shift to a class being online if the decision to have a snow day is made by 10pm the night before the class is scheduled.
 - e. It would be nice if the policy resembled the Frequently Asked Questions.

2. Committee on Educational Resources & Services (Senator Shaw)

- **a.** The new policy presumes that the decision to close will be made earlier, giving faculty and students more time to pivot to remote instruction and learning. It also grants faculty considerable flexibility in how best to address weather-related disruptions in their syllabi and in practice.
- **b.** However, the policy does not truly address how family and caregiving obligations may limit the capacity of faculty and students to engage in remote instruction and learning.
- **c.** Will students who need Internet hotspots and/or computers be able to borrow them on short-notice?
- **d.** Senator Sim, who teaches both UNO and UNL students in Engineering, described how he needs to be on-campus to use the classroom technology that brings his

classes together from both campuses. He faces additional disruption when one campus closes and the other does not.

3. Faculty Personnel & Welfare Committee (Senator Gandhi)

- a. Policy Document
 - 1. Reason for Policy section Why does it open with a generic statement about UNO? Seems a bit irrelevant to the matter.
 - 2. Procedure section needs a preamble Who is the committee? A short statement about the committee should be made before starting with "The role of the committee" section.
 - 3. Need guidance for functions other than teaching Need more guidance for normal business functions during remote days. For example, if a department meeting is scheduled, what obligation do faculty have to attend it? Similar questions for research-related tasks/meetings for graduate assistants and research associates.
 - **4.** Alternate work site faculty need to consult with their managers if remote work is not possible.

What criteria do department chairs, immediate supervisors, or deans use to respond to a notification that remote work is not possible? Is it just an FYI? Under what circumstances can a request be denied?

- **b.** FAQ Document
 - 1. For the following question, "What happens if there is severe weather and the campus is still in normal operations but I'm unable to make it due to poor road conditions or other external factors?"
 - **a.** While the expectation of leniency for students is understandable, why does none exist for Faculty and Staff? Shouldn't we ask their supervisor to be flexible and look for alternative work solutions?

4. Committee on Goals and Directions (Senator Jones)

- **a.** <u>Themes/Concerns* from Committee discussion: (</u>*When possible, I tried my best to include feedback **in a comment** when the theme/concern was specifically addressed in the FAQ. What's listed here are other relevant items that arose, but I didn't have a clear way comment on them in the FAQ. Apologize for any duplication.)
 - 1. Statements added (or questions posed) for/from:
 - **a.** We promise our students that as UNO is an independent brick-andmortar school with in-person delivery of curriculum, we will close as rarely as possible, since closing causes severe disruption that cannot be easily accommodated merely and in all cases by switching to a remote delivery system.
 - **b.** Let's be as creative as possible so that we need not close school.
 - **c.** Accessibility services during these times (as per statement on syllabus).
 - 2. Laptop/technology rental stated policy vs. realities (esp. having to give a business day to borrow, when winter weather closure decisions aren't made a business day in advance.)
 - 3. More classes will be cancelled due to Remote modality always available

(theoretically), irrespective of reality that Remote is not feasible/reasonable in classes requiring in-person interaction (labs, studios, etc.)

- 4. Possible need for double-prepping classes on the chance that remote option called for with little advance notice. Otherwise, can disrupt pedagogical plan so end up with "busy work" on those days→lost instructional day/s.
- 5. Equity
 - **a.** Within a class, some students can go remotely more easily than others.
 - b. Digital Divides esp. for underserved population of students
 - **c.** Internet bandwidth of reliable access and requisite quantity (esp. when UNO buildings might be closed, removing computer labs as option)
 - **d.** Students during class scheduled meeting time needing to share internet with many in their homes
 - e. Students registered with Accessibility Services
- 6. OPS policy overly influencing UNO's decisions to close, since not applicable for UNO students who aren't parents. (an example: when cold temps/windchill making waiting for buses dangerous compared to excessive snow/ice causing impassable transportation routes)
- 7. How do we best serve UNO students who are parents of OPS students?
- 8. Power outage considerations for all, not just for staff/employees
- 9. Internet outages
- **10.** Clarification on whether or not situation will arise going forward that happened last winter where ALL classes were cancelled, even ones meeting remotely.
- 11. Will there be any input from those working on Attendance Policy?
- **b.** <u>Verbatim replies from faculty</u>
 - 1. The only real question I have concerns my teaching space. The Costume Shop and Makeup room are considered Lab spaces, and the document suggests we find an alternative. I would be just as happy to give my students and myself a typical "snow day" and not require them to work on anything new. I will have some lecture notes on Canvas which the students can pursue at their own pace, but I don't want to "teach" sewing or makeup over zoom. So, will I be allowed to give the students a real "snow day," or will I be required to "teach" content on those days?
 - 2. Re: If my class is held in person how should I adjust my plans for remote operations?

Faculty are encouraged to consider and plan for remote days during the winter weather season.

I find that there are issues with this draft of the policy that assumes a number of things:

a. that faculty can flip to a remote/zoom class with little notice. Some lecture-based courses may jump modalities more

readily, but hands-on courses that rely on lab or art supplies to complete that day's content will be difficult to adjust when weather makes it short notice.

I teach a class with hands-on learning that relies on departmental supplies in the classroom. Will the university give faculty the budget to create home kits for the students if there is the expectation to flip to remote days during bad weather? Planning for a class to GO remote (during COVID) is one thing. But planning for an in-person course and then being asked to accommodate remote learning for bad weather (when there is usually not enough notice to send supplies home the class prior) make it difficult to meet this expectation.

b. that students have access to reliable devices and internet. If there are multiple people in their household, they may not have their device during the class time. Multiple family members sharing the internet for remote work/ school during bad weather may slow down their internet connection.

While I appreciate the language about students being pro-active and checking out technology from the Helpdesk at the beginning of the winter semester, can faculty know for certain that there will be enough supplies? If we recommend that students avail themselves of this opportunity and then supplies run out, that student will be handicapped by their lack of technology.

Some areas of Omaha still don't always have reliable internet speeds. This policy assumes that all students have equal access to comparable internet, that this is most likely not the case. Financially, their family may not have home internet, and students have to rely on the wireless signals from nearby (or try to get to a WiFi hotspot, which could be difficult to impossible during bad weather.)

Motion to forward feedback to SVC Kopp and Charlie Steed in his capacity as a committee member made by President Wessling and seconded by Senator Jones. Motion unanimously passed.

VIII. New Business

A. Incomplete Policy implementation review process

The Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs was assigned to assist Dr. Edwards with this.

IX. Adjourned at 3:27 p.m.