
Excused: Bacon, Benjamin-Alvarado, Bennett, Kosloski, Krause, Shroder, Pedersen

Guest Presentations:

A. At 2 p.m. Linda Mannering presented information from recent faculty and staff surveys

B. Dave Corbin gave a presentation and took questions on a motion through which the Senate would express support for the creation of a Happy Hollow Trail, the text of which he gave to a Senator to introduce during the meeting.

III. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

IV. The September 10, 2003, meeting minutes were approved as written.

V. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sadlek

1. Executive Committee and Administration: The meeting was held September 17, 2003. Senator Sadlek gave an up-date on the Committee to discuss the Emeritus College, the review of academic prioritization and, the Faculty Handbook. Chancellor Beek asked the Senate to suggest nominees for several university awards and recognitions – namely, the Chancellor’s Medal, UNO honorary degrees, and the Weber Award. In the staff survey recently conducted by Linda Mannering 92% of returned surveys reported staff being satisfied with their jobs.

2. Chancellor’s Written Response to Resolutions: The Chancellor has approved Faculty Senate Resolutions, passed in August and September 2003 (2689 through 2691, and 2692 through 2697), as submitted.


IV. Executive Committee Report: Senator Dickson reported the following:

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A. The Executive Committee accepted the resignations of Senator B. Littrell, effective October 1, 2003, and Senator J. Carroll, effective as soon as his replacement is elected.

A. On behalf of the Executive Committee Senator Dickson moved the following motions which were passed:

1. **Resolution 2698, 10/08/03: Emeritus College Ad Hoc Committee**

   **BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate President appoints**

   Jerry Cederblom, Chair
   Bill Blizek
   Josie Metal-Corbin
   Mary Ann Lamanna

   to form a committee to look into developing an Emeritus College at UNO, and report on the issues involved no later than the May meeting of the 2003-2004 Faculty Senate.

2. **Resolution 2699, 10/08/03: UNO Academic Prioritization Review Ad Hoc Committee**

   **BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate President appoints the following three colleagues to form an Ad Hoc Committee to Review UNO Academic Prioritization, and to report no later than the May meeting of the 2003-2004 Faculty Senate.** The committee is charged with identifying measures of success of the previous prioritization, and changes in the prioritization process which are expected to improve the impact of a reprioritization:

   Ann Coyne
   Bruce Garver
   Jim Carroll.

V **Standing Committee Reports**

A. **Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs:** Senator Neathery-Castro reported the committee met on Wednesday, September 24, 2003. Those present were Jody
Neathery-Castro, Ethel Williams, Joan Latchaw, Jim Akers. Senator Latchaw will continue to try to make contact with the Elderhostel organization. Nebraska Shakespeare Festival and a Great Plains/Nebraska literature program were discussed as possible Elderhostel interests. Senator Akers discussed his participation in the Computer Usage Committee’s examination of plagiarism software. That committee found that all of the software it examined was web-based, raising concerns for potential violations of student privacy. The cost is also prohibitive, and that committee felt that a majority of UNO faculty would not use such software, raising little prospect of adoption by UNO on a campus-wide basis anytime soon. The pilot dual enrollment initiative with the Millard School District has gone forward with history and math participating this semester. While the ACA committee will continue its monitoring of the program, frustration was expressed with the process of bringing the Faculty Senate on board so late, as the following resolution, which passed, articulates:

**Resolution 2700, 10/08/03: Timely Consultation with the Faculty Senate by Administration:**

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate is the representative body at UNO serving academic interests, and bypassing this institution undermines the respect and consideration of the faculty, and

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate has expressed discontent in the past with the administration’s failure to consult in a timely manner with the Faculty Senate before significant academic initiatives are implemented, notably in Resolution 2432 (UNOmaha China program), and

WHEREAS the “Pilot Pre-K-16 initiative Dual-Enrollment Interlocal Agreement with Millard Public Schools” was approved by the Board of Regents at the August 9, 2003, meeting, 11 days before the Faculty Senate was informed of the initiative,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate respectfully requests that it be kept fully informed by the administration both concerning generalities and details of the contract as it takes shape; and that the Faculty Senate be consulted in those matters contained in the contract and its implementation over which the faculty normally has governance prerogatives.

B. **Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare:** Senator D’Souza reported the meeting was held September 24, 2003. Members present were Henry D’Souza, David Helm, Wai-ning Mei, Graham Mitenko and Pamela Jean Owens. Updated materials for the Faculty Handbook were provided to the chair. An on-going orientation for new faculty throughout the year was suggested. Reviving the faculty dining room to meet and chat, which will provide an opportunity for
informal but on-going orientation, was also suggested. Information was also presented on procedures at UNL and UNO to deal with student misconduct. It was found that procedures at UNO are not clear when there is a threat made by students against a faculty member. Professor Mike O’Hara and Mr. Stan Schleifer, Manager, Support Services at UNO, will be invited to the next meeting.

C. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Simpson reported the Committee met on Wednesday, September 24. Present were Chris Allen, Karl Kosloski, Richard Ortman, and Caroline Simpson. The committee reviewed and discussed Section 7 (Miscellany) of the Faculty Handbook. It determined that certain entries were no longer relevant and agreed to request updated information for the remaining categories. Given the projected increase in the number of faculty retirements in the very near future and the budget crisis, the committee members believe that it is imperative that a serious effort is made on a department by department and college by college basis to provide mentoring for untenured faculty and to provide clear-cut guidelines of the terms of reappointment, tenure, and promotion. Therefore, the committee will draft a series of recommendations on ways to improve the support and retention of junior faculty.

D. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Nazem reported the meeting was held on September 24, 2003. Those present were J. Carroll, Nazem, Pedersen, Ritter and Shroder. A list of items compiled at the Senate retreat was distributed. The discussion included travel money for non-tenured faculty, mentoring new faculty members, post-tenure review, and the status of UCR and UCAT and funding status for these units. The committee felt that despite the current budgetary environment the senate should advocate professional development of non-tenured faculty for continuation of academic excellence at UNO and will discuss this subject more thoroughly.

E. Committee on Rules: Senator M. Carroll reported that Senator Littrell submitted the report of the September 24, 2003 Rules Committee meeting before his resignation took effect. Senator Tixier y Vigil will be listed as Rules Committee Chair for the rest of this semester. Senator M. Carroll will be listed as Chair for Spring 2004. Members for the following committees will be finalized and presented at the November meeting of the Faculty Senate: Strategic Planning Committee, University Technology Resources Committee, University Departmental Teaching Award, and Judicial Committee. Senator M. Carroll then introduced the following three motions, which passed:

1. Resolution2701, 10/08/03: Search Committee for the President of the Nebraska System:

   BE IT RESOLVED that the following names were forwarded to Regent Ferlic for the Search Committee for the President of the Nebraska System, from which one representative will be selected:

   Jack Heidel (A&S)   Greg Sadlek (A&S)
   Ethel Williams (CPACS)   Ilze Zigurs (IS&T).
2. **Resolution 2702, 10/08/03: Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee Election Results:**

   WHEREAS, the results of the faculty-wide election for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee have been tabulated, and the following individuals elected,

   THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the following tenured faculty member serve a three-year term from October 16, 2003, through October 15, 2006, on the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee:

   Michael O’Hara (to replace Dale Krane)

   AND, the following non-tenured faculty member serve a three-year term from October 16, 2003, through October 15, 2006, on the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee:

   Elaine Lahue (to replace Janice Collins).

3. **Resolution 2073, 10/08/03: University-Wide Departmental Teaching Award (UDTA)**

   BE IT RESOLVED, that the following four names be forwarded to Interim Vice Chancellor Christensen as nominees to one three-year appointment from 08/01/2003 through 07/31/2006 as the UNO representative on the University-Wide Departmental Teaching Award (UDTA) Selection Committee. Names will then be submitted to Provost Jay Noren, who will make the final selection: Timi Barone, Sociology
   Donna Dufner, IS&T
   Bruce Chase, Biology
   Randy Adkins, Political Science.

VI. **Non-Senate Committee Reports**

A. **Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON):** Senator Ritter reported the AFCON Board met on September 13, 2003 at the Loren Eiseley Library, Lincoln NE. Plans were finalized to mark "Banned Book Week" (September 20-27), officers were nominated. The AFCON Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, November 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Holiday Inn, Downtown Lincoln). This year's theme will be "Is it Okay to Say 'God Bless You!"' [and other questions about academic freedom of students and teachers in Nebraska]. Cost is $10 and includes lunch and refreshments (please send your reservation by 11/14 to: AFCON, 1871 S. 155 Circle, Omaha, NE 68144; please note any special dietary requirements). Also, AFCON has a new URL: www.AFCONebr.org
B. Academic Planning Council: Senator Williams reported the Academic Planning Council (APC) met briefly on September 18 to discuss the plans for the Council’s program reviews for the 2003-2004 academic year. The departments identified for review are Art, Music, Theater, Writers Workshop, English, and Foreign Languages. Times are currently being established to discuss post program reviews from the previous year. Program reviews are tentatively set for the month of February 2004. Team chairs have been appointed by Dr. Farr and additional review team members as well as potential outside reviewers are being considered.

C. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Professor Fruhling reported the Alumni Association had their annual Board of Directors Dinner on Sept. 12, hosted by Union Pacific and Alumni Association Chairman Kevin Naylor. Don Winters, Mike Markey, Kevin Vanourney, George Sinos were honored at the dinner for their outstanding service to the Alumni Association.

D. American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator D’Souza reported the UNO Chapter of the AAUP sent two members to the State AAUP executive committee meeting in September to plan for the state AAUP meeting in Lincoln on Nov. 14. Chapter president David Corbin was invited to the UNL Academic Senate to talk about the UNO AAUP chapter and collective bargaining and was invited to address the entire Academic Senate later this semester. The Chapter is pursuing the possibility of bringing a speaker to campus to discuss computer privacy and academic freedom. Web links can be found in our latest newsletter or on the AAUP web site.

E. Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Garver reported the first fall meeting was held on September 24, 2003. The most recent updating of UNO's "Strategic Plan" was reviewed. Linda Mannering (director of UNO's Office of Institutional Research) gave an evaluation of the 2004 edition of U.S. NEW's 2004 edition of AMERICA'S BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS and commented upon the six UNO graduate programs therein recognized. Linda also presented a preliminary report results of the recent "Fall 2003 Full-Time, Part-Time Regular Staff Survey." Sheri Rogers presented a brief update regarding UNO's participation in the Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQUIP) sponsored by the High Learning Commission -- North Central Accreditation. The larger part of the meeting was devoted to hearing reports from the various "task forces" (i.e. standing committees) of the SPSC, to reviewing plans for the Strategic Advance to be held on campus on November 14, 2003, and to discussing possible ways to increase student interest and participation in the strategic planning process.

VII. New Business:

Senator D’Souza moved a Statement Supporting Creation of a Happy Hollow Trail:

Whereas parking is a perennial problem at UNO,

And whereas alternate forms of transportation would help to ease the parking problem,
And whereas a majority of Americans are sedentary and rates of obesity have never been higher than presently,

And whereas walking, running, biking and skating trails encourage non-polluting forms of transportation that promote fitness and aid in weight control

And whereas the proposed Happy Hollow Trail would help to encourage safe commuting in addition to the attributes mentioned above, which are consonant with a sound liberal education,

Therefore, be it resolved that the UNO Faculty Senate supports the building of the Happy Hollow Trail, respecting the concerns of surrounding landscapes of neighborhoods, and of which many students, faculty and staff are residents, with the promise to be good stewards of the trail, the environment (including tree and drainage issues) and the neighborhoods,

And be it further resolved that the UNO Faculty Senate encourages the Omaha City Council to support the building of the Happy Hollow Trail.

Senator Akers moved to postpone further consideration to the November meeting and commit the motion to the Goals & Directions Committee for possible revision. The motion to postpone and commit passed.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The A&S Senators caucused directly after the meeting to elect two replacement senators.