Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha  
2002-2003 Senate Minutes

Wednesday, 2 p.m., February 12, 2003, MBSC Ballroom


Excused: Pedersen, Ritter, Smallwood

Absent: Madsen, Lin

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Chancellor Becl and Vice Chancellor Hodgson were introduced and spoke to the Faculty Senators and other guests regarding the next round of budget cuts. Chancellor Belck discussed two handouts: “The University of Nebraska FY03-04 and FY04-05 Budget Scenarios,” dated January 16, 2003; and the “Spring 2003 Dates for Discussion, re: Budget Reductions,” with a start date of February 10, 2003. Some of the items touched on: The restructuring of administration by having fewer than four Vice Chancellors. Five task forces have been appointed to address restructuring. These groups will be provided with detailed budget information to assist with their work. Vice Chancellor Hodgson introduced other possible budget cutting alternatives, such as increasing student fees, reducing academic offerings, and restructuring the academic process. All of these suggestions may be possible topics for the task forces.

II. The meeting resumed at 2:50 p.m. and the minutes of the January 15, 2003, meeting were approved as submitted.

III. Officers Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sadlel

1. Board of Regents Meeting:

The Board of Regents met on Friday, January 17, at UNMC, and Saturday, January 18, 2003, at Varner Hall. There were three presentations Friday, “Commercialization of University Knowledge: Benefits, Issues, and Concerns,” new mandates of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and UNL’s rural outreach. Randy Ferlic was elected as the new chair and Don Blank as the new vice chair of the board. The major presentation on Saturday was on the university’s libraries. The BOR voted unanimously to approve the new Ph.D. program in Information Technology at UNL and UNO. The board also voted to
make changes in the rules governing Regents Scholarships. Regents voted to modify the Retirement Incentive Program that they passed last year. The BOR approved a list of peers for the NU system: Texas A&M University System, U. Of Colorado System, U. of Illinois System, U. of Missouri System, U. of Oregon System, U. of Tennessee System, and U. of Wisconsin System. Finally, as a cost-cutting measure, the BOR approved a new schedule of meetings for 2003 in which they will meet only seven times.

2. **Chancellor’s Council: January 30, 2002**

   The main item of business at this meeting was the budget cutting process for spring 2003. President Smith foresees that university fixed costs will rise $25.4 million in FY 2003-2004 and another $25.5 million dollars in FY 2004-2005. The Governor, however, wants to cut the university’s budget by 10%, or by $41 million in AY 2003-2004. This figure plus the growth in fixed costs and salaries would mean that the university system faces a possible total budget shortfall next year of $66.4 million. The university may face a total budget shortfall of $40.4 million. UNO’s share of that figure for next year would be $6.1 million, approximately $5 million would come from Academic Affairs. President Smith has asked the four campus Chancellors to forward their lists of potential cuts for AY 2003-2004 by April 1, 2003. Also on the agenda was a new University of Nebraska Foundation capital campaign, discussions of new NU public opinion research, and the naming of the new residence halls in Scott Village.

3. **Executive Committee and UNO Administration meeting: January 30, 2003**

   The main item of business at this meeting was the budget cutting process for spring 2003. The discussion centered on ways that the Faculty Senate could help expedite communication between UNO faculty and the Administration on specific budget cutting proposals.

4. **Announcements:**

   a. The Chancellor has received Faculty Senate Resolutions 2655-2658. The only written response: “The Chancellor has received 2657, 2370 & 2440. She will inform the Board & the President of the resolutions. She has no authority on these issues, such authority is vested with the Board of Regents.”

   b. Faculty Senate Election Results: The following nine (9) faculty members have been elected to serve three-year terms from May 14, 2003, through May 10, 2006:

      College of Arts & Sciences (4):
      Wally Bacon
      Jeremy Lipschultz
      Pamela Owens
      John Shroder
c. Retiring Senators: The following senators will complete their term of service during the 2002-2003 academic year and will be honored with a plaque at the April 30, Appreciation Banquet:

- Nora Bacon (A&S)
- Wikil Kwak (BA)
- Bonnie O’Connell (FA)
- Robert Carlson (A&S)
- Shuanglin Lin (BA)
- Donna Dufner (IS&T)
- Andrew Smallwood (A&S)
- Angela Valle (A&S)

B. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report: The January 2003 budget report was submitted.

IV Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Bacon

The committee met on Wednesday, January 29, 2003. Those present were Nora Bacon, Jody Neathery-Castro, Joan Latchaw, Ethel Williams. On behalf of the committee Senator Bacon moved the following two resolutions to the senate. Each passed.

Resolution 2659: Investment Science and Portfolio Management Specialization in CBA

Whereas the proposed specialization in Investment Science and Portfolio Management is academically sound,

whereas it addresses student interests and meets a need identified by the business community, and

whereas the program does not require the addition or reallocation of resources,

be it resolved that the faculty senate approves the proposal.

Resolution 2660: Revisions to the Policy on Academic Integrity

Whereas the University Committee on Undergraduate Academic
Appeals is not charged with ruling on appeals in cases involving academic integrity,
And whereas in these cases the decision at the college level should be final,

Therefore be it resolved that sections 3d and 3e of the policy (appearing on page 52 of the 2001-02 undergraduate catalog) be deleted.

The academic integrity policy, which was inadvertently omitted from the 2002-03 catalog, will be included in the 2003-04 catalog.

The committee also discussed resources for students in academic jeopardy, articulation with Metropolitan Community College, and the possibility of periodic faculty review of articulation agreements.

A. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Dickson

The committee met on January 29, 2003. Those present were Tom Bragg, Laura Dickson, Bonnie O’Connell, Laura Schulte, Andrew Smallwood, & Peter Wolcott. Items discussed at the meeting were new student I.D.s, Paul Beck Scholarship, Department Chair search procedures, tuition break/scholarships for Iowa students, and the Serials Issues Colloquium scheduled for March 7, 2003.

A. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator D’Souza

The committee met Wednesday, January 29, 2003, 3:00 PM. Attendees were Bennett, Carlson, D’Souza, Lin, Mei, Kwak. The committee discussed the Profile B and Profile C issues pertaining to tenure and promotion guidelines of the College of Arts and Sciences. A resolution will be presented at the March 2003 Faculty Senate meeting.

A. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Garver

The Goals & Directions Committee met at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29. Present were: Chris Allen, Bruce Garver, Karl Koslowski, and Caroline Simpson. Excused were: Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado and Angela Valle. The Committee
established its goals for the spring 2003 semester. The main topics of discussion will be the following:

1. The concern of some UNO students that local high school guidance counselors do not often recommend UNO as a back-up college of choice, much less a first college of choice, for graduating high school seniors.
2. To what extent, if any, should UNO modify its "strategic" goals in light of impending budget cuts of great severity?
3. Would, or would it not, be advisable for UNO to aspire instead to be among the principal colleges and universities seriously considered by graduating Omaha area high school seniors as places they would like to attend. Arguably, because UNO is the only "metropolitan university" in Nebraska, we have little or no competition in this restricted category.
4. Define and suggest to the full Faculty Senate some broad principles that may be recommended for use by UNO's administration in determining how to cut 10% from UNO's budget for the academic year 2003-04.

A. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Blair

The committee met on January 29, 2003. Senators Blair, Metal-Corbin, and Ritter were in attendance. Discussed was a plan of work for the spring semester. For some of the issues under consideration for action a proactive and advocacy approach will be taken and others will be monitored as to their status. The first 3 issues were referred to the Committee by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Cabinet; the last 3 are part of the Committee’s normal responsibility.

1. Administrative changes in the Professional Development (sabbatical) policy
2. Privacy and surveillance issues relating to increased use of Blackboard as a teaching device:
3. Mentoring of junior faculty
4. University Committee on Research
5. University Committee on Teaching
6. Service Learning Academy

Overall, there was a general feeling that the upcoming budget reductions would adversely affect many professional development resources and programs and the Faculty Senate may need to take an aggressive position regarding these cuts.

A. Committee on Rules: Senator Littrell

On behalf of the committee Senator Littrell moved the following, which the Senate passed:

Resolution 2661, Faculty Senate Grievance Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Bylaws, section 6.1, Faculty Grievance Committee, the following faculty members are brought forward by the Rules Committee for ballot election by the senate.
One associate professor will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Judith Harrington, for a three-year term from September 16, 2002, through September 15, 2005:

Christopher Marshall (Elected)
Carol Ebdon

One associate professor will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Lynn Harland, for a three-year term from September 16, 2002, through September 15, 2005:

Scott Harrington (Elected)
Jarene Fluckiger

One member of the Faculty Senate Faculty Personnel and Welfare committee will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Jack Shroder as the committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare representative for a one-year term from September 16, 2002, through September 15, 2003:

Robert Carlson (Elected)
Henry D'Souza

Senators voted 17 for Harrington, 15 for Fluckiger, electing Harrington. Senators voted 23 for Carlson, 9 for D'Souza, electing Carlson. Senators voted 16 for Marshall, 16 for Ebdon. Options for deciding the election were moved by Senators Allen and Nazem. The Senate voted in favor of the first, to decide the vote with a toss of a coin and to assign Christopher Marshall to heads. The coin fell heads up. Marshall was elected.

V Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Blair

The UNO Alumni Association Board of Directors met on January 21, 2003. This was a regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. Chancellor Belck provided an assessment of the budget situation in the coming months and discussed challenges and positives. The Board asked questions but no formal action was taken. On January 10, there was a joint meeting of the alumni associations of the 4 campuses at which the following Alumni Summit Resolution was composed:

Whereas the University of Nebraska, the state’s university, is committed to providing teaching, research and service to the state and its citizens, and
Whereas keeping and attracting young people to the state is a critical issue
for the state’s future, and

Whereas the affordable education opportunities provided to the people of Nebraska by the University of Nebraska are a strong determinant in retaining them as future residents and taxpayers of the state, and

Whereas research universities are and will continue to be essential ingredients to growth in the new economy and the research conducted by the University of Nebraska leads to innovations that fuel the state’s economic development, and

Whereas the services provided by the University of Nebraska are critical to economic development as well as the quality of life in communities across Nebraska, and

Whereas the University of Nebraska must compete on a global basis for students, faculty, staff and grant monies, and must be strongly supported so that Nebraska can prosper in the years ahead, and

Whereas investment in the University of Nebraska is essential to the state’s economic well-being, especially in difficult economic times, and

Whereas, although the University of Nebraska will be required to take reductions as a result of this economic crisis, the University of Nebraska, because of the items set forth above, should be a top priority in allocating funds,

Now, therefore be it resolved that the leadership of the Alumni Associations of the University of Nebraska do hereby call upon the associations’ 127,000 NU alumni households in the state to support its university by taking an active role in assuring state support, and further call upon the state Legislature and Governor to position Nebraska to remain a competitive and prosperous state by making the highest possible investment in the University of Nebraska.

B. **American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator O’Connell**

The UNO AAUP and the NU Board of Regents were unable to come to agreement on salary increases for the 2003-2005 contract, the only unresolved item in negotiations. The final offers were submitted to the "Special Master" on Jan.15 as required by LB 661 and a hearing was held last week. The Special Master will render his decision by February 15. The negotiations did result in agreement on several non-economic issues. These will be presented to UNO AAUP members at a ratification meeting after that decision is rendered.

C. **Strategic Planning Steering Committee:** Senator Garver

Senator Garver attended the January 22, 2003, meeting of the SPSC at which Chancellor Nancy Beleć spoke regarding the proposed 10% cut in the University of Nebraska’s 2003-04 budget. The SPSC also discussed plans for the Strategic Advance to be held during the second week of May 2003.

VI **Old Business**

A. The current budget crisis was covered in the Chancellor’s and Vice Chancellor’s presentation. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will continue to monitor the
situation and keep all informed.

VII New Business

A. Senator Sadlek asked anyone who had any ideas for names for the new residence halls to forward them to him. There was a suggestion that there might be university guidelines to check.

VIII The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.