The University of Nebraska at Omaha Faculty Senate met in regular session Wednesday, March 10, 1993, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dodge Room of Milo Bail Student Center. The President, H. Carl Camp, presided.


MEMBERS EXCUSED: D'Souza, Hafer, Kenney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lewis, Littrell

Vice Chancellor Otto Bauer, Academic Affairs, spoke on the proposed restructuring of Academic Affairs and responded to questions.

President Camp asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the February 10, 1993, meeting. Senator Skreija moved approval of the minutes; Senator Lickteig seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

President's Report

President Camp reported the Metropolitan University of the 21st Century Committee has formed subcommittees which are working in four areas: conceptual framework, speakers/national conference, database information and a budget. Committee members are meeting alternate weeks as a full committee and the other week as subcommittee working groups. President Camp and Senator Dale Krane will be attending the Metropolitan University National Conference in Denton, Texas, March 28 through 30, 1993.

President Camp reported on the February 13, 1993, Board of Regents Meeting:

The Regents approved periodic professional leaves for 22 UNO faculty members for the 1993-94 academic year. There were 21 half-year leaves at full pay and one full-year leave at half pay.
The revised Conflict of Interest Policy was approved. It is available for review in the Faculty Senate office and eventually will be sent to all faculty. A new peer group was approved for the Med Center. The Regents also approved a policy in response to the Americans with Disabilities Act, which brings the University into compliance. They also approved a new housing policy for the President of the University and the Chancellors. The University President will continue to have a university-provided residence, but the Chancellors will receive a monthly housing allowance. The capital from sales of the currently-owned university residences will be used as an endowment. Some of the monies generated by the endowment will be used to defray incidental costs incurred by the Chancellors in meeting their official duties and responsibilities.

The Regents received University-wide student credit hour reports, enrollment trends, etc. Chancellor Weber made it clear that the overwhelming majority of the enrollment increase in the university system since 1983 was on the UNO campus. Fully 98% of the system's enrollment increase between 1981 and 1992 was attributable to the UNO campus, according to a bar graph the Chancellor displayed. (UNK was excluded since it only entered the system in 1992.)

The Regents received interim financial statements through the end of December 1992, from all of the campuses. They approved new room and board rates for the residential campuses.

For informational purposes, UNK proposed a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences degree and a Bachelor of General Studies degree, the latter modeled after the UNO BGS degree. These proposals will likely be on the March agenda for final approval.

For UNL, the Regents approved the architect's design for a biological sciences greenhouse which will be attached to the Beadle Science Building. For informational purposes, UNL proposed a name change for the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation to Department of Health and Human Performance.

The Strategic topic dealt with Student Affairs. Campus representatives made reports describing initiatives in that area. Regent Wilson suggested the Regents consider
moving the faculty Senate Presidents' reports from the end of the agenda so that they make them in conjunction with the Chancellors' and Student Regents' reports, as in the past. Regent Payne indicated that could be done after December of 1993.

President Camp reminded the Senators that spring elections will be conducted soon in the various colleges to select new senators. Faculty Senate Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer positions also must be filled in elections at the May meeting.

President Camp's assessment of the recent Appropriations Committee hearing in Lincoln was that not many minds were changed. Members of the committee seemed overwhelmingly disposed to require cuts of the University because cuts were being made elsewhere across the nation. They seem to have accepted the industrial model of how to manage the budget of large organizations. They asked: If the University is not to be cut, and thus does not contribute its "fair share" to meeting the financial crunch, then who would you prefer to assume that portion of the cuts otherwise assignable to the university. The Senators pushed members of the Board (Regents Payne and Wilson) to either identify who they would volunteer up for cuts or, barring that, to come out publicly and say they favor a tax increase in order to meet the anticipated revenue shortfall.

The next Board or Regents' meeting will be held on March 20, 1993.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

None

Vice President's Report

Vice President Garrison reported that he had missed the Faculty Senate meeting in February because he was testifying at the Elkhorn campus of Metropolitan Community College before a committee of the Post-Secondary Education Commission. Metropolitan Community College is attempting to get permission to offer academic courses at the Elkhorn and South Omaha Campus which can be readily transferred into junior-senior programs at the state’s colleges and the University.

President Camp noted that materials were distributed to Faculty
Senators which list all the State Senators and their addresses in preparation for a writing and lobbying campaign on behalf of the University. Included are copies of information used in the campus presentation by Chancellor Weber to the Appropriations Committee.

Executive Committee

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Vice President Garrison moved the following:

Resolution 1974
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee recommends to the Faculty Senate that 13.229 faculty members be represented by each senator resulting in the following distribution of seats for the 1993/94 Faculty Senate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBA</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPACS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The motion passed.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Vice President Garrison moved the following:

Resolution 1975
WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska at Omaha is mandated under provisions of its role and mission statement, as well as the comprehensive Statewide Plan for Post-secondary Education issued in June 1992 by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Post-secondary Education, to serve the higher educational needs of the Omaha metropolitan community and environs, inclusive of under-served minorities, and

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska at Omaha continues to experience steady enrollment increases and correspondingly heavy demands for its undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs, and

WHEREAS, there is persuasive evidence of record that the University of Nebraska at Omaha historically has been, and continues to be, under-funded when compared with its urban peers, and
WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska at Omaha's budget was reduced five times in the 1980's and has sustained three cuts in the last two years, and

WHEREAS, these budget reductions have significantly reduced the capacity of the University of Nebraska at Omaha to meet its obligations to students, the citizens of Omaha and the State in the following respects:

(1) Due to a shortage of faculty, the numbers of course offerings have not increased at the same pace as enrollments, which has resulted in a high incidence of closed classes well before the end of registration periods; this consequently prevents students from enrolling in the courses they need with the result that they must spend more time, and money, to complete their education;

(2) Reduction in funds has resulted in multiple negative effects on crucial library resources and services (e.g., fewer staff members to serve increasing numbers of students during shortened hours, slow down in collection building, and severe reductions in periodical subscriptions and serial acquisitions just as new knowledge is being generated at an accelerating rate and new graduate degree programs are being implemented);

(3) Lack of funds to replace outdated and outworn laboratory equipment;

(4) Serious deterioration of capital infrastructure due to deferred maintenance, and

WHEREAS, all of these elements interact to seriously impair the ability of the faculty to impart the latest knowledge to students and citizens of the state, and students and faculty experience difficulty conducting research which is a significant part of students' training and faculty's professional responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned conditions make it difficult to attract and retain the quality faculty essential to offer an excellent education, and

WHEREAS, any further budget reductions would seriously damage an already under-funded University of Nebraska at Omaha and its capacity to meet its educational obligations and would constitute a form of disinvestment in Nebraska's future by depriving Omaha area residents of quality higher educational opportunities on which the economic and social well-being of the state depends, and
WHEREAS, the principal economic indicators for the State of Nebraska are demonstrably stronger than in other parts of the country, e.g., (1) an unemployment rate less than half that of the national average, (2) the recovery of the agricultural sector a matter of record, (3) the rate of new job creation leading the nation, (4) many of Nebraska's major corporations reporting record or near-record profit levels, and (5) the state's Board of Estimates [Nebraska Economic Forecasting Board] having just recently announced a revised and significantly improved revenue outlook for the next biennium, the state's financial condition appears decidedly less dismal than claimed by some officials, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha expresses its dismay over the apparent willingness of some Nebraska officials to reduce the state's investment in publicly supported higher education and registers its unalterable opposition to any further reductions in the budget of this university and further affirms its commitment to work with administration, staff, students, alumni, faculty and others to secure an appropriate level of funding for the 1993-95 biennium, and to that end the Faculty Senate urges all campus sectors to work to persuade members of the Unicameral and the Governor to invest in Nebraska's future.

President Camp noted that this resolution essentially originated with the Educational Resources and Services Committee which brought to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee the core ideas that are expressed here. The Executive Committee felt there was sufficient danger involved in the 5% budget reduction (if it goes through) that the Faculty Senate should try to make explicit those considerations that cause such great concern on the UNO campus. President Camp thanked Senator Bohn, Chair, and members of the Educational Resources and Services Committee, for their initiative and insight.

The motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Committee on Educational Resources and Services Report

Chair Bohn reported the Educational Resources and Services Committee worked on the proposed resolution brought to the Executive Committee on March 3, 1993, so most of the committee's time was spent on writing the motion. The Paul L. Beck Faculty/Staff Honors Scholarship Subcommittee is writing its final report but has not submitted it as yet.
Chair Baker explained that the proposed resolution results from concerns expressed at the Faculty Senate Retreat about students who have signed up for classes and who do not show up or appear to have dropped the class. Also comments have been made to President Camp that something like this must be done as a result of a Federal review of our Financial Aid program. The Committee has met with Randy Sell, Director of Financial Aid, and talked through the problem. The proposed resolution does not mandate recording attendance. As soon as a faculty member is aware that a student is not coming to class, or has never come to class, (e.g., does not appear for an examination) he or she should complete the form and send it to Financial Aid, which would help fulfill the University's legal responsibility.

On behalf of the Academic and Curricular Affairs Committee, Chair Baker moved the following:

4.2.1
WHEREAS, the federal government requires that some procedure be in place to monitor the status of financial aid students who have quit coming to class, and

WHEREAS, UNO's Financial Aid Office has no way of knowing such information without faculty help in that process, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approve adoption of the "Last Date of Known Attendance Form" developed by the Financial Aid Office in consultation with the Academic and Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate. (See Attached — form will be provided at March 10, 1993, meeting.)

Senator Carlson pointed out the problem of the student who never shows up from the beginning. He suggested that situation also be addressed on the form.

Senator Pietron suggested rather than filling out the form, faculty could enter the information on the SIS System. This procedure would eliminate additional paperwork for faculty.
Senator Baker stated that any method of reporting would likely be acceptable as long as Financial Aid is notified. Financial Aid has to assure the Federal Government that the University is using a procedure to monitor students who never appear in class or stop coming to class and are receiving financial aid for that class. Senator Rech suggested the following be added: "students who have not come, or appear to have quit coming to class . . ."

Senator Baker agreed to the friendly amendment.

Senator Johansen pointed out "approve" in the last paragraph should be "approves."

Senator Baker agreed.

Resolution 1976
WHEREAS, the federal government requires that some procedure be in place to monitor the status of financial aid students who have not come, or appear to have quit coming, to class, and

WHEREAS, UNO's Financial Aid Office has no way of knowing such information without faculty help in that process, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves adoption of the "Last Date of Known Attendance Form" developed by the Financial Aid Office in consultation with the Academic and Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate. (see attached form as amended)

The motion as amended passed.

Committee on Personnel and Welfare Report

Chair Skreija reported that the committee met and discussed the invitation from Barbara Hewins-Maroney to join the new task force charged with redrafting the sexual harassment/anti-discrimination document. The committee felt he should decline but the Faculty Senate Executive Committee overruled the decision. Chair Skreija notified Ms. Hewins-Maroney that he would serve on the task force.

The committee also discussed part-time faculty and non-tenure track faculty. The committee is interested
in gathering information on numbers of people involved, how many credit hours are taught by them on and off campus and at satellite locations, their pay, their working conditions, etc. Also, the committee would like to obtain policy statements from AAUP, AFT, and NEA as well as from the University itself. Other areas are also being investigated by the committee.

Chair Skreija and President Camp are deciding who will contact the various organizations mentioned above. The committee is interested in gathering information on part-time faculty and non-tenure track faculty to see what the situation is and how it is developing.

Committee on Goals and Directions Report

None

Committee on Professional Development Report

None
Committee on Rules Report
Chair Garver asked for names of faculty who smoke and would be willing to serve on the Chancellor's Ad Hoc Committee on Smoking, which is being reactivated to review the University's smoking policy.

Other Committee Reports
None

Old Business
President Camp commented that he will thank Vice Chancellor Bauer for meeting with the Faculty Senate.

For the Good of the Order
General discussion followed.
At this point, the quorum was lost.

New Business
None for the lack of quorum.
The meeting ended at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Julia Curtis
Secretary/Treasurer

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