MINUTES
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
FACULTY SENATE
November 10, 1993

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Faculty Senate met in regular session Wednesday, November 10, 1993, at 2:00 p.m. in Dining Rooms "A & B" of Milo Bail Student Center. The President, Julia Curtis, presided.


MEMBERS EXCUSED: Nazem, Rech, Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Senator Thigpen moved, Senator Pietron seconded to suspend the regular order of business to allow Professor Ben Ching, College of Engineering, to speak and answer questions.

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

Resolution 2017

WHEREAS, Omaha and the metropolitan region is the principal business/financial, manufacturing, construction, technology, and population center of the State of Nebraska thus necessitating that citizens and businesses have available to them a full range of educational opportunities that support and sustain the growth, development, attraction, and retention of diverse enterprises both large and small; and

WHEREAS, the contemporary pace of technological change and growth in new scientific knowledge has accelerated exponentially, thus making life-long learning and continuous skill development an absolute necessity for successful performance in engineering, scientific, and other professional and technical careers; and

WHEREAS, the future development and well-being of the Omaha metropolitan economy and that of the State of Nebraska is intrinsically inter-related and depends upon the presence of a well-educated and skilled labor force that can work productively and effectively in increasingly sophisticated technological
environments, such as the various fields of engineering and technology; and

WHEREAS, the officially mandated role and mission of the University of Nebraska at Omaha is to serve the higher educational needs of the citizens of the metropolitan region, including those who are underserved for place-bound, economic, ethnic/racial, familial or other reasons; and inasmuch as the Comprehensive State-wide Plan for Postsecondary Education (Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, June, 1992) stipulates:
- "The University of Nebraska at Omaha is an urban campus serving the educational needs of the Omaha metropolitan area. . . ."
- "UNO's programmatic service area, based on statute, is to serve as the primary unit within the University of Nebraska for urban-oriented programs."
- "UNO serves as a source of urban, economic and business-related research that will serve its geographic and programmatic service areas and support its instructional programs."
- "As the only public, four-year university located in the state's largest urban area, UNO has a special responsibility to use its resources and expertise to provide leadership in solving problems of the metropolitan area and supporting its social, cultural, international and economic environment."
- "As an urban institution, UNO should work closely with the Omaha metropolitan area to meet urban needs and provide leadership to build partnerships with appropriate constituencies."
- "Given the strong business base in the Omaha metropolitan area, UNO should maintain its linkages with businesses, providing public service appropriate to its areas of expertise and within its resources. . . ."; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of scores of Omaha-based engineering and construction firms, as well as other businesses in Omaha and elsewhere in the state, have recently made known their displeasure and alarm over the paucity of appropriate engineering and engineering technology courses and programs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and have expressed their support for the re-establishment of an Omaha-based and UNO-administered College of Engineering which would be attuned and responsive to the engineering and technology education, research and consulting needs of the business community in Omaha and state-wide, both present and future; and

WHEREAS, the 20-plus year record of the piecemeal but inexorable dismantling of the engineering and technology teaching and research programs at UNO since the 1970 forced merger with UN-L's College of Engineering, as reflected in the attached "Chronology," does not promote confidence in the responsiveness of the current
administrative structure to the legitimate concerns and needs of the Omaha community for timely, convenient, effective and affordable engineering/technology education, research and related services; and

WHEREAS, proposals to boost funding under the current administrative set-up appear at best to offer weak palliatives in their failure to understand that televised course instruction is a poor substitute for flesh-and-blood instructors/mentors or that classes offered at a location inconveniently distanced from Omaha are hardly a viable option for those students who are employed during the day (not to mention the additional transportation costs) or that the absence of an evening class schedule correspondingly works a hardship on students who have daytime employment obligations and runs contrary to the long-time commitment and practice of UNO responding to the scheduling needs of a large non-traditional student clientele; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, in affirmation of this University's official mission to serve the manifest educational needs of the metropolitan community, recommends to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska that it re-establish the UNO College of Engineering, to consist initially of the Department of Civil Engineering, Department of Electronics Engineering, Department of Production and Manufacturing Systems, Department of Construction Engineering, and the Center for Infrastructure Research, and which college shall be administratively assigned and responsible to the university of Nebraska at Omaha; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that current faculty members be given the option of remaining with UN-L or joining the faculty of the UNO College of Engineering but that the total number of faculty lines remain with UNO and that budgetary support for personnel, instruction, research and related activities likewise remain with UNO; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that current faculty members be given the option of remaining with UN-L or joining the faculty of the UNO College of Engineering but that at least the current faculty lines remain with UNO and that budgetary support for personnel, instruction, research and related activities likewise remain with UNO; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as needs and demands may in the future dictate and, as appropriate resources are made available, that additional programs in engineering and technology be developed at
Senator Carroll moved to amend the first "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED," to substitute "unchanged" for "the total" so as to avoid the possibility of losing the current lines. Senator Krane seconded. Past President Camp asked Senator Carroll if "but that the current faculty lines remain . . ." would be a friendly amendment? Senators Carroll and Krane agreed.

Senator Aschenbrenner moved to add "at least" before "the current faculty lines" as a friendly amendment. Senators Carroll and Krane agreed.

The amendment to the motion passed.

The amended motion passed.

The regular order of business resumed.

President Curtis asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the October 13, 1993, meeting. Senator Skreija moved approval of the minutes; Senator Thigpen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

President's Report

President Curtis read an acknowledgement from Past President Camp of the Senate's expression of sympathy on the death of his father.

President Curtis then reported on the October 15 Board of Regents meeting. The issues ranged from creating a green space on the UN-L campus by removing a parking lot to a discussion of out-of-state tuition. There were then reports from the four campuses on the status of women. The report from Lincoln disclosed the women on that campus are feeling backlash from both students and faculty. There was an attempt by Regent Allen to stifle discussion on the Engineering issue—that some senior level administrators were talking out of turn to the public, thereby putting external pressure on the Regents. Chairman Payne adjourned the meeting before Regent Allen got his motion before the Board.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

None
Vice President's Report

None

Executive Committee Report

Past President Camp reported on the selection of Dr. L. Dennis Smith as President for the University of Nebraska System.

Standing Committee Reports

Committee on Educational Resources and Services Report

Chair Bohn reported that David Irvine, Manager, Facilities Planning, attended the October meeting to discuss space allocation. A report of the meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office. Also the Paul Beck Scholarship letter was distributed to all senators. Chair Bohn encouraged everyone to complete the attached payroll contribution form and turn it in to the Secretary at the end of the meeting.

Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs Report

Vice Chair Lloyd started to give the committee report but was interrupted. As the quorum number was waning, Senator Corbin moved to suspend rules so motions on the agenda could be considered. Senator Smith-Howell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee on Personnel and Welfare Report

On behalf of the Personnel and Welfare Committee, Chair Skreija moved the following:

4.3.1 WHEREAS, students can purchase space in the faculty level of the UNO parking structure for the student parking fee, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that all persons who park in the faculty level of the parking structure be charged the same fee; (copy of parking fees attached for Senators only)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that parking spaces on the faculty level of the parking structure not be sold to students until the fourth week of the semester.
Senator Carroll spoke against the motion as students would be placed in an unfair advantage of not using the parking structure until the fourth week yet paying full price. Senator Aschenbrenner moved to refer the motion to committee. Senator Corbin seconded the motion. The motion was opposed by a majority. Senator Dalstrom moved that "at a pro-rata fee" be added to the "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED," after fourth week. Senator Diamond seconded the motion.

The amendment to the motion passed.

The amended motion passed.

Resolution 2018
WHEREAS, students can purchase space in the faculty level of the UNO parking structure for the student parking fee, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that all persons who park in the faculty level of the parking structure be charged the same fee; (copy of parking fees attached for Senators only)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that parking spaces on the faculty level of the parking structure not be sold to students until the fourth week of the semester at a pro-rata fee.

At this point, the quorum was lost.

Committee on Goals and Directions Report

Committee on Professional Development Report

Committee on Rules Report

Other Committee Reports

Old Business

For the Good of the Order

New Business

The meeting ended at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,