

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2018
City Campus Union, Colonial Room A & B
Presidents Hanrahan and Purcell, Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

President Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

2.0 Adoption of the Agenda

President Hanrahan asked the acceptance of the agenda and asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, he asked the Senate to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

3.0 Election of President-Elect

President Hanrahan noted that the Faculty Senate rules call for an election of the President-Elect at the next Senate meeting, providing the nominations can be included with the call to the meeting. He pointed out that nominees were not identified in time for the November 6 Senate meeting, but were sent out prior to this meeting, therefore the election will be held to fill the President-Elect position which was vacated when he assumed the role of President. Professor Buan, Biochemistry, and Professor Belli, Psychology were the candidates for President-Elect and both spoke about their credentials and concerns. Professor Belli was elected as President-Elect.

President Hanrahan pointed out that Professor Belli's position on the Executive Committee was open and needed to be filled. He stated that any Senator who is interested in running for election to the Executive Committee should contact him or Coordinator Griffin.

4.0 Announcements

4.1 Update on Ad Hoc Committee Addressing AAUP Censure

President Hanrahan reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has met and is looking at suggesting major revisions to Chapter 4 of the Regents Bylaws.

4.2 Cassidy & Associates, Washington D.C.

President Hanrahan reported that the University has contracted Cassidy & Associates, a bipartisan government relations firm, which will work with faculty members to promote our faculty with federal initiatives and provide the faculty with more research opportunities and exposure. He stated that faculty members seeking research funding from federal agencies should contact Monica Norby, Director of Research Communications in the Office of Research and Economic Development, who manages communications and contributes to UNL's federal research initiatives. He reported that Assistant to the Chancellor Michelle Waite deals with the State Legislature and handles governmental relations.

5.0 Approval of November 6, 2018 Minutes

President Hanrahan asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none he asked for unanimous consent to approve the minutes. He noted that the minutes were accepted as presented.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Student Conduct and Student Judicial Board (Assistant Vice Chancellor Jake Johnson)

Assistant VC Johnson reported that the University Conduct Board heard 18 cases August 1, 2017-July 2018; the University Appeals Board heard 3 cases since August 1, 2017-July 2018; the Title IX Board heard 3 cases during the same time period; and the Title IX Appeals Board heard 1 case in the same time period. He noted that more cases were heard in the spring and the process has been improved so the number of cases the Board will see should increase. He reported that the Board has already heard 19 cases this fall.

Past President Purcell asked how the Student Conduct Board and Judicial Board handle Title IX cases when we have a Title IX Coordinator on campus. Assistant VC Johnson noted that these cases are governed by Appendix A of the Student Code of Conduct. He reported that the Office of Institutional Compliance and Equity has several investigators who look into the cases and based on their reports, makes recommendations on how the case should be dealt with. He stated in three cases the students elected to go through the Judicial Board.

Past President Purcell asked if the victim is involved in any hearings. Assistant Vice Chancellor Johnson stated that the victim is the complainant and they can participate to the extent that they wish to be involved. Past President Purcell asked when the University Police are involved in the process. Assistant Vice Chancellor Johnson stated that if there is a criminal case the University Police might be involved to a limited extent, but they are also restricted from sharing information with the Board.

Professor Kolbe, Johnny Carson School of Theater & Film, asked when the Student Conduct and Judicial Board get involved if a student violates the Code of Conduct off campus. Assistant Vice Chancellor Johnson stated that the Code of Conduct gives the Office of Student Affairs the discretion to determine what incidents to pursue and sometimes the Office does look into off-campus events. He stated that typically the cases involve disorderly houses, but sometimes cases involving violence are examined. He noted that the cases are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Professor Weissling, Special Education and Communications Disorders, asked why there has been an increase in the number of cases. Assistant Vice Chancellor Johnson stated that when a report is received the Office of Student Affairs tries to deal with the case internally and an administrative disposition can be made. He noted that in the past the Office did not always move some cases to the Board and instead a hold was put on the student's registration. He stated that now these cases are immediately moved forward and there are fewer registration holds.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Johnson stated that he appreciated the support of the faculty and those faculty members who serve on the Boards.

6.2 Academic Planning Committee (Professor John Bender)

Professor Bender reported that the APC dealt with two rounds of budget cuts, early in the academic year and again in the spring semester. He stated that in both instances, public hearings were held, but there was very little response, probably because the budget cuts were managed by the administration resulting in limited impact to academic programs.

Professor Bender reported that the APC has a subcommittee that is now working on proposing revisions to the Procedures to be invoked for Budget Reallocation and Reduction. He stated that the APC will review the proposed revision at its next meeting and vote on the revisions in January. He noted that the Procedures would need to be approved by the Faculty Senate. President-Elect Belli asked if the revisions are necessary. Professor Bender stated that the current document has not been revised since 2011. He pointed out that the changes do not require a complete rewrite of the Procedures.

Professor Billesbach, Biological Systems Engineering, noted that the campus is looking into a new budget strategy and he asked how the APC fits into the new strategy and how will it affect the functioning of the APC. Professor Bender stated that the APC heard from EVC Plowman last week regarding the RCM budget model and she stated that it would be at least three years before a new budget model would be used. He noted that until the APC sees a more concrete description of how the RCM will work it is unknown just how much it will affect the APC, but the APC is very interested in how it will be impacted.

7.0 Unfinished Business

7.1 Motion to Approve Revisions to Student Code of Conduct

President Hanrahan noted that the motion to approve the proposed revisions to the Student Code of Conduct was presented last month. He pointed out that ASUN has already approved the revisions. He asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none the question was called on the motion. The motion was approved by the Faculty Senate.

President Hanrahan wanted to express a special thank you to Professor Lenich, Law College, for the excellent job he has done in rewriting the Code.

7.2 Resolution to Support NU Budget Request 2019

President Hanrahan reported that the motion was introduced last month, but the Executive Committee has made an amendment to the motion to include "Whereas, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduating class of 2019 will have experienced \$14.7 million in budget cuts over the course of their education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln." Professor Lee, Communication Studies, suggested removing the first University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the sentence because it is not needed. President Hanrahan agreed and then asked if there were any objections to the motion. Hearing none he asked for the motion to be approved. The motion was approved by the Faculty Senate.

7.3 Extension Educator Notice of Termination Resolution

President Hanrahan noted that the resolution was presented at last month's meeting, but the Executive Committee has moved to amend the resolution to include the language "except for those who hold special appointments as Assistant Extension Educator, Associate Extension Educator, and Extension Educator. Those who hold special appointments as Assistant Extension Educator, Associate Extension Educator, and Extension Educator may terminate their appointment by giving the appropriate administrative officer 90-day notice of the date of termination. Notice shall be given by an appropriate administrative officer not less than three (3) months, not less than six (6) months, and not less than one (1) year in advance of the termination date for those who hold a special appointment as an Assistant Extension Educator, as Associate Extension Educator, or an Extension Educator, respectively." President-Elect Belli noted that the additional language clarifies that the Extension Educators are faculty, but are listed under special appointments. He stated that he believes the resolution should be approved, but hopes that the Senate Executive Committee will continue to pursue that Extension Educators be considered permanent faculty members.

Professor Lindquist, Agronomy & Horticulture, asked why the focus is strictly on Extension Educators rather than all of the faculty. President Hanrahan noted that the Board of Regents revised the Regents Bylaws to include Professors of Practice and Research Professors and provided these faculty members with the same termination that is being proposed for the Extension Educators. He pointed out that the Senate passed a resolution in 2016 to do the same thing for the Extension Educators, but there is some debate at the administrative level as to what happened to it, so it is being presented again to the Senate.

Professor Lindquist asked why instructors and lecturers are not included. President-Elect Belli noted that lecturers usually have only a 1-2 year contract, unless they are ABD. He stated that including the language being proposed for Extension Educators would actually reduce the length of the contracts that many of them already have. President Hanrahan noted that Extension Educators are on a continuous contract.

President Hanrahan called the question on the amendment. The amendment was approved with no objections. President Hanrahan then called the question on the motion. The motion was approved by the Senate, with one opposed vote.

8.0 Vice Chancellor Wilhelm, Office of Research and Economic Development

Vice Chancellor Wilhelm stated that he was glad to speak to the Faculty Senate and wanted to provide an update and talk about his thoughts and visions for the university. He stated that his plan on moving forward is to increase the growth in the research activity across all disciplines, to build on existing strengths and identify new strengths in research, and to support ways the faculty across the disciplines can impact our world. He stated that there are five themes he is paying attention to, one of which is growth in research across the campus and he wants to ensure that his organization continues to support and accelerate research across the campus. Another is whether this is now the right time to do something different with F & A and how we work with outside partners. He stated that the third theme is studying what is happening with Innovation Campus and to see how we can leverage it to move it forward. He noted that the fourth theme is concern from faculty members that there is a lull in terms of leadership in championing research and the fifth thing he is working on is meeting and learning about the different people on campus.

Vice Chancellor Wilhelm stated that he has been able to make a few adjustments with his staff and he needs to consider what has to happen if the campus is going to double its research expenditures. He pointed out that the research expenditure target will require more people in his organization and he will need to plan for this. He stated that once we learn of the N150 Commission's report he wants lead a strategic plan for research and development.

Professor Gay, Physics & Astronomy, pointed out that the best way to double research expenditures is to double the faculty or increase the quality of the faculty through recruiting high quality faculty members. He noted that we have no members of the national academy in the College of Arts & Sciences and stated that we need people with this stature. He noted that the focus needs to be centered on the faculty, not adding more people to the Research Office. Vice Chancellor Wilhelm stated that we do need to recruit more faculty and we also need to help senior faculty members.

Vice Chancellor Wilhelm stated that as we push to recruit more faculty and to assist current faculty in research we want to make investments in research, but pointed out that the ratio will change and external funding is going to be important. He noted that we also need to increase our internal research funding opportunities and this will occur as our research expenditures increase.

Professor Adams, Plant Pathology, reported that Crispr, a tool for editing genomes, is creating a revolution in agriculture and some of the new crops being developed would be really good in Nebraska, but there is a patent which could stymie our plant research. Vice Chancellor Wilhelm stated that although he is not an expert on this particular subject, it is his understanding that our faculty have operating space to use Crispr for research, but if we were to enter into an agreement with Crispr so the results could be used in a revenue generating way, we would have to obtain a license. He pointed out that there is a lot of opportunity for faculty research in this area of study and his office is discussing the issue with a few of our partners and his office is paying attention to what is occurring.

Professor Vuran, Computer Science & Engineering, asked if the Office of Research and Economic Development has plans to recruit top level graduate students. He stated that this is important because it has implications for future funding for the university and for expanding research. Vice Chancellor Wilhelm agreed that we need a strong community of graduate students and he has had discussions with Dean Carr, Graduate Studies, and he believes that office is shifting its focus to graduate recruiting. He pointed out that one thing we need to do is improve the way we pay graduate students. Professor Vuran noted that recruiting graduate students through multi-year offers will require more institutional support and suggested that the Vice Chancellor's office look into this.

Professor Buan stated that in relation to graduate student training, multi-year offers to graduate students could lead to the start of new industries, but graduate students and post docs need to be able to get to the point that their ideas are attractive for licensing. She asked what the relationship is like between graduate students and the Office of Research and Economic Development. Vice Chancellor Wilhelm stated that for him there is no separation in regards to who is conducting the research. He pointed out that a different approach could be for graduate students at UNL to be involved in the proof of concept, safety testing, etc. of research that is publishable and trustworthy. He stated that he would like to develop a culture at UNL in which graduate students could go forward with their research ideas to create start-up companies. He stated that the culture would not just apply to the creativity of new work, but would follow through to the impact stage of the research.

Vice Chancellor Wilhelm stated that he appreciated the opportunity to speak with the Senate and noted that his door is always open and he is interested in meeting individual faculty members. He stated that he hopes to have some different opportunities for the faculty in the spring semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, Regency Suite. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.