

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2019

City Campus Union, Regency Suite

Presidents Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

President Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2.0 Amend the Agenda

President Hanrahan stated that an amendment to the agenda is needed, and asked for unanimous consent to move the report of the Teaching Council to immediately following the Chancellor as Professor Kautz needs to attend another meeting. Hearing no objections the amended agenda was accepted.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Update on Ad Hoc Committee Addressing the AAUP Censure

President Hanrahan reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has completed reviewing the Board of Regents Bylaws and has made suggested revisions to the Bylaws. He stated that the Executive Committee would be reviewing the draft document and providing feedback on the proposed changes. He stated that the Ad Hoc Committee will now be reviewing the UNL Bylaws and will propose revisions.

3.2 Report on Board of Regents Meeting

President Hanrahan reported that he attended the December Board of Regents meeting, and although there were some faculty members who wanted him to address the Board regarding concerns over the appointment of Chancellor Gold as Chancellor of UNO, he decided after thoughtful consideration to not speak at this time. He noted that there are UNL faculty members who are concerned that the appointment will lead to a merger of UNMC and UNO which could negatively impact UNL. He reported that members of the Board did state during the meeting that there are no plans to merge any of the campuses and only the Board has the power to make mergers.

3.3 Faculty Survey

President Hanrahan stated that he wants a short faculty survey conducted to see what the faculty feel are the major issues that the Executive Committee and the Senate need to address. He noted that the Executive Committee is drafting the survey which should only be a few questions.

4.0 Chancellor Green

Chancellor Green welcomed the faculty back and noted that this is a very important year for the university as this is our 150th anniversary. He stated that he will talk about the historical significance of the university at his State of the University address on January 15th and the N150 Commission's Report will be made available that day. He noted that the N150 Report calls for the campus to be aspirational in how we think to move the campus forward in the next 25 years. He noted that the Report calls for an integrated mission in research, education and teaching, and engagement. He stated that the Report suggests that all of our students have the opportunity for an experiential learning experience through research and outside internships. He stated that he is excited about the Report and he encourages as many people to be at the Address as possible. He pointed out that the campus has been making tremendous progress during the last 18 months, even during challenging times, and he plans on highlighting some of our progress during his State of the University Address. He noted that the preface to the N150 Report includes a statement regarding consideration of having a University Council that would include faculty and staff.

Chancellor Green reported that the State Legislature begins its long session tomorrow and there is encouragement in the Legislature's positive tone towards the university. Instead of having to face budget cuts there is a sense of potentially being able to increase the budget for the first time in quite a while. He stated that the university is asking for a 3% increase the first year of the next biennium and 3.7% for the second year.

Chancellor Green noted that Governor Ricketts has included workforce development initiatives in his budget including the Nebraska Talent Scholarships that would provide \$4,000 scholarships for 250 students in targeted programs at the University of Nebraska. He stated that the targeted programs of study are: math, engineering, healthcare, computer information systems, and all programs at the Nebraska College of

Technical Agriculture in Curtis. He noted that the state colleges would receive 250 scholarships and the community colleges would receive 65 scholarships. He pointed out that there were discussions at the end of 2018 about how we could increase the workforce by working with businesses to identify their needs and the workforce development initiative is a good start to addressing those needs.

Chancellor Green stated that the university is watching the federal government shutdown which seems to have no real solution at the present. He stated that the university is monitoring our research grants and contracts that receive federal funding. He noted that financial aid certification for incoming students is another major issue with the government shut down which could impact the recruiting of the next class of incoming students.

Chancellor Green reported that fundraising for the engineering complex is proceeding well. He noted that this is a \$155 million project which will be done in two phases. He stated that \$70 million has been received, from the state as a result of LB 957, a state statute which addressed deferred maintenance issues at the university, and these funds will begin phase one of the project. He reported that another \$85 million is being raised to construct an additional engineering building across from the Othmer building.

Chancellor Green noted that there are a lot of questions concerning Chancellor Gold's appointment as Chancellor of UNMC and UNO, and he wanted to point out that the Board of Regents made it very clear at the recent Board meeting that there is no intention to merge the two campuses. He reported that Chancellor Gold assured him that UNMC's research partner is UNL, and in fact, he pointed out that there is a long list of ways in which UNMC and UNL are partners.

Chancellor Green stated that our goal is to have all of our leadership team in place by the end of 2019. He noted that our leadership team has essentially turned over since he became Chancellor. He reported that there are two dean searches that are entering the final stages of the search process: the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences. He noted that the search for the dean of the University Libraries is now underway, and that the only positions remaining as interims after these positions are filled are the dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Professor Billesbach, Biological Systems Engineering, asked if the number of Nebraska Talent Scholarships for the university have been broken down by the campuses. Chancellor Green stated that this information is not available yet and pointed out that the announcement was just very recently made. He said that the only thing that is known is what disciplines the scholarships are for.

Professor Krehbiel, 4-H Youth Development asked what the current status is of the resolution on changing the termination notification for Extension Educators. Chancellor Green stated that it is on his desk for him to review.

Professor Vakilzadian, Electrical and Computer Engineering, asked if the announcement of a 2% increase on grant overhead charges is for the university system or just UNL. Chancellor Green stated that he was not aware of the announcement.

5.0 Teaching Council Report (Professor Kautz)

Professor Kautz reported that the Teaching Council exists to support the instruction at all levels at UNL, provide advice on the use of funds appropriated specifically for the improvement of instruction and learning, and assists in the selection of recipients of campus teaching awards including the Sorensen, OTICA, UDTA, and the ADT. He stated that the Teaching Council continued to have monthly meetings of the Century Club which is a meeting for teachers of large classes and held on the first Tuesday of the month at 3:30. He stated that anyone wanting information on the Century Club should contact him. Professor Brown-Kramer stated that she would like to attend the Century Club meetings, but they conflict with the Faculty Senate meeting. She inquired whether the time of the Century Club meetings might be changed. Professor Kautz stated that there has been some discussion regarding polling the faculty to see if a better time can be determined for the Century Club meetings.

Professor Glider, School of Biological Sciences, noted that recently two initiatives have been established: the STEM Education Research Initiative and the Center for Transformative Education which is looking for a new director. He asked if the Teaching Council was invited to participate in any of these initiatives, particularly since these initiatives involve multiple colleges. Professor Kautz stated that the Teaching Council was not involved, but he will make an inquiry about it.

6.0 Election of Executive Committee Member

President Hanrahan noted that an Executive Committee member needs to be elected to fill the remainder of the seat vacated by Professor Belli when he became President-Elect. Ballots were distributed to the Senate and Professor Kolbe, Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film was elected.

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Professor Dodd)

Professor Dodd reported that the role of the UUC is to provide a campus-wide perspective on curricular issues, to act as the final review process for course action, and is responsible for curricular oversight of ACE. He stated that the UUC voted on the following during 2018: 85 new course proposals, 355 course change proposals, 44 course eliminations, 30 ACE certifications, and 11 ACE course removals. He reported that during the year ACE assessment and recertification was carried out for ACE outcomes 1-3, and this year ACE 4-6 outcomes are being reviewed with feedback being provided to ACE instructors.

7.2 Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (Professor Fuess)

Professor Fuess reported that the IAC reviews and makes recommendations on all Athletics Department policies, programs, and practices to ensure that they are consistent with the educational mission of the University and to ensure that the recommendations are supportive of student-athletes in their academic endeavors. He stated that there are 13 members on the IAC which has two subcommittees: the Assessing Academic Support Services Subcommittee and the Scheduling Oversight Subcommittee. He noted that the IAC Chair and other members are involved with the Transfer Appeals Committee, Athletics Scholarship Appeal Committee, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. He stated that the Academic Support Services Subcommittee was focusing on tutoring for student-athletes and examining why there is a high turnover of tutors. He stated that the Subcommittee will finish its report by the end of this semester.

Professor Fuess reported that the Oversight Committee meets in August and in December to review the travel schedule for every team to make sure that each team's schedule complies with the missed class policy. He noted that this fall every team was in compliance except for women's volleyball when it made the NCAA finals. He pointed out that the IAC can hear appeals and grant exceptions for unique circumstances such as the volleyball team making the Final Four competition. He stated that during the spring semester the softball team will not be in compliance because the Sunday before finals week the team will be traveling. He pointed out that conflicts occur because of the Big Ten scheduling contests/tournaments.

Professor Fuess noted that there were no transfer appeals this past year. He stated that the Student Athlete Advisory Committee holds meetings semi-monthly and makes a report at the end of the year.

Professor Fuess reported that each year at the end of the spring semester a college distribution of undergraduate student-athletes is generated and the past year showed the College of Arts & Sciences having the highest number of student-athletes followed by the College of Business, the College of Engineering, and the College of Education and Human Sciences. He stated that the IAC reviews academic progress metrics and the Federal/IPEDS graduation rates for student-athletes which continue to exceed the rate of graduation for the overall student body. He noted that the graduate success rate (GSR) at Nebraska increased for the 4th consecutive year and remains above the NCAA Division I average. Our all-sport GSR for the first time rose to 90%, and puts Nebraska squarely at the median of the Big Ten universities and the Board of Regents peer universities. He pointed out that the Big 12 has the lowest graduation success rate. He reported that in 2018 the GSR for male student-athletes rose to 87% and the female exceeded the Division I average of 91%. He stated that for 2018 eight teams exhibited a perfect 100% GSR: softball, women's basketball, men's gymnastics, women's gymnastics, women's soccer, men's tennis, women's tennis, and women's volleyball. He noted that four teams exhibited GSRs more than 5% below the Big Ten median: men's basketball, men's golf, women's golf and men's wrestling.

Professor Fuess pointed out that the Big Ten conference is now scheduling contests/tournaments during final exam week, and he recommends that the IAC examine the missed class policy to see if it is appropriate given the current conditions. He reported that there needs to be clarification on who appoints the student members for the Committee. He noted that the Graduate Student Assembly thinks they should have a member on the Committee and Athletics think they should appoint the student-athlete representative.

Professor Lee, Communication Studies, asked if there is some sense why the wrestling team has a low graduate success rate and low GPA. Professor Fuess stated that the IAC has not seen the data, but the team's GSR is low relative to the other varsity teams and low in comparison with other Big Ten schools and the

Division I average GSR for the sport. Professor Lee asked if anything is being done with these student-athletes to improve the GSR. Professor Fuess asked what the Senate would recommend. Professor Lee suggested that discussions begin with the coaches and others in Athletics to address the issue. President Hanrahan asked if the wrestlers have the same academic support as football players. Professor Fuess stated that they have the same support services and the same access. Professor Kolbe noted that the data was for a six year period of GSR and wondered whether some of the wrestling student-athletes took longer to graduate. Professor Fuess stated that this is a possibility. He noted that with the IPEDS data if a student transfers in and graduates it counts as a success, and if a student transfers out in bad academic standing that counts as a failure. Professor Kolbe pointed out that the data does not account for students that leave the university and come back later to finish their degree. President Hanrahan asked how wrestling compares to other sports across the NCAA. Professor Fuess stated that he does not know this information, but the data is available online at NCAA.org and he could obtain it if the Senate is interested in having this information.

President-Elect Belli asked if there is a way we can avoid the conflicts in the scheduling of contests/tournaments during final exam week. Professor Fuess stated that our Faculty Athletics Representative, Professor Potuto, has been asked to make this a higher priority issue with the Big Ten and Executive Associate Athletics Director LeBlanc has been quite vocal about the issue. He pointed out that our location plays a factor because our teams oftentimes have to travel further which means they may violate our missed class policy due to traveling.

Professor Dam, Metro District - Extension, asked if hard data has been looked at to determine why some of our student-athletes are failing to graduate. Professor Fuess stated that, to his knowledge, this has not been done, but the Senate could charge the IAC to look into the matter. Professor Dam moved that the IAC investigate what is causing the lack of graduation rates for some of our student-athletes. Professor Adenwalla, Physics & Astronomy, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Senate. Professor Fuess pointed out that student-athletes have a higher graduation rate than other students. Professor Kolbe suggested that the IAC look into any team that is below the median of our peers in terms of graduation success rates. Professor Dussault, Chemistry, suggested that the anomalies should be looked at.

Professor Vuran, Computer Science & Engineering, pointed out that all sports are influenced by technology and asked if Athletics are using and testing any of the technology that UNL is developing. Professor Fuess stated that a number of things are being used, including technology that is available in the Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior.

8.0 Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Emergency Motion to Approve Ballot to Replace a Member on the Academic Planning Committee

President Hanrahan reported that one of the newly elected members of the APC has become an Associate Dean and has consequently resigned from the Committee. He noted that a vote of the faculty body will need to be taken, but the Senate needs to approve the ballot first. He stated that the ballot comes approved from the Committee on Committees. The Senate voted to approve the ballot as an emergency motion.

10.0 Open Mic

Professor Weissling, Special Education & Communication Disorders, asked if the Executive Committee has heard anything further about travel reimbursement. She reported that she knows of several people who have not had any response back on their reimbursement. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny stated that there was a large backlog when the system was transitioned to Concur, but he believes that this will be resolved soon. Professor Buan, Biological Systems Engineering, pointed out that there is concern that if the travel expense is not processed within the 60-day time limit that people will not get reimbursed. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny noted that if the expense voucher was submitted within the 60-day period the individual will be reimbursed.

Professor Gailey, English, stated that the new health insurance policy is atrocious with mental health care and she knows of people who are now having to pay out-of-pocket. President Hanrahan stated that this issue was raised with Assistant Vice Chancellor Currin when the Executive Committee spoke with him this summer and he did not think there would be a problem. Professor Buan pointed out that Assistant VC Currin encouraged people to let Human Resources know if there are problems. She reported that the Executive Committee was also told that United Health Care was going to set up a website specifically for the University. President

Hanrahan stated that anyone with concerns can contact him through email and he will then forward the email to Assistant VC Currin.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, Colonial Room A & B. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.