

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2019

City Campus Union, Presidents Kevin Hanrahan and Robert Belli, Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

President Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Green

Chancellor Green welcomed the Faculty Senate back to a new academic year and stated that he looks forward to having conversations with the Senate. He particularly wanted to thank the new Senators for their service on behalf of the faculty.

Chancellor Green stated that he was happy and pleased to have the opportunity to spend some time in a leadership retreat this summer with the Senate Executive Committee. He noted that he, Interim EVC Moberly, VC Boehm, and his Chief of Staff Zeleny participated in the retreat which was facilitated by Professor Blankley of the Law College. He stated that the retreat was focused on how to enhance the relationship between the administration and the Executive Committee, and he felt that it was a successful retreat.

Chancellor Green reported that the anticipated enrollment data shows that our enrollment is 25,332 students which amounts to a 1.9% decline in overall enrollment from last year which is very close to what we were predicting. He stated that the largest decline was seen in the international student population. He reported that the first year freshmen class was flat in enrollment, but there was an increase in non-resident students accompanied by a decrease in international students. He stated that the returning student population follows essentially our previous enrollment trends. He reported that graduate student enrollment is down by 4%, again primarily due to a decrease in international students. He noted that the decrease is not from any one specific country or region, but rather across the board. He stated that the complete six-day census report will be available later in the week.

Professor Adenwalla, Physics & Astronomy, asked if the decrease in international students is due to problems with obtaining a visa or whether the students are not applying. Chancellor Green stated that he believes it is a bit of both, although we do not know for sure.

President Hanrahan asked if the campus budgeted for the decrease in enrollment. He noted that before former EVC Plowman left she transferred many faculty lines to other areas of the campus and asked if this was a result of the decrease in enrollment. Chancellor Green stated that the campus has prepared for the decrease in enrollment so there should not be any budget cuts. He noted that the idea to transfer faculty lines does not relate to the enrollment figures.

Professor Xia, Child, Youth & Family Studies, asked what the administration is doing to help with recruiting. Chancellor Green reported that last year there were signs of enrollment decreasing and we have amped up our recruiting efforts to try and combat the decline.

President Hanrahan reported that there was a question via Zoom asking if the decrease in enrollment is just here or at other universities as well. Chancellor Green stated that he has not looked at the actual data yet, but conversations he has had with other universities shows that this is also happening at other institutions. He noted that our record enrollment was two years ago with 26,079 students, but we lost approximately 800 students off the peak of our numbers over the course of the two years. He also pointed out that we had a record number of students graduate this year which impacts our enrollment. He pointed out that our regional peers were in decline last year, so even with our decline in enrollment we are still doing well competitively.

Chancellor Green reported that total research expenditures for the 2018 fiscal year closed at a record high of \$308 million which represents a 2% increase from the previous record of \$302 million. He stated that \$265 million was received from externally sponsored awards, and of that \$171 million was sponsored by federal agencies which is a 12% increase from the previous fiscal year. He noted that it is too early to know what the figures will be for this year, but he is optimistic that we will continue to see further increases.

Chancellor Green stated that there was numerous activity on a variety of fronts over the summer, including the development of the 2025 strategic plan. He stated that a draft of the plan will be presented to the campus soon, and there will be Town Hall meetings this fall to roll out the plan. He wanted to commend the co-chairs of the team: Professor Rick Bevins, Professor Shane Farritor, Professor Angela Pannier, and Professor Sue Sheridan for the work that they did to move the plan forward and that there was an excellent working retreat just prior to the beginning of the academic year.

Chancellor Green reported that work has continued moving the hybrid-RCM budget model forward. He noted that consultants were hired to help the campus plan the transition to the new model, and recently there was a forum with administration from other universities that have a similar budget model. He stated that a shadow model is in place for this academic year with the plan to enact the model in July 2020.

Chancellor Green stated that he has formed the Chancellor's Commission on Environment, Sustainability, and Resilience and there will be news about the work of this Commission as it moves forward.

Chancellor Green reported that great work has occurred with the ad hoc committee on the AAUP issue. He noted that the committee has worked hard to propose bylaw changes to improve our Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee procedures.

Chancellor Green stated that three new deans are now in place: Dean Mark Button of the College of Arts & Sciences; Dean Sheri Jones of the College of Education and Human Sciences; and Dean Claire Stewart of the University Libraries. He noted that the search for a new Executive Vice Chancellor is underway and in the advanced screening phase. He reported that the search for the Dean of Journalism and Mass Communications will proceed this fall and he will soon be announcing the permanent search for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Chancellor Green stated that the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts has opened, although there are still some final touches being made to the building. He noted that 33 students are enrolled in the program. He reported that the Honors Program has moved into the Knoll Residential Center, which was partially renovated to provide teaching and learning spaces for the program.

Chancellor Green pointed out that there are currently over \$35 million in capital projects on campus, with projects either underway or soon to begin. He stated that there will be an announcement regarding the Phase II of the Engineering project soon. He noted that the Women's Gymnastics program will be moving into the Devaney Sports Center in December, the Dance program has moved to the Johnny Carson Center, and Mabel Lee Hall is scheduled to be torn down later this year. He stated that there will be announcements made about upcoming enhancements to the campus including the re-surfacing of the Mueller bell tower. He reported that there will also be a tribute to veterans in front of the Military Sciences building.

Chancellor Green stated that the campus will be hearing about the plans for the next University of Nebraska Foundation comprehensive campaign. He noted that the last one was completed in 2015 and the plan is for the upcoming campaign to be considerably larger.

Chancellor Green stated that there has been a lot of attention here, and nationally, concerning sexual assault and awareness and we are taking a serious look to see how we can work to prevent these acts of violence. He reported that he will be announcing very soon a Title IX Collaborative Group that will be looking at ways to improve our educational efforts and increase awareness about how to prevent sexual assault and harassment.

Chancellor Green noted that we lost three colleagues recently: Dr. David Swanson, Director of the Holland Computing Center and Research Professor in Computer Science and Engineering; Dr. Michael Combs, Political Science; and Dr. Mary Bomberger-Brown, Associate Professor of Practice in the School of Natural Resources. He asked for a moment of silence and asked that everyone keep the families of these colleagues in their thoughts.

Chancellor Green wanted to congratulate Professor Helen Raikes and Professor Dan Hoyt for receiving this year's Louise Pound-George Howard Distinguished Career Service Award.

3.0 Election of President-Elect

President Hanrahan reported that an election needs to be held for President-Elect due to the resignation of Professor Robert Belli. Nominee Professor Nicole Buan, Biochemistry, spoke. President Hanrahan then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he asked if there was a motion from the floor to declare Professor Buan as President-Elect by acclamation. Professor Woodman, School of Biological Sciences, moved for approval, motion seconded by Professor Vakilzadian, Electrical and Computing Engineering, and approved by the Senate.

4.0 Approval of April 23, 2019 Minutes

President Hanrahan asked if there were any revisions or discussions on the minutes. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Professor Billesbach, Biological Systems Engineering, moved for approval which was seconded by Professor Vakilzadian and approved by the Senate.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Motion to Revise the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Procedures and the UNL Bylaws, Section 3.1.5

President Hanrahan reported that the proposed changes to the ARRC procedures and UNL Bylaws are only being presented to the Senate today. He noted that there will be debate and discussion on the proposed revisions at the October 1 Senate meeting. He stated that the newly proposed language is to address the AAUP censure and to improve our procedures. He reported that there are also recommended changes to the Regents Bylaws, which does not call for a Senate vote but will be provided to the Senate to provide context. He noted that if anyone has comments on the proposed changes to the Regents Bylaws they can contact him via email.

6.0 Presentation of the Louise Pound-George Howard Distinguished Career Service Award

President Hanrahan presented the 2019 Louise Pound-George Howard Distinguished Career Service Award to Professor Dan Hoyt, Sociology and to Professor Helen Raikes, Child, Youth & Family Studies.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, Platte River Rooms North and South. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Joan Latta Konecky, Secretary.