UNK FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2015
Ockinga Conference Room
Faculty Senate Website: http://www.unk.edu/committees/faculty_senate/index.php

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call: 5MAR15

At Large Senators: Present: Kelley, Sutherland
Absent:

CBT Senators: Present: Moore, Porter, Taylor, Tenkorang, Trewin
Absent: Konecny

COE Senators: Present: Brown, Gaskill, Mims, Moore
Absent: Hoehner

CFAH Senators: Present: Burbul, Chavez, Jiang, Rogoff, Van Renen
Absent:

CNSS Senators: Present: Davis, Louishomme, Pattabiraman, Reichart, Sogar, Weiss, Wozniak
Absent: Harms, Jhi

Library Senator: Present: Mueller

III. Approval of Agenda

Senator Mueller (Davis) moved to adopt the agenda. The agenda was adopted as distributed.

IV. Action on the Faculty Senate Minutes: 5MAR15

President-Elect Kelley (Wozniak) moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

V. Special Presentations

Douglas A. Kristensen, Chancellor

Chancellor Kristensen – Thank you for the invitation. I sincerely appreciate it. I enjoy coming to the Faculty Senate. I keep track of your proceedings through the Executive Committee and read the minutes. I see a lot of groups come and go. This is a functioning and competent group—congratulations. You get things done, and I appreciate that a great deal.
I am thrilled that [my daughter] Morgan received a wonderful education here. She was treated very well. There were two or three faculty members who had no idea who she was. We are very thrilled with the education and how it has equipped her.

The Board of Regents was here last month. I will do a bit of what we talked to them about. When the Board of Regents comes here every other year, we talk to them about a successful program, and it was the Thompson Scholars Learning Community. We look at retention rates. The peer average is 71%. Our campus is 80%. That is tremendous. Thompson Scholars and Kearney Bound are 93% and 95%. Why can’t you do that for everybody? Those are really expensive programs. We explained how intensive those communities are.

As a campus, we have taken students that would never think about going to college. Our peer graduation rate is at about 50% and we are at 61%. Thompson Scholars is 86%, 21% higher than the campus average. The programs take a lot of patience on everyone’s behalf. You are on the front lines of making these students successful. The Board of Regents comes back because they see the students. We brought in three students. Sergio Ceja talked about being here from Lexington. He was asked: “If you weren’t in Kearney Bound, what would you be doing?” He would be helping on the meatpacking line. He is someone we should be proud of. Both Kearney Bound and the Thompson Scholars Learning Community are programs we want to put more money into. We will take these pitches to fundraising projects.

Something on the horizon is the work this campus is doing with the Lincoln campus. There is obviously UNMC and Health Science. Engineering may have some of the same opportunities. All of a sudden, through Ken Trantham’s work, we are talking about a 2+2 program for engineering or a 3+2 where they also get a degree from here, and having a pipeline of students from rural Nebraska who would not be going to Lincoln. President Bounds is talking about collaboration between campuses: expansion of programs and collaborations. The Board sees these opportunities.

We took a tour of the Health Science Education Complex and the University Village site. The Board is in the process of approving University Heights 2. That is the anchor of University Village, and the Board will also approve a governing board to develop the rest of University Village. We have spent a couple of years getting them ready for this. They have had time to ask questions. These are two exciting projects that will make this a campus for the future.

When we had the first capital campaign, we had a $5 million goal. The Foundation was so proud of it. There was a campaign after that with a goal of $20 million. We failed miserably
and raised $10 million. The counted the $10 million appropriation for the College of Education building and said they had made it. Our goal this time was $50 million, and it ended in December 2014. We raised over $61 million. What is remarkable is where it came from and where it went. Capital projects were $8 million. Fifty percent of the money was for scholarships. Most of the other campuses did not focus on scholarships. We did, where they focused on capital projects. Faculty support was 8%. This was higher than all the other campuses in terms of a percentage. The other campuses averaged 5%. Thank you to Carol Cope, especially. People begin to see the value of what is happening at UNK. The Board of Regents had no idea of the scope of that. They see the $50 million Water for Food gift. The gifts that happen here have a larger impact than the gifts across the rest of the campuses. The faculty morale study—thank you. There are things in there we are going to work on. We have started to talk about it. This summer we will dig into it more. One favor to ask of you: please give me a half-dozen suggestions, both individually and as a group. Tell me some things that would help. I don’t have a revenge list—if I did, I’ve lost it. We are talking about openness and improvement. There may be a few deans who feel targeted by the results. It is OK. It is designed to make the place better. I am glad to visit about it. It is something we will start to work with and use.

Strategic Planning. The process started with two options: a blank slate or looking at how to achieve our goals in the face of changing dynamics. You will see familiar themes: academic quality; quality faculty; recruitment and retention; stewardship of resources. In the next two weeks, we can hopefully get a draft document together. We are going to get it to the Senate before school ends. It will be goals and statements of principles and broad outlines. Next fall we will commission 5-to-8 major units on campus to look at goals and strategies of how to execute this. With these plans, we will make it available for campus-wide input in the fall. It has been a fun group. I am optimistic about the process.

I am nervous about recruitment and retention. We grew nine years in a row. We had a slip back the past two years. It is a reduction in numbers, and that has an impact on how much money we have to spend. We are a little behind again this year. That will catch up with us at some point on our budget. If we do this three years in a row, that is not something we can cover with reserves. The legislature would like to take some initiatives away from the 3% we have gotten. You may see us get something less than 3%. We may get 2.6% across the board to cover that. We really need an operating and maintenance fund for the new Health Science Education Complex. That would be as much as $400,000. If you take that off the top, they may cut $800,000 so we can get $400,000. We want to be realistic.
There is a myriad of federal laws that have come in. We spend many, many hours on this campus with young men and women who are the victims of sexual assault. You may see that, but you may not. The federal government is convinced we are covering this up. Things like the SaVE Act, for example. Going to college is not a right—it is a privilege, so you don’t have the same rights. Legal counsel has hired another person to handle compliance. It has become burdensome for us. You can’t have one person with five hats on. A large amount of this is compliance based. We are working our way through it. We will find a comfortable range where we treat people fairly on both sides. We have 2100 living here and are concerned with their welfare and government compliance.

Our therapy animal case should be coming to trial soon. We have gotten tremendous publicity from this. The dog was not a certified service animal. Their claim was that the Fair Housing Act applied. We are litigating the case. We will see how it turns out. I am more optimistic today that we are going to get a better outcome. There is fairness but there is practicality. The Department of Justice has spend two days looking at our campus. They walked away saying we really do care about students. I think that went a long, long way towards helping our case.

President Taylor – When Mary [Chinnock Petroski] asked for SaVE Act volunteers, the Senate was very helpful and now the committee is full. She was very impressed by our willingness to get involved.

Senator Louishomme – You talked about the fundraising campaign. What is the plan for the next one?

Chancellor Kristensen – The Foundation talks about it in terms of fatigue. I don’t understand that. I don’t buy the campaign fatigue. I think they mean fatigue among volunteers. This summer they announced a two- to three-year initiative that is a little narrower. We have emergency needs for students—they have been in a car accident, or hail wiped out the family farm. You will see us do a community scholarship where people can get involved at a lower donation amount. We are still raising money for Health Science. With $300-400,000 more, we will get $1.5 million in matching and have paid the whole thing off. A major Foundation campaign is five to six years off.

Thank you, Ross. I love coming in the spring. If you want me to come any other time, I am happy to do that. I appreciate the relationship we have.
VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

All reports distributed in VI. Reports of Faculty Non-Senate Committees were approved without discussion.

VII. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

No reports were distributed in VII. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees.

VIII. Reports from Academic Councils

The B. General Studies Council report was approved without discussion.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. MOOC Ad-Hoc Committee Report

Senator Trewin (Kelley) moved to approve the report.

President-Elect Kelley – What are the shared governance issues you feel need to be addressed [before proceeding with MOOCs]?

Senator Davis – It is a question of how to coordinate between administration, Faculty Senate to begin the process of using the MOOC format, also coordinating with Coursera. Rather than MOOC, it is morphing into what is now called “open access.” It is really extended online education. The open aspect is the scale of it, inviting-in students who may then window shop.

President Taylor – Any insights on how this plays into UNL’s initiative with Unizin?

Senator Davis – We need to be privy to the flow of information. We don’t want surprises like changing MOOC contracts or LMS and finding out 8-10 months after the fact. We must be vigilant about this. If we assume they will tell us when we need to know, that is not they way to go. We must consider our point of view with regard to these elements.

Past-President Trantham – I was on the MOOC Committee. I want to thank Roger—he did a majority of the work. I want to commend him for this report.

President Taylor – It really highlighted shared governance, stressing the rights and responsibilities of all those involved.

Senator Davis – We would do a much better job of MOOCs than what I saw taking “University Teaching 101” from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. I stay engaged with MOOCs to see how technology is being used. Go out to Coursera, look around, find
something of interest to, and lurk. Look at what they are doing. Become familiar with a firsthand experience of it. My course right now has 24,000 students. This is valuable for us all as educators. Take a look at the pedagogy. The thing that comes back is: What does it mean if you can have a course that is part of your department offering that has 5000 students? How about retention and enrollment? Where will it be 24-48 months from now? Will there be another transformation and new opportunities? Would you be comfortable doing a Coursera course with multiple enrollment streams as part of what you do in your department? We may be formally encouraged to engage in these.

Senator Gaskill – What is that we are lacking to begin offering MOOC courses? We have the contract. We have the interest. What is the most important thing to move ahead?

Senator Davis – Departments and the faculty need to explore this and express their interest. Through the regular mechanisms in Academic Affairs and Faculty Senate, we would see requests saying we want to do these kinds of things. We need to address the contract because there becomes a need. What parts of the contract are unclear and need further definition? Some of this is in the report.

Parliamentarian Wozniak – There are four recommendations: we should not offer MOOCs; We don’t have a model to address among the issues; the Executive Committee needs to work with various committees; and getting more staff. How do you envision this moving forward. It is difficult for the gears to start moving.

Senator Davis – The body of the report goes into detail to outline a basket-full of issues. Anytime the administration and the Executive Committee want to start working on it, it can start to move forward. There are specific things in the list that we could begin working on.

The motion to approve the report and forward it to the administration carried.

X. New Business

A. Oversight Committee – Elections

Parliamentarian Wozniak – The departments with terms expiring are FIN, ITEC, CSP, ART. I’ve contacted members of the Oversight Committee. They will contact department chairs to run the elections. A slate for the Executive Committee will be put forward, but we will open this up to other nominations later on. The Oversight Committee will be elected at the next meeting, and I hope the current members will continue. An orientation for new Senators will be held before the meeting at 6:30 PM next week. Thank you to those of you coming back for next year.
B. Annual Plan of Action – President-Elect Kelley

President-Elect Kelley – The President Elect has to develop a plan of action for next year. I will present the Plan of Action at the next meeting. I would like your input since I can’t get around the whole campus. I am going to ask you to be students. I would like you to do a “think-pair-share” with the person next to you. When we ask for suggestions, we get silence. If better communication is an issue, ask: How do we get there? Who do you want to do more communicating? What information do you need? You have three minutes.

Senator Porter – ITEC has a concern with the definitions of “rigor” and “impact” when it comes to promotion and tenure guidelines. We think of the 10-15 year longitudinal studies being done at other schools that we are not able to do because we are trying to cram-in as papers as we can.

Senator Jan Moore – In the College of Education, there is a lack of transparency and consistency. It all looks like stuff is happening under the table and there is some kind of agenda going on. Maybe that will change with the leadership change.

Senator Sutherland – The Library would like the faculty to get behind us having an institutional repository. It should not be an effort the Library does by itself. We can’t take this on by ourselves.

Senator Louishomme – We would like more diversity in the makeup of the faculty. I am the only black person in my college. I have talked to my dean. I don’t know what has been done on this, and I am still the only black person in my college.

Senator Mims – I would like to see how faculty can be involved in strategic planning.

Senator Tami Moore – “Impact” is huge in the College of Business and Technology. We need help defining and measuring this.

Senator Weiss – Facility usage is an issue. We want to use classrooms that are of an appropriate size. We have one more faculty member than offices.

Senator Pattabiraman – There is less space available in our research facilities and labs.

Senator Jiang – We currently have two faculty searches ongoing.

Senator Trewin – Speaking of faculty searches, the faculty of ACCT will turn over dramatically in the next several years. Finding qualified new faculty and paying them will be challenging.
Past-President Trantham – There is the issue of perceived communication from the cabinet level on down. Two actionable items would be: Have the Faculty Senate President among the Chancellor’s cabinet. Also, the Chancellor may make yearly visits to department meetings. Both of these things are done elsewhere, and I believe they help address the communication issue.

Parliamentarian Wozniak – We would second the idea of the Chancellor getting out on campus—also Barbara [Johnson] and Charlie [Bicak]. We talked about how certain units in administration affirm their existence as a mini-kingdom to have everyone bow-down to them. The idea of service—customer service—is important, and certain groups like IRB and Creative Services are changing the tenor of UNK being a person-oriented campus. It is excluding students and faculty. They have the power to stop stuff. I don’t know what we can do with that. The mini-kingdoms are a problem.

Senator Davis – For a lot of faculty, taking a sabbatical represents a hardship to take half salary. Is there a way to increase this amount, so the normal salary is decreased only by 25-30%. There may be a fiscal avenue to have a package of money to support those who want to do the full-year sabbatical. We can use our resources to support that.

President-Elect Kelley – Thank you so much.

C. Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award

President-Elect Kelley – At the faculty convocation, we recognize somebody who has contributed greatly to service. It can be someone recognized for past service. Contact anyone on the Executive Committee with your nominees. The next packet will include a nomination form.

XI. General Faculty Comments

President-Elect Kelley – In a few moments, I will become President. I want to thank Ross for his leadership. He has handled touchy issues with great ease and politeness.

President Taylor – I really appreciate these guys bailing me out. I appreciate each and every one of you a lot.
XI. Adjournment

Parliamentarian Wozniak (Trewin) moved for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah Rogoff

Secretary