

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
East Campus Union, Arbor Suite
March 4, 2014
Presidents Guevara, Nickerson, and Schubert, Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Donation from the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (Professor Purcell, Southeast Research & Extension Center)

Professor Purcell reported that the NCEA is a professional organization of Extension faculty members who live across Nebraska. She stated that the NCEA provides scholarships awards important for promotion files and cultivates friendships between extension colleagues. She noted that one of the NCEA's annual accomplishments is to help support the Faculty Senate Office by providing a donation each year. She reported that this year the donation has been increased from \$1100 to \$1500. President Guevara accepted the donation and thanked all of the members of the NCEA for their continuing support of the Faculty Senate.

2.2 Non-tenure Track Faculty Forum

President Guevara reported that the forum for non-tenure track faculty members has been changed and will now be held on Friday, April 18 from 2:30 – 5:00 in Love Library Auditorium. He noted that a number of people will be speaking at the meeting including Professor Bender, Chair of the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee, Associate Vice Chancellor Perez, Professor Jacobson, former Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Professor Schleck, member of AAUP, and a member of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska.

2.3 Faculty Senate Executive Committee Elections

President Guevara announced that the Senate will be voting for a new President-Elect, Secretary, and four members of the Executive Committee at the April 29 meeting. He encouraged anyone interested in serving on the Executive Committee to contact either himself or the Faculty Senate Office.

3.0 Chancellor Perlman

Chancellor Perlman stated that as most people are aware, he has started the budget reduction process and outlined the budget framework. He reported that \$4.6 million needs to be cut from the budget which includes some deficit from the previous year. He stated that on March 17 he will hold a meeting with the Academic Planning Committee, the Senate Executive Committee, and others to provide a proposed set of reductions. He noted that the APC will need to meet on the proposed reductions and he hopes that we can get through the reduction process without causing much disruption across the campus. He noted that many things on campus are in good shape and the enrollment figures for next year are looking good. He pointed out that we need to get this structural reduction out of the way so we can move forward.

Chancellor Perlman stated that after thinking long and hard about it, a proposal has been made to create a new college consisting of the faculty and programs from the College of Architecture and the Hixson Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. He noted that many steps have moved the campus to this direction, including the College of Architecture not having a permanent dean for several years. He pointed out that the Architecture faculty were asked to really think through where the college is going so any dean candidates had an idea of the direction the College was taking. He pointed out that from this process the faculty came back with a proposal to have a college of design. He stated that there are already elements in UNL where design is a critical component and this allowed the administration to determine that the Architecture and Fine Arts colleges could be combined which would allow the faculty from the two colleges to create synergies that foster opportunities for faculty members. He pointed out that in the current resource environment it is difficult to manage very small colleges, and both Architecture and Fine Arts are small colleges. He noted that when the College of Education and Human Sciences was created the details of the collaboration was driven by the faculty members and it is important to let the faculty determine promotion and tenure and other pertinent issues. He stated that he believes the faculty of the two colleges are beginning to work on these things.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the administration has focused on how to make a more friendly campus given the racial incidents that surfaced last semester. He stated that one item that is being looked at is a

computer program that would be housed on the UNL website where people could report anything and can do it anonymously. He noted that incidents of harassment could be reported as well as strange or concerning behaviors that could be related to campus safety. He reported that the program was demonstrated to campus leaders, and the Senate Executive Committee provided a helpful response listing some concerns of the program. He noted that there is always a concern when collecting data, but it is important for us to make sure that the campus is safe. He suspects that by the fall there will be a system in place that will be helpful and important to us.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he was informed by Linda Crump, Assistant to the Chancellor, Equity, Access & Diversity Programs, that federal legislation has been adopted called the SaVE Act which seeks to address sexual harassment and attacks at universities. He stated that this legislation will have very direct implications for us although it is not exactly clear what the implications will be. He stated that he wanted to alert the Senate because more intensified reporting and training of people at universities, including faculty members, will occur. He noted that the university will have to show that all employees have been trained and the training will not be available on line and will involve interaction with a trainer. He pointed out that this will be required for all universities in order for the universities to obtain federal funding to continue.

Chancellor Perlman stated that Nebraska Innovation Campus has recently been in the news and this summer the renovated 4H building and the Companion building will open and people will be moving in. He stated that hopefully some private sector people will also be moving in and the building that will be constructed using the shell of the former Industrial Arts Building should be completed the following year. He noted that the university has provided some financial input into the building of NIC but he thinks the investment will pay off in the long run. He stated that having people actually working on NIC should help to attract more private firms.

Chancellor Perlman reported that part of NIC is the business accelerator which assists small companies to get up and running. He stated that this office has recently hired someone. He stated that NIC will also house a maker space which was an idea that was generated out of the faculty advisory committee. He noted that faculty members and students are very passionate about this and the idea is to allow students or faculty members to go to NIC and create things there. He stated that people could get training on things like a welder or a 3-D printer or other pieces of equipment. He pointed out that the faculty committee working with the maker group has been extraordinarily helpful. He reported that the NIC team looked at some private sector companies that provide a maker space and found them to be successful. He noted that the maker space is very exciting and the hope is to allow everyone from the campus to have access to the facility.

Professor Hay, Southeast Research & Extension Center, stated that the merger of the College of Architecture with the Hixson Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts is interesting because you have one college that uses heavy science while the other is involved in the arts. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that it depends on how you define science. He stated that if you think more about it and the more you talk to the faculty members involved about what they do it makes sense to put them together. He noted that not only the similarities in the disciplines helps, but the differences do as well. Professor Neal, Art & Art History, pointed out that there is a lot of science involved in art, for example knowing the chemical composition of paints and how they interact and the properties of other materials that are used in various art forms.

Professor Joeckel, School of Natural Resources, noted that the Chancellor's comments indicate that the current budget reduction does not implicate further reductions for next year. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the budget reductions will actually take place next year, but he thinks we will be in in good shape once the current cut is dealt with.

Professor Weissling, Special Education and Communications Disorders, noted that the Chancellor had talked in the fall about faculty salaries and trying to keep up with our peers. She asked if there is a plan about how we are going to make up the disconnection between salaries at UNL and at our peer institutions. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the faculty salary issues is really in the hands of the Board of Regents. He stated that some faculty salary adjustments on campus are made where we need to make them. He noted that if we are too far behind the other schools it will make it difficult for us to compete.

Professor Woodman, School of Biological Sciences, asked if the Chancellor could provide an update on the merger of the Electrical Engineering department and the Computer and Electronics Engineering department. Chancellor Perlman stated that the intent is to move forward with the merger, but a letter recently sent by some faculty members raised questions about the level of their commitment with the merger and the administration thought that further discussion should take place in the college before the Academic Planning Committee looks

at the plan. He stated that the intent is to move forward and he hopes that this will happen with the faculty's agreement. He noted that the arguments being raised is that the faculty would only approve the merger if the university committed to a very significant increase in resources. He stated that he did not think this is how the situation should be managed or that the faculty should put this kind of pressure on the administration. He pointed out that it was agreed that the department could have more resources because of the possibilities that will be created, but there needs to be a plan in place and some progress made before the resources would be available. He noted that the faculty have been assured that they will be provided with some resources if they show some plans.

4.0 Approval of January 14, 2014 and February 4, 2014 Minutes

Professor Rinkevich, Classics & Religious Studies, moved for approval of the January 14, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Wysocki, Computers and Electronics Engineering. The motion was approved.

Professor Peterson, Agricultural Economics, moved for approval of the February 4, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Rinkevich. The motion was approved.

5.0 Committee Reports

5.1 Graduate Council (Associate Vice Chancellor Perez)

Associate Vice Chancellor Perez noted that the Graduate Council is an advisory committee that is used to manage the graduate program which he oversees. He reported that 12 new specializations have been approved for existing majors, most of them in engineering programs and some in the College of Business Administration in their MBA program. He stated that three new graduate certificates have been approved representing a fairly typical year.

Associate VC Perez stated that he is particularly proud of the academic leave policy that has been created for graduate students. He pointed out that some graduate students find themselves needing to put their program on pause so that they can deal with some extenuating circumstances and this new policy will allow them to do this while maintaining their status in the academic system which eases the paperwork for them.

President Guevara asked if the leave policy applies to ABDs. Associate VC Perez reported that it does. He noted that it is not a policy to support academic process but to address real life issues that some graduate students encounter. He pointed out that the policy took four years to create and get approved.

5.2 Committee on Committees (Professor Cassner)

Professor Cassner wanted to acknowledge all of the work of the members of the Committee and the assistance of the Faculty Senate Coordinator. She noted that the primary responsibility of the Committee is to provide nominations and recommendations for appointments to the various campus committees. She reported that to date 59 faculty members have volunteered to serve on committees. She pointed out that the committee service preference form is available on the Faculty Senate website and people can volunteer throughout the year. She stated that the Faculty Senate Coordinator also sends out several email announcements to all faculty members asking for volunteers.

5.3 Parking Advisory Committee (Professor McCoy)

Professor McCoy stated that he has served for the past three years on the Committee. He noted that the charge of the Committee is to review and make recommendations to the Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance on parking policies and facilities as well as looking at the transit services, and reviewing the Parking and Transit Services revenue and costs. He noted that the revenue sources come from permit holders as well as campus event parking (football and other game events). He stated that the Committee looks at long term capital improvements such as new parking garages and whether permit lots need to be taken out of service. He pointed out that the number of available spaces on parking can fluctuate throughout the year.

Professor McCoy stated that one of the challenges for Parking and Transit Services is to find a way to make up approximately \$200,000 deficit which is a result of the fiscal year differences when StarTran took over the intercampus transit system. He stated that the Committee discussed increasing parking permit fees but decided against it and instead recommended a 6% budget increase from student fees which was approved by the Committee for Fee Allocation. To make up the difference the Committee discussed raising donor and day of game parking fees to \$20 per game, although some remote areas will remain at \$10 and \$15. He noted that the pre-season sell passes would also increase. He pointed out that the city has already increased its game day fee to \$20 and we would be moving along with the market. Director of Parking and Transit Services Dan Carpenter noted that the last time these fees were increased was in 2009. Professor McCoy stated that the

Committee is also recommending that perimeter parking fees be reduced and that the parking fee for the 14th and Avery Street garage be reduced from \$53 to \$50 per month. He stated that these proposals are currently being reviewed by Vice Chancellor Jackson.

Professor Rudy, Nutrition and Health Sciences, asked if the parking lot on the west edge of campus generates revenue during Pinnacle Bank arena events. Director Carpenter stated that very little revenue is generated from the lots in the Haymarket area because the university actually has only 15 or 20 spots in this area. Professor McCoy stated that the Committee is keeping an eye on whether all of the additional parking capacity in the Haymarket area will decrease the demand for game day parking on campus which would impact revenue.

Professor Purdum, Animal Science, asked if any consideration has been given to providing some parking for employees on east campus during football Saturdays and transporting them down to city campus. Director Carpenter stated that there is parking available for faculty and staff members at 1700 Y Street on game days.

Professor McCoy reported that the number of citations has decreased and so has the number of permits for incoming freshmen even though enrollment has increased. He stated that the Parking Advisory Committee welcomes input and encouraged people to contact the Parking Advisory committee with any concerns.

Professor Adams, Plant Pathology, asked why the deficit wasn't foreseen when StarTran took over the transit system. He noted that the drivers of the transit buses will be out of a job or if they were taken care of by natural retirement. Professor McCoy stated that the Parking Advisory Committee knew there would be a transition cost, but the transit buses were well past their service ability and the university either had to go with a different provider or spend millions to replace the buses. He noted that a benefit with using StarTran is that some of the funding could be provided by federal funds. He pointed out that had we not gone with StarTran we would be facing significant increases in parking permits to cover the cost of replacing the buses. Director Carpenter reported that the existing employees were given the option of applying for a position within StarTran. He noted that the Committee understood that StarTran and the university operate on a different fiscal year which created the deficit. He pointed out that there should be more of a surplus in the future through cost efficiencies over time with the switch.

Professor Schwadel, Sociology, noted that there are 10 – 15 spaces for the Center for Brain, Behavior, and Biology facility in the stadium loop parking and these are never used and asked why there were so many of these spaces when the lot is heavily used by employees. Director Carpenter reported that there were originally 16 spaces but his office was able to reduce these down to 9. He pointed out that the Center is paying for these spaces and his office was instructed by the administration to provide some parking for the Center. Professor Stoltenberg, Psychology, noted that the parking spaces are not just for the director of the Center but also for the clients.

Professor Hay reported that he is hosting a meeting here in Lincoln but not on campus due to the parking situation. He stated that some accommodations for those attending meetings or conferences on campus should be provided. Professor McCoy stated that it is a constant struggle to determine the utilization of parking given that some permit holders want 24 hour parking available. He pointed out that there are classes and work related research that is being done in the evenings so the parking lots are used throughout the day which makes it difficult to open these up for other people. Director Carpenter asked if the people for the meeting were not allowed to park or whether it was the cost of the parking that made Professor Hay decide to hold the meeting off campus. Professor Hay stated that it was the cost and the hoops that you have to go through to get the parking.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 Motion to Approve the Policy on the Acceptable Use of Software Systems Management and Deployment Tools

President Guevara stated that the motion was presented by the Executive Committee at the January 14 meeting and did not need a second since it was coming from a Senate committee. Professor Woodman made a friendly amendment to correct some minor spelling and grammatical errors in the document. Professor Reisbig, Child, Youth, and Family Studies, seconded the friendly amendment. The friendly amendment was approved. The motion was approved with one abstention.

6.2 Motion to Revise the Intercollegiate Athletics Syllabus

President Guevara stated that the motion was presented by the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee at the January 14 meeting and did not need a second. The motion to revise the syllabus was approved.

6.3 Motion to Approve the Ballot for Elections to the Academic Planning Committee, Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee, and the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Panel

President Guevara reported that the motion from the Committee on Committees was presented at the February 4 meeting. He asked for a vote on the motion. The motion was approved.

6.4 Motion to Approve the Revised Student Code of Conduct

President Guevara reported that the motion from the Executive Committee to revise the Student Code of Conduct was presented at the February 4 meeting. He noted that the document received a second legal review by Associate General Counsel Carmen Mauer and some changes were made but these were just legal technicalities.

Professor Rudy pointed out that the definition of a student, whether they are on campus or distance education students is so broad that technically a married couple, where one of the spouses is a student, could be kicked off the university if they are involved in a domestic conflict. He questioned how this could be manageable and thought it would not be possible to track whether students were involved in domestic abuse. Dean Hecker stated that the university would only know about such incidents if they were reported. He pointed out that we are being pressed by laws beyond Nebraska that we must adhere to such as the SaVE act. He noted that these laws require that we take some kind of action and the federal law does not distinguish a difference between the on campus student and the distance education student. Professor Rudy stated that the wording in the Code is overly broad. Dean Hecker pointed out that it is even more difficult to enforce some of the regulations given that we have people taking classes all over the world but we have to adhere to federal regulations.

President Guevara asked for a vote on the motion. The motion was approved. Professor Peterson asked what the next step is for the Code to be approved. Assistant to the Chancellor Giesecke reported that the Code will go to the Chancellor for approval and then to Central Administration and eventually to the Board of Regents for final approval. She noted that the idea is to present the Code to the Board at the May meeting.

6.5 Motion to Oppose LB 1018

President Guevara reported that a motion was presented at the February 4 Senate meeting. Professor Bender, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, stated that he wanted to make a friendly amendment to the motion he made last month. He pointed out that the measure that was introduced to the legislature would have allowed the Regents to close off information on candidates running for President, Chancellor, and Vice Chancellors but the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee rejected it. He stated that he wanted to make changes to his motion thanking the legislative committee for rejecting the measure and to let the Board of Regents know that the faculty are against the secrecy of candidates. The motion was seconded by Professor Rinkevich. Professor Joeckel noted that the Executive Committee discussed the issue and were concerned that similar legislation might come to the floor again in the future. Consequently, there is a need to emphasize the Senate's opposition to any such measure.

Professor Purdum stated that voting in favor of the motion could put some faculty members in a cumbersome position because the university's lobbyist have supported the measure. President Guevara pointed out that the motion is close to home because if passed it would apply to the Chancellor's position as well.

President Guevara called for a vote on the friendly amendment. The motion was approved with two opposed. President Guevara then called for the vote on the new motion. The motion was approved with three opposed and one abstention.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Motion to Revise the Faculty Senate Rules

President Guevara stated that the Executive Committee was presenting a motion to revise the Faculty Senate Rules by making a few changes to section 10.0 Electronic Communications. He noted that the current Rules make it difficult to act quickly on emergency issues that require a vote of the Senate. He pointed out that the Executive Committee can only make the decision for an emergency email vote at its regularly scheduled meeting which in some cases could be almost a week later. The current Rules also calls for a five day deadline date on an electronic emergency vote. He stated that the proposed changes include allowing the Executive Committee, at the request of the Senate President, to vote electronically on issues that need expedited reaction rather than having to wait for the regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting. The other major change is to shorten the deadline date from five days to at least three calendar days. Professor Joeckel pointed out that the emergency electronic vote is rarely used and only when necessary. President Guevara noted that sometimes the Senate and the Executive Committee are not consulted in a timely manner and hear of things at

the last minute.

Professor Adams questioned the emergency voting and stated that it could be difficult for a faculty member if there is any administrative pressure about the vote and if someone wanted to legally look at the email voting responses. Professor Steffen pointed out that faculty members have the option of sending a written ballot to the Senate Coordinator if they do not feel comfortable with voting on line.

Professor Peterson reported that he was President Elect when the straw poll vote was taken by Chancellor Perlman which put him under a great deal of pressure. He stated that it would have been very helpful to have been able to get some kind of feedback from the Senate as to the consensus of opinions on the matter. President Guevara noted that allowing the Senate to act more quickly makes the Senate more relevant.

President Elect Nickerson stated that the Executive Committee had significant discussion about what happens if the three days falls over a weekend. President Guevara noted that a friendly amendment could be made to include a 48 business hour deadline.

7.2 Faculty Concerns with New Architecture and Fine and Performing Arts College

Professor Krug, College of Architecture, noted that the February 12 Senate Executive Committee minutes state that there have been no complaints from faculty members regarding the merger of the two colleges. He pointed out that there are a number of faculty members who are very concerned with the merger. President Guevara stated that no one on the Executive Committee, including himself, has heard of any complaints and said that concerned faculty members should contact him to make him aware of their concerns. Professor Krug stated that he will pass this information on to his colleagues.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, Auditorium. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Toni Anaya, Secretary.