

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
City Campus Union, Auditorium
October 1, 2013
Presidents Guevara and Nickerson, Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Update on ACE Ad Hoc Committee

President Guevara reported that he has asked President-Elect Nickerson to chair the committee and he has accepted. President Guevara noted that President-Elect Nickerson has the same concerns that he does with the ACE process and believes he will do a good job.

2.2 December 3 Senate Meeting

President Guevara announced that President Milliken will be speaking to the Senate at the December 3 meeting.

2.3 Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee Report

President Guevara reported that Past President Schubert is out of the country and will not be able to give the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee report but will do so at a future meeting.

3.0 Chancellor Perlman

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Board of Regents essentially endorsed a plan for the Engineering College to move forward by having collaboration between UNL's Engineering College and UNO's Information Science and Technology College and identifying how the Peter Kiewit Institute will function. He noted that there might be some criticisms of the plan, but it is essential to have a strong Engineering College in order to be competitive in the Big Ten and it is believed that the new plan will enable the Peter Kiewit Institute to meet its full potential.

Chancellor Perlman reported that progress is being made with Innovation Campus and recently an agreement was reached with the City of Lincoln to use reclaimed water from the City's Theresa Street Wastewater Treatment Plant. The water will be diverted to a heat exchange facility located on Innovation Campus and will be used to heat buildings located on Innovation Campus. He pointed out that this is sustainable energy which private sector companies should find attractive. He noted that the expectation is that as Innovation Campus grows with businesses enough revenue will be earned to offset the costs of heating the buildings through this process.

Chancellor Perlman announced that the Board of Regents approved the Campus Mast Plan except for the Memorial Mall section. He noted that the Board was concerned about the loss of parking, particularly on game days, and did not want to upset donors who have contributed significantly to the university. He pointed out that other universities have managed to have a green space in front of their stadiums and provide parking on game days. He stated that no major changes will be done immediately to the campus and the Board would need to revisit and approve any plans to modify Memorial Mall.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the campus is moving forward with examining the Libraries on both campuses and how they can be revamped to bring them back as the core of the academic enterprise on campus. He stated that he is optimistic and very excited that we can make some advances on the first floor of Love North. He noted that he is aware that some people are concerned with the libraries' collections and where the books will go and how things will look when the renovations are completed. He pointed out that Dean Busch will be working with the faculty in various departments during the process to address any concerns. Professor Weissling, Special Education and Communication Disorders, asked if resources will still be available in CYT library. Chancellor Perlman stated that he cannot speak directly as to what exactly will remain in CYT, but he knows that there has been a faculty taskforce that has looked into repositioning CYT. He pointed out that the campus has gone through a similar process in the past when department libraries were blended into Love library, and while there was great concern from the faculty in those departments, it has all worked out well. He stated that he and Dean Busch understand the critical need for the faculty to be successful and to have the resources available that will allow them to be successful.

4.0 Approval of September 10, 2013 Minutes

Professor Joeckel, School of Natural Resources, moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Wysocki, Computer and Electronics Engineering. The motion was approved.

5.0 Committee Reports

5.1 Grading and Examinations Committee Report (Professor Woodward)

Professor Woodward reported that the Committee is charged with hearing student appeals for late grade changes from pass/no pass and late withdrawals. He noted that each college has a subcommittee that serves the students of a college in dealing with these appeals. He reported that most of the grade option appeals are approved because the students did not realize that they needed a grade rather than a pass/no pass in order to retain their scholarship or that a grade is required for their major.

Professor Woodward stated that the report includes a ten year summary of the effect of the plus/minus grading system. He pointed out that there were no significant changes and the grading system basically functions the same as it was prior to the use of the plus/minus grading. He noted that the overall GPA for the last three years is 3.11. President-Elect Nickerson asked if there has been any effort to increase the GPA up to 3.14159. Professor Woodward stated that some departments could try to do this.

Professor Grange, Theater Arts, asked if it is possible to get a report on the grades distributed by an individual department. Professor Woodward stated that the University Registrar's Office could general a report. He suggested that Stephen Booton, Associate Director of the University Registrar's Office, could possibly get this information.

President Guevara noticed that one of the reasons for an appeal is because the computer system was not allowing the student to register for the class or was down. Professor Woodward stated that this usually refers to the situation where a student plans to withdraw from a class and they thought they had done this properly but it did not go through the system. He pointed out that a faculty member must click several screens in order to remove a student from a class. He stated that students are not granted permission for a withdrawal if they did not speak to the professor and did not personally withdraw from a course before the deadline date. President Guevara asked if there is anything wrong with the system that allows students to register. Professor Woodward stated that there are no problems with it and the appeals are usually because of user error.

Professor Reisbig, Child, Youth, and Family Studies, asked if the late withdrawal appeals due to a death in the family has increased this year since the passing of the student bereavement policy. Professor Woodward stated that he has not seen an increase in his college, Arts & Sciences.

5.2 Academic Standards Committee (Katie Kerr, Assistant Direct, Exploratory & Pre-professional Advising Center and Professor Pearson)

Assistant Director Kerr reported that part of her responsibility is to assign three members of the Academic Standards Committee to meet and review dismissal appeals. She noted that the review committees met 24 times over the past year. She stated that the appeals are generated at the college level and then turned into her office. Professor Pearson reported that 622 students were dismissed this past year, there were 166 appeals of which 108 were accepted and 58 were rejected. She noted that 14 of the rejected appeals went to Associate Vice Chancellor Goodburn for reconsideration and 2 of these were accepted, but the other 12 were rejected. She pointed out that the Committee was not privy as to why the decision was made to accept the two appeals although she believes more information could have been made available to the Committee.

5.3 Academic Rights & Responsibility Committee (Professor Lu)

Professor Lu reported that the Committee did not have any formal complaints this past year so no special hearing committees were established. He noted that the Committee did some basic housekeeping work and he did consult with five individuals with potential cases and informed them of their rights. He reported that there is still one potential grievance that current chair Professor Bender is dealing with.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 Motion to Revise the Faculty Senate Executive Committee Syllabus

President Guevara reported that after the September Senate meeting the Executive Committee discussed the concerns raised regarding the requirement that a seat for a non-tenured track faculty member must be filled or left empty. As a result, the Executive Committee made a friendly amendment to include language specifying there be a seat for a tenure track track/tenured faculty member, an Extension Educator, and a non-tenure track faculty member, if qualified nominees are available. The motion to change the Faculty Senate Executive

Committee syllabus was approved.

6.2 Motion to Revise the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee

President Guevara noted that the motion to add a non-tenure track faculty member to the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee was presented at the last meeting. He stated that the change would increase the number of the faculty members on the committee to five. The motion was approved.

7.0 New Business

7.1 CIC Faculty Leadership Conference

Professor Shea, School of Natural Resources, asked what the plan is this year for the CIC Faculty Leadership Conference. President Guevara reported that he and Professor Woodman will be attending the Conference which will be held at Indiana University in Bloomington. He stated that the plan is to attend the Conference and participate in discussions.

Professor Shea asked if there has been some discussion about hosting the Conference at UNL. President Guevara stated that he knows that there is rotation of the Conference at the Big Ten schools but he does not know specifically when it will be held here. Professor LaCost stated that when she was President there was talk about getting UNL on the calendar but she is not sure if we are on it yet, but she will see if she can find information on it.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2:30 p.m. in the East Campus Union, Arbor Suite. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Toni Anaya, Secretary.