

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
City Campus Union, Auditorium
February 1, 2011
Presidents John Lindquist and Barbara LaCost, Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

President Lindquist called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Health Care Audit

President Lindquist noted that an email message was recently sent out about the health care audit that the university is conducting. He reported that he received an email message voicing concerns about the audit and has forwarded these concerns to VP Dietze. President Lindquist announced that letters from the firm of Chapman Kelly will be sent to the homes of those employees who claim dependents on their health insurance.

2.2 Campus Presentation of SVCAA Candidate

President Lindquist noted that another finalist will be giving a presentation on Wednesday, February 2 at 3:30. He urged the Senators to encourage their colleagues to attend the presentation as this is a critical position that needs to be filled.

2.3 Senate Executive Committee

President Lindquist reported that there will be eight openings coming up on the Executive Committee that will need to be filled by existing senators. He asked the Senators to review the list of Senators and think about who they would want to nominate to run for the Executive Committee.

2.4 Faculty Members Participating in the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program

President Lindquist reported that the Senate Office does not know all of the faculty members who will be retiring. He asked the Senators to let Karen Griffin, Coordinator of the Faculty Senate, know of people who are retiring and who are serving on committees so that these people can be replaced. He pointed out that it is important that committee work continues to flow well without interruption.

2.5 Review of Definition of Disciplines

President Lindquist noted that a letter was sent to all Senators asking them to review the Definition of Disciplines to see if their department was listed under the appropriate definition and to check with their departments if they feel a change is needed. He stated that anyone wanting to make a change in the definition should contact Karen Griffin.

2.6 Academic Freedom Award

President Lindquist stated that last week an announcement went out to all faculty members calling for nominations for the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award. He noted that this is an important award that has not been given out in the last few years. He asked faculty members to please consider nominating someone for the award and noted that the application form and directions can be located on the Senate webpage (<http://www.unl.edu/asenate/welcome.htm>).

2.7 Donation from Nebraska Cooperative Education Association

President Lindquist announced that the Nebraska Cooperative Education Association (NCEA) is giving a check in the amount of \$1,100 to help support the operation of the Faculty Senate. He noted that the NCEA annually donates money to the Senate. He introduced Professor Franti, Biological Systems Engineering, to present the check.

Professor Franti noted that he is an associate professor and extension specialist. He reported that the NCEA is the professional association for extension educators in the state. He stated that there are 214 members and several of the members serve on the Faculty Senate. He noted that NCEA has been providing a donation each year to the Faculty Senate for a long time now. He pointed out that extension personnel are often considered the front door of the university, particularly to rural areas. He stated that members meet with young people through 4-H and urge these young people to consider attending UNL. He wanted to thank the NCEA for their contribution to the Faculty Senate last year and noted that there will be another check coming this year. He wanted to recognize Professor Fech, Southeast Research & Extension Center, and member of the NCEA who

served as President of the Faculty Senate last year.

President Lindquist thanked the NCEA for the contribution noting how important the donation is since the Senate's operating fund received a substantial budget cut last year.

3.0 Chancellor Perlman

Chancellor Perlman stated that he wanted to bring the Senate up to date on the budget. He reported that Central Administration has put together a model of possible budget scenarios. He stated that one of the scenarios assumes that there will be a 2.5% salary increase for the next biennium. He pointed out that President Milliken has made it clear that we will do some kind of salary increase during the next biennium. He stated that if salary increases are given, health care costs rise by 10%, deferred building improvements are made, and the university receives a 10% reduction in budget, there will be a \$73 million shortfall even with a 6% tuition increase. Half of this shortfall will be for UNL. He pointed out that this is the worst case scenario and the picture before the Governor made his recommendation.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Governor has recommended that deferred building assessments be suspended and the university's budget kept flat. Chancellor Perlman noted that if we do not receive a budget reduction the shortfall will be \$19 million for the biennium and about \$10 million will be for UNL. He stated that the Board of Regents has not provided funding for programs of excellence for awhile and if this continues, it would lessen the budget reduction to the campuses. He pointed out that this is all speculation, but this is as much as we currently know given that the final budget will not be made until June.

Professor Franti, Biological Systems Engineering, asked if the budgets assume that there are no other income streams. Chancellor Perlman stated that the scenarios are only looking at a possible 6% tuition increase and does not include revenue generated by increased enrollment. He pointed out that he doubts that the Board will increase tuition more than 6%. He noted that embedded in the scenarios are some implicit things like the costs of goods and services and does not allow for increases for the libraries or the costs for conducting business. He stated that there will be some challenges no matter what happens with the budget, but he and other administrators are extraordinarily pleased with the Governor's recommendation. He stated that the university will be working with the legislators to see if we can hold the Governor's recommendation.

Chancellor Perlman reported that there are two other appropriations that have implications for the university. One is \$25 million for Innovation Campus from the legislature. He stated that these are one time funds to help jump start the project. Ten million would be used for renovating the east side of the 4-H building and the hope is to get a private contractor for the west side of the building. He reported that \$15 million would be used for various companion buildings which would house life sciences research and for exploring raising funds with private donors. He reported that the goal is to construct a \$40-\$64 million research building, provided that the money could be raised for it.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the project to create a STEM virtual high school for Nebraska did not receive funding at the federal level but the Governor has recommended funding for this project. He stated that currently the plan is to have the university's independent high school program be involved in providing on-line STEM education for Nebraska high schools.

Professor Starita, College of Journalism & Mass Communications, asked for the simplest way to compare our financial situation with the universities of the Big Ten. Chancellor Perlman stated that this is a mixed bag. In the end we would be in the top 10-15% compared to other public institutions in the country. He stated that the University of Michigan does not get much money from the state and thus does not suffer as much when its state's economy suffers. He stated that we would certainly hold our own with respect to the Big Ten schools if the Governor's recommendations are accepted.

Professor Nickerson, School of Biological Sciences, asked if there is any difference between the money that would be used for Innovation Campus and the UNL campus. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the funding is of two different types—continuing and one-time. He stated that the Innovation Campus money (the Governor's recommended \$25 million) is one-time funding.

Chancellor Perlman wanted to talk about the Big Ten and some of the challenges we face. He reported that the CIC is sending a team in early March to visit the campus and he is hoping that the team members will be able to speak with a number of faculty members on campus. He pointed out that there are academic challenges to becoming a member of the Big Ten. He noted that we will now be in a group with the biggest land grant universities in the country.

Chancellor Perlman reported that we will be the smallest university, other than Northwestern, in the Big Ten. He noted that the Ohio State is double the size we are. He stated that U.S. World Ranking puts us at the bottom of the Big Ten, but this is not such a bad thing when you consider the reputation of the Big Ten schools. He suspects that in five years our numbers will look better, in part due to the reputation we will have in being a member of the Big Ten.

Chancellor Perlman reported that in regards to tuition rates, we are at the bottom of the Big Ten which gives us the opportunity for enrollment increases, but having lower tuition means less revenue. He pointed out that we are already seeing some impacts of being a member of the Big Ten in terms of admissions. He stated that Admissions is reporting that good students are drawn to attending a Big Ten university.

Chancellor Perlman stated that we are below in terms of the amount of research dollars we receive but all of the other Big Ten schools, except for Purdue, include the medical school. He noted that if UNMC was included in the research funding amounts we would not be far off from the other Big Ten schools. He reported that in regards to the percentage of growth in research funding over the last decade we are at the top except for Ohio State.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he has received numerous email messages asking how any rational, consistent policy, was used in cancelling the first two days of classes for the semester but not calling off classes today. He pointed out that 23% of our students are non-resident students and we have a significant number of Nebraska students who would have been traveling back to campus for the beginning of the semester. He stated that after checking on the condition of the interstates he decided to cancel classes on January 10 in order to keep students from driving in hazardous conditions. He pointed out that today's weather is manageable and noted that after all this is Nebraska.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he has received email messages about the health care audit saying that the audit shows a distrust of the faculty and staff on the part of the administration. He noted that he is skeptical that we will find many abuses and he knows that we never had to document dependents before, but we are moving into an era where new faculty and staff members will need to document the eligibility of their dependents. He stated that the audit does not require the sending of any original documents. He pointed out that Chapman Kelly, the company conducting the audit, has done the audit before at other universities and is aware of the challenges and difficulties the audit may cause for some faculty members. He stated that the university appreciates that people are on leave or there are some whose documents are in other countries and the university will work with these people as much as possible. He stated that the company will try to make the process as least disruptive as it can be. He noted that many people will be annoyed and admitted that he finds it to be an annoyance as well. However, it is hard to object to the concept of assuring that the rest of us are not paying for persons who should not be on our plan.

Professor Gilde, Modern Languages & Literature, asked how much the audit is going to cost and how much the university will save. Chancellor Perlman stated that he too is interested in finding out this information.

Professor Neal, Art & Art History, asked who is generating the audit and whether it is being requested by the insurance company. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the university is self insured and our benefits are subsidized by state appropriations and by the premiums that we as employees pay for health care coverage. He noted that it is a closed health care trust and we must have enough money in the trust to cover any claims that are made. He stated that each dependent costs \$2500 to insure and it is good management practice to periodically check eligibility. He pointed out that our budgets are thin and the experience at other universities that have conducted health care audits is that substantial savings have been made, although he is skeptical that we will have as much savings here. He stated that it is possible that \$400,000 to \$500,000 might be saved.

Professor Bruce Fischer, Construction Management, asked if there is any information available on our sister campuses in the Big Ten who have conducted the audit. Chancellor Perlman stated that he is not sure whether this information is publicly available. He noted that the University of Michigan just finished its audit and there might be information on its website about it.

4.0 Approval of 12/7/10 Minutes

President Lindquist reported that some minor changes have been made to the minutes but the Senate will not be able to vote on them due to the lack of a quorum.

5.0 Committee Reports

5.1 Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (Professor Pearson)

Professor Pearson reported that the IAC is charged with reviewing and making recommendations on all athletic policies and practices in accordance with UNL's policies. She stated that the Committee meets on a monthly basis and hears reports from Dr. Osborne, Athletic Director, and Dennis Leblanc, Senior Associate Athletic Director. She stated that no unusual circumstances arose this year. She stated that the IAC will be looking at policy changes once we enter the Big Ten.

President Lindquist requested that the IAC review its syllabus and make any necessary changes relating to UNL's moving into the Big Ten.

5.2 Curriculum Committee (Professor Moore)

Professor Moore reported that the main responsibility of the Curriculum Committee is to approve adding or deleting courses. He noted that the Curriculum Committee also involves the ACE subcommittee and its work. He reported that the Curriculum Committee meets face-to-face once at the beginning of each semester and the rest of the work is conducted on-line.

Professor Moore stated that the ACE subcommittee has a representative from each of the colleges. The subcommittee meets twice a month and reviews all of the ACE recertification and makes recommendations to the undergraduate colleges regarding substantive changes in the ACE Program. He reported that the on-line course approval system is working well. He noted that the subcommittee is working on the first time recertification of ACE courses and is working closely with the associate deans who are responsible for curricular action within the undergraduate colleges. He stated that the subcommittee aims to keep the rigor in the ACE program.

Professor Moore reported that the Curriculum Committee has worked closely with the University Wide Assessment Committee in regards to assessment of the ACE program. He stated that the Curriculum Committee is working with the ACE subcommittee to make some minor changes to the ACE governing documents. He stated that the Curriculum Committee is seeking the Senate's advice on how these minor changes should be approved. He noted that the Curriculum Committee is suggesting that 1) there be unanimous approval from the ACE subcommittee, 2) approval from the Director of General Education, and 3) approval from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. He asked the Senate how substantive changes should be approved.

Professor Carlson, Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, asked if there are any guidelines that would help people decide whether the changes being recommended are substantial. Professor Moore stated that any changes at all that would clarify how the committee does its work would be considered substantial enough to require formal approval.

President Lindquist stated that the Executive Committee has not had the opportunity to discuss the recommendation yet, but it will be put on a future agenda.

5.3 Committee on Committees Report (Professor Meyer)

Professor Meyer stated that the responsibility of the Committee on Committees (CoC) deals with the operation and organization of all Faculty Senate and other campus committees and to see how well committees are operating. He reported that the CoC makes recommendations to the Chancellor and the Faculty Senate with respect to improvements on committee structure. He stated that one of the main tasks of the CoC is to recommend faculty members to serve on the various committees. He noted that ten faculty members serve on the CoC and they are well versed across the campus.

Professor Meyer reported that the main issue for the CoC is the declining number of faculty members who volunteer to serve on committees. He stated that the CoC really needs help with recruiting faculty members to serve. He asked the Senators to please encourage newly tenured colleagues to serve. He recommends that the Senators inform their colleagues how well the university can run with their help on the committees and how valuable committee participation is.

Professor Meyer reported that the CoC entertained revising the "Definitions of Disciplines" as defined in the Faculty Senate's Syllabus on Campus-wide Committees. He noted that a letter was recently sent to each Senator asking them to check with their department to see if they feel their department needs to be defined differently in the listing.

Professor Meyer stated that the CoC also worked on determining the term length for the two new faculty members that will be added to the Academic Planning Committee. He noted that the CoC made sure that there is an overlap in the length of terms to continue the smooth operation of the APC.

Professor Meyer stated that the CoC will continue to promote the value of committee service but it will need some help because of the upcoming retirement of a significant number of faculty members through the voluntary separation incentive program.

President Lindquist stated that Senators should encourage their colleagues to participate and get involved in committees.

5.4 Convocations Committee (Professor Neal)

Professor Neal reported that funding for bringing in guest speakers originally was funded through the Palladian Avery Lectureship fund established through the foundation in the late 1940's. She stated that the Chancellor's office later provided \$4006 to help with the funding. She stated that the primary purpose of the funding is to bring in scholarly lecturers who will broaden the scope of the university. She reported that people apply from all departments with English, School of Music, and Women & Gender Studies being departments that consistently apply for funding. She stated that most applications come in during the spring semester. She reported that this year \$4000 was provided for guest speakers coming in the fall semester and \$1400 for speakers coming in the spring semester.

Professor Neal stated that Karen Griffin has been amazingly helpful and assisted with revising the new application and getting it distributed to all faculty members. She reported that the Committee has instated deadline dates for applications: November 1 will be the deadline date for applications for spring semester guest speakers and April 1st will be the deadline date for bringing in speakers during the fall semester. She asked the Senate to please be aware of these dates.

Professor Neal stated that she was going to consider asking the Chancellor to increase the funding for guest speakers, but after seeing the Chancellor's report on the budget she would rather see that more people apply for funding. She noted that the Convocations Committee funding is one of the few sources of funding outside of the department for guest speakers. She reported that the Palladian Avery Lectureship foundation fund's principal is \$97,000 plus, and there is now an interest of about \$33,000 that can be spent.

Professor Carlson noted that in the report is the request of \$994 to increase funding from the Chancellor's office. He suggested that the request be concretely justified rather than just stating that this fund has not received an increase in some time. Professor Neal stated that the Committee was not aware of how much interest was in the foundation account. She noted that it was the Committee's perception that there wasn't much interest. President Lindquist asked if the \$4006 is part of the funding from the foundation account. Professor Neal stated that this is separate money from the Chancellor's office.

Professor Neal stated that she would like to see a wider range of applications. She noted that it is important that the applications are succinct in providing the required information. She noted that the Graduate Student History Association has done an excellent job with their application. She pointed out that the Committee will not provide funding if applicants do not check on the university rate for lodging.

Professor Lindquist suggested that the Convocations Committee prepare and recommend to the Chancellor a budget. He stated that the number of applicants and the amount of funding requested should be included and a budget recommended to the Chancellor. He stated that he thinks this request would go forward.

6.0 Pound Howard Award

President Lindquist noted that there was no quorum so the voting for the Pound Howard Award will take place by email. He asked that Senators keep the nominee's name confidential.

7.0 Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Motion to Approve the Ballot for Academic Planning Committee, Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee, and Academic Rights & Responsibilities Panel Election

President Lindquist stated that the ballot is being introduced at this meeting and will be voted on at the March 1 Senate meeting. He noted that the ballot comes from the Committee on Committees and does not need a

second.

8.2 Motion to Review the Computational Services and Facilities Committee

President Lindquist reported that the letter requesting the changes, and the reason for the changes, to the Computational Services and Facilities Committee was included in the Senate packet. He asked the Senators to review the material because it will be voted on at the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 2:30 p.m. in the East Campus Union, Great Plains Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Patrick Shea, Secretary.