

**UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**East Campus Union, Arbor Suite**  
**September 10, 2013**  
**Presidents Schubert and Nickerson, Presiding**

**1.0 Call to Order**

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

**2.0 Announcements**

Past President Schubert noted that President Guevara was out temporarily due to health issues. He stated that he hopes President Guevara will be returning soon.

**2.1 Report on Executive Committee Work**

Past President Schubert reported that the Senate Executive Committee is finally scheduled to meet with SVCAA Weissinger tomorrow. He stated that topics on the agenda include the changes in UCARE that were made over the summer and MOOC courses.

Past President Schubert stated that the Executive Committee hopes to work with the Faculty Senate Presidents of the other university campuses to suggest language guaranteeing faculty members protection if they speak critically of the administration be included in the Board of Regents Bylaws. He noted that this issue was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee by Frank Edler, President of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska. He pointed out that the Supreme Court cited that a school could fire a teacher for speaking critically of the administration. He noted that the University of California has already included language into their bylaws to protect faculty members.

Past President Schubert stated that the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee report, usually scheduled to be presented at this meeting, will be presented at the October Senate meeting. He noted that he is waiting for information in order to complete the report.

**2.2 Responsibilities of Senators**

Past President Schubert noted that the first meeting of the academic year was a good time to remind Senators of their responsibilities. He stated that Senators should bring issues forward to the Senate that need to be discussed, communicate with their constituents about the work of the Senate and to gather feedback on issues the Senate is working on and to come to the meetings and actively participate in discussions. He reminded Senators when speaking at the Senate to state their name and department.

**2.3 Passing of Emeritus Professor McShane**

Past President Schubert reported the passing of Professor McShane this summer. He noted that many people will have a memory of him as being the Emeriti Association's representative to the Faculty Senate and having spoken at the last meeting in May. He noted that Professor McShane served as the English department representative on the Faculty Senate for many years and served two terms as President of the Senate from 1989-1991. He also received the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award and the Louise Pound-George Howard Award.

**3.0 Chancellor Perlman**

Chancellor Perlman welcomed back the Senators and noted that he is looking forward to working with everyone over the course of the next year. He pointed out that he will be giving his State of the University address next week and urged everyone to attend.

Chancellor Perlman noted that everyone saw the announcement that was recently made regarding Career Services now reporting to the Office of Academic Affairs. He stated that he hopes this does not cause any angst for the faculty. He stated that he has thought long and hard on the issue of what to do with Career Services. He pointed out that he is not critical of how Career Services has functioned in the past, but the university is going to be increasingly held accountable for what we are doing to make our students successful and departments will have to be accountable in relations to the career paths of their graduates. He reported that more direct responsibilities and engagement with career services are needed, but we will probably be moving toward a hybrid model of having some career service units in colleges and perhaps in larger departments.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Campus Master Plan will be presented to the Board of Regents at the September 20 meeting and he has high expectations that it will be approved. He noted that the plan is already driving how we are planning the physical facilities on campus. He stated that the plan calls for the creation of malls on campus to help organize traffic flow. He noted that on City Campus this means the restoration of Memorial Mall which will extend to the new Business College that is planned for future construction. He stated that he hoped the change to the campus will come about gradually over the next ten years or so. He stated that the mall that runs from the Coliseum to Love Library will be refashioned and should be a lovely environment when completed. He stated that the 14<sup>th</sup> street mall will have bus, bike, and pedestrian accessibility which will allow people to be dropped off in the middle of the campus rather than on the outskirts. He noted that 16<sup>th</sup> street will become a two-way street and 17<sup>th</sup> street will be closed for pedestrian and service traffic only. He pointed that the creation of the Antelope Valley Parkway enables us to do this. He noted that these changes will be safer for students.

Chancellor Perlman reported that on East Campus the historic mall will be opened to Holdrege Street creating a real entrance to the campus. He stated that the flow of transportation will be rearranged so people can go directly from one building to the next and the importance of the campus loop will be reduced.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Libraries on both campuses are no longer fully serving what they originally were set to do and will be converted to centers for students to connect to the academic enterprise and to find resources that will allow them to be academically successful. He noted that Dean Busch has been very cooperative in the renovation plans. He stated that Love Library South has already been renovated and Love North could be made into a spectacular place. He noted that the idea with the CYT Library is for it to become the academic hub of East Campus.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the Student Union on both campuses desperately needs to be renovated to accommodate the needs of today's students. He stated that the idea is to make the Unions hubs and that renovating the unions could be a very exciting and transformative way to change the campuses. He noted that this will not happen overnight and funds need to be raised.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the UNL Bylaws, in his opinion, are in terrible condition and no one seems to know what is in them. He pointed out that most of the Bylaws are just repetition of the Board of Regents Bylaws and they are structured so that any changes that are made require Board of Regents approval. He suggested that key components of the Bylaws should require authorization from the Board, but the campus should be allowed to facilitate minor changes. He reported that he had a Law College student work over the summer reviewing the UNL Bylaws and identifying areas that are a duplication of what is in the Regents Bylaws. He stated that he will sit down and review the identified areas and will make suggestions on how the Bylaws could be changed. He stated that he would then give it to the Senate. He noted that the campus manages fine with the current Bylaws but without clear policies controversy can arise.

Chancellor Perlman reported that this has been a very good year for enrollment and the total enrollment is up 1%. He pointed out in the last three years we have had the largest graduation classes that we have ever had and as a result we should see our graduation rates increase. He noted that the 120 credit hour requirement is helping students to graduate faster. He stated that the really good news is that the first time freshmen class is up by slightly over 12% and it is the most diverse class yet. He stated that this is a testament to the faculty and those who are open to the growth of the campus. He noted that what is really gratifying is that many of the new students are from Lincoln, Omaha, and greater Nebraska as well as international students. He stated that the strongest growth has been in non-resident students who are in the Big Ten footprint. He reported that recruiting efforts were targeted in these areas and it is paying off.

Professor Adams, Plant Pathology, stated that faculty members have asked him to bring up the issue of why the ATM cash machines on East Campus are charging an additional fee for the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union users. He noted that City Campus ATM machines do not charge the same fee. Chancellor Perlman noted that he has heard this complaint before and he cannot believe that any bank would specifically discriminate between the two campuses. He wondered if it had something to do with the bids that were placed on the machines. Professor Adams stated that there are apparently different banks operating the ATMs. Chancellor Perlman stated that this is probably why there is a difference, but in the future Business and Finance will certainly take into account the charges to users on both of the campuses. He pointed out that unfortunately a contract has been signed that we have to live with until it expires.

Professor Purcell, Southeast Research & Extension Center, noted that a recent Time magazine article states

that there are some efforts underway to pay student athletes. She asked if this will impact the university. Chancellor Perlman stated that something sensible needs to be done through the NCAA and it could impact us. He noted that athletics is part of our brand and it does help us to recruit more students. He noted that there are many people who think student athletes should be paid, but this is inconsistent with the values of higher education. He pointed out that UNL has a good record in terms of compliance with NCAA rules. He noted that it is an outrage as to what is happening with Oklahoma State University as reported by Sports Illustrated. He reported that the Big Ten is working on solutions to prevent these kinds of things from happening. He noted that because of NCAA regulations we can spend as much money that we have on everything associated with intercollegiate athletics, except for providing student athletes with anything. He stated that part of the problem is that once you get out of the five major conferences, universities vote against reforms because they might cost money. He pointed out that the five major conferences need to get out of this situation because if we cannot respond in some sensible way, the external politics will impose on all of the universities.

#### **4.0 Associate VC Larkins**

Associate VC Larkins reported that he attended UNL 39 years ago and is an alumnus of the university. He later went on to work at the University of Arizona for over 25 years and chaired the Agronomy department there. He stated that he was asked by Chancellor Perlman to come to campus to try and coordinate the life sciences between City and East campus. He noted that the world faces incredible challenges: an aging population, emerging diseases, food safety, and a rapidly growing population of 9 billion people in another 20-25 years. He pointed out that these changes will impact today's students and there will be a lot of important challenges for the life sciences.

Associate VC Larkins noted that the life sciences are very challenging these days; it is very molecular and very expensive to conduct research because equipment is costly. He reported that it can now cost \$250,000 to \$1 million to set up a lab for faculty members in the life sciences. He stated that these costs bring great challenges for land grant universities and in order for labs and equipment to get the maximum use of these labs energy needs to be created between different departments and colleges in the life sciences. He noted that UNL is like most other land grant universities in that it has not had great success in creating this energy which is why he was asked to come back to UNL. He stated that he hopes to break down the fences that exist between departments and colleges to provide better resources.

Associate VC Larkins stated that he wants to facilitate discussion and promote coordination within the life sciences and help identify gaps in faculty expertise and to develop mentorships of faculty members in the hope that we can get some UNL faculty members into the Academic of Sciences. He stated that another one of his tasks is to help manage the life sciences on Innovation Campus and to be an advocate of the life sciences both internally and externally. He stated that he hopes to have the life sciences faculty members realize the goal of greater synergies in research and to have a graduate program that provides advanced research training and provides opportunities for technology.

Associate VC Larkins reported that the life sciences faculty have facilitated the implementation of a core life sciences curriculum and this is the first year new courses have been instituted. He noted that enrollment has increased and the curriculum is based on student centered learning. He stated that the other exciting thing is the hiring of discipline based faculty members of which there have been three new hires this past year.

Associate VC Larkins stated that he is assisting in the planning of a facility for science education and laboratory teaching. He reported that blueprints are being developed for the eventual renovation of Manter Hall.

Associate VC Larkins stated that work is also going on to integrate computational science teaching and research activities across the campus. He realized that searches for faculty members were going on in various departments relating to computational sciences and he suggested hiring someone to coordinate these hires. As a result a coordinator has been hired to develop a computational sciences initiative and integration that will help bring resources together. He reported that five new computational faculty members have been hired in the last few months with the idea to create a computational science center that could have an undergraduate degree program. He pointed out that this would be a phenomenal educational program and this is an area where there are many jobs available. He stated that the idea is to create a forum for the life sciences chairs and deans to meet and discuss what they are doing and what their long term goals are for the life sciences.

Past President Schubert stated that the efforts are very impressive and exciting. He noted that both he and Associate VC Larkins are scientists who never had some of the exposures that today's students have, but it makes him wonder what undergraduates need to become successful. Associate VC Larkins stated that he was

fortunate to have a professor who taught a science writing course which taught him how to write a scientific paper based on collected data. He stated that communication skills, particularly in writing, are essential. He stated that his sense is that two things are needed to be successful in science: you need to be really motivated because 99 out of 100 experiments don't work and you have to be patient. He stated that you also really have to be doing work that you really want to do. He stated that the second thing is that you need to be lucky and you need to know an opportunity when it presents itself and then work hard when that opportunity arises.

Professor Hay, Southeast Research and Extension Center, asked how the climate is different today, as compared to a couple of years ago, that allows the life sciences to succeed. Associate VC Larkins stated that several years ago a very large committee composed of faculty members wrote a report about the life sciences at UNL and it was determined that the biggest problem to an integrated life sciences program was administration. Rather than doing what was best for UNL, department and colleges were doing what was best for their unit. He stated that this has changed in the past three or four years with new leadership. He noted that the study recommended creating a college of life sciences, but this would have taken the research faculty out of IANR. He stated that it is not essential to create a life sciences college as long as you can have integration between the departments and colleges and you can find a common set of goals.

Professor Hay noted that he is an Extension Educator in southeast Nebraska and works on agricultural literacy. He asked what concepts we should teach people when the agricultural literacy is moving in directions that are very different from the traditional concepts. Associate VC Larkins reported that we changed the way children are taught in elementary and high school by having them think about what they are learning and not just learning detail. He pointed out that nothing is going to change significantly in the next 20 years in how we produce things. He stated that the difference will be in the efficiency of growing things and the techniques so that things can be done faster and smarter which will allow us to make things better. He noted that there is a lot of discussion about genetically engineered crops and many people are concerned that these foods are not as healthy and will give us cancer, however many people make irrational judgments and confuse the facts because these foods are safe. He pointed out that through the life sciences a lot of novel things will be created so that genetic engineering doesn't have to be done and this will have a huge impact on us.

Past President Schubert thanked Associate VC Larkins and noted that he provided a great deal of stimulating thought. He stated that he hopes to continue this communication as it has a lot of interesting topics embedded in the discussion.

## **5.0 Approval of April 23, 2013 Minutes**

Professor Rinkevich, Classics and Religious Studies, moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Peterson, Agricultural Economics. The motion was approved.

## **6.0 Committee Reports**

### **6.1 Commencement and Honors Convocations Committee Report (Professor Bolin)**

Professor Bolin reported that the faculty members on this Committee organize and provide the labor for commencement ceremonies and makes sure the awards and certificates presented during the ceremonies are in accordance with the provision of the Faculty Senate governing honors, award or recognitions for scholarships. He noted that it is a well-oiled machine and pointed out that the Chancellor believes that graduation is an extremely important ceremony that ought to be done well. He pointed out that Jennifer Verhein, Assistant Director, Office of the University Registrar, does an absolutely fabulous job of notifying the students and organizing the diplomas. He stated that Annette Wetzel, Special Events Coordinator, deals with communications for the ceremonies and is outstanding. He reported that Associate to the Chancellor Nunez does a wonderful job of coordinating participation by the administration and Professor Berger, Director of the Honors Program and Head Marshal, does a marvelous job of orchestrating the Marshals. He stated that it was astounding to watch the planning for all of the different contingencies for the ceremonies for this past year since the Devaney Center was not available for the ceremonies. He noted that the Chancellor received an email message stating that the stadium was sacred to football and that nothing else should be held there.

Professor Bolin reported that due to weather conditions in May the stadium could not be used. As a result the hooding ceremony was conducted in Kimball Hall, the graduate ceremony was held in Lied and undergraduates received their diplomas from their Dean in the Cook Pavilion. He pointed out that all of this had to be organized at the spur of the moment but it all worked out well. He noted that all of the students graduating in March were invited to go through the formal graduation procedure at the new Pinnacle Arena in August.

Professor Bolin reported that the Marshals are always in need of additional faculty members. He stated that being a Marshal is a wonderful opportunity and it is great to have faculty participation at these important ceremonies. He urged faculty members to put on their regalia and attend the graduation ceremonies.

## **6.2 Executive Committee Summer Report**

Past President Schubert reported that the Executive Committee met over the summer, although the Committee was unable to meet with SVCAA Weissinger. He noted that ACE recertification procedures were discussed and an ad hoc committee on ACE procedures was created, however the ad hoc committee is currently on hold because of President Guevara's health situation. He stated that there was a discussion with the Chancellor about a fabricated equipment policy that was created by Accounting and he hopes that this situation will be corrected soon.

Professor Weissling, Special Education & Communication Disorders, asked what the discussion was concerning internal versus external dean searches. Past President Schubert stated that the Committee discussed the issue and made a basic statement supporting the need for external searches.

## **7.0 Unfinished Business**

### **7.1 Update on Proposed KACE Policy**

Past Secretary Woodman reported that he is chairing the Information Technologies and Services Committee (ITSC). He reminded the Senate that there were extensive discussions about KACE and the many different capabilities it has that would enable information technologists to do things efficiently but infringed on issues of academic freedom. He reported that things have changed because the KACE contract is scheduled to expire in December and it will not be renewed. He stated that the campus is looking into the Microsoft System Center Management system which is a less powerful version of a management center and it will not allow file content to be copied so that it can be viewed by technologists. He stated that your computer will be kept secure, but information will be delivered smoothly to it. He stated that an RFP was issued for all vendors to submit bids but he pointed out that the Microsoft Tools is free. He stated that the ITSC is asking that we delay action on a policy until revisions can be made to it.

### **7.2 Update on Ad Hoc Committee on ACE Procedures**

Past President Schubert suggested that all further comments on this issue be suspended until President Guevara is back since he is chairing the Ad Hoc Committee. He pointed out that the issue has not been forgotten and discussion is ongoing.

## **8.0 New Business**

### **8.1 Senate Executive Committee Goals for 2013-14**

Past President Schubert reported that the Executive Committee developed the goals at its retreat this summer and noted that the theme is for the Senate to support strong communication amongst the faculty and administration. He pointed out that the administration has big plans which include the flooding of students to campus and ultimately the faculty has to make it all work. He stated that new goals include protecting faculty time and reviewing the academy assembly as defined in the UNL Bylaws because it does not reflect faculty positions today. He noted that the goals also call for the monitoring of MOOC and Coursera at UNL. He asked that anyone with comments or questions should contact any of the members of the Executive Committee or the Senate Office.

### **8.2 Motion to Revise the Faculty Senate Executive Committee**

Past President Schubert stated that the Executive Committee is presenting a motion to designate one of the seats on the Executive Committee for a non-tenure track faculty member, other than an Extension Educator. He stated that another change in the syllabus of the Executive Committee is to remove the language that one of the Executive Committee members serve as chair of the Budget Committee. He pointed out that the Budget Committee was discontinued a number of years ago.

Professor Clark, School of Natural Resources, asked how non-tenure track faculty members are represented on the Senate. He asked if they are allocated by departments and if there is appropriate presentation. He stated that his hunch is that non-tenure track faculty members are not represented in any proportional factions. President Elect Nickerson stated that there are already members of the Senate who are non-tenure track faculty members. Past President Schubert noted that it is always possible to have a non-tenure track faculty member on the Senate. He pointed out that Past President Fech was a non-tenure track faculty member. Professor Bradford noted that Professor Fech was an Extension Educator, and the change calls for a new category of a non-tenure track faculty member on the Executive committee.

Professor Bradford stated that there are guarantees that you will have Extension Educators on the Senate because they have their own separate districts, but non-tenure track faculty members do not have a separate district. He pointed out that there needs to be an exception in the language stating that if you do not have any non-tenure track faculty members serving on the Senate you can still fill the seat. Past President Schubert stated that the Executive Committee wanted to take the chance that there will always be some non-tenure track faculty members on the Senate. He noted that the goal is to increase engagement and participation of non-tenure track faculty members in the Senate.

Professor Reisbig, Child, Youth & Family Studies, stated that she understands Professor Bradford's point and the Executive Committee did discuss it. She stated that she believes there is a problem with engaging non-tenure track faculty members if we do not have any on the Senate. She pointed out that there is a need to have these faculty members represented, particularly since large numbers of them are being hired on both campuses. She believes that the Senate needs to work harder to recruit these people from the departments so they have a voice on campus.

Professor Bradford stated that language cannot be adhered to if there are no non-tenure track faculty members who can, or are willing, to serve on the Executive Committee. He stated that he would write a friendly amendment to the motion for the next meeting.

### **8.3 Motion to Revise the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee**

Past President Schubert reported that the Executive Committee is presenting a motion to add a non-tenure track faculty member to the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee. He noted that the non-tenure track faculty member would need a .50FTE and three successive years of employment to be able to serve on this committee.

### **8.4 Update on Survey of Non-tenure Track Faculty Members**

Professor Shea, School of Natural Resources, asked for an update regarding the survey of non-tenure track faculty members that was conducted by the Senate last year. He asked if the results of the survey were posted or a report made available. Past President Schubert stated that he gave a Powerpoint presentation to the Senate last year on the results of the survey which was made available to the Chancellor and SVCAA. Professor Shea suggested that the report should be available to the entire university. Schubert pointed out that the report is summative and is not a written report. Professor Shea asked why there isn't a written report and thought that those faculty members who participated in the survey would want to see a report. Past President Schubert stated that IRB regulations stated only summative information be made public. President Elect Nickerson stated that the Executive Committee discussed the issue and determined that it was difficult to correlate the comments made from the different groups without identifying individuals/departments so it felt that summative data would be more appropriate. Professor Shea stated that he thought that Professor LaCost had looked into the matter and thought there was some level of IRB approval that would allow information gathered from the survey to be shared. Professor LaCost, Educational Administration, stated that the IRB approval only permitted presenting information in aggregate form. She pointed out that she thinks the language of the survey stated that no information would be reported that would identify colleges, departments, or individuals.

Past President Schubert stated that he will make a PDF document out of the Powerpoint presentation he gave last year. President Elect Nickerson stated that one of the most useful things that came out of the survey is the Chancellor's attention to revising the bylaws.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, Auditorium. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Toni Anaya, Secretary.