

**UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 5, 2016**  
**East Campus Union, Arbor Suite**  
**Presidents Bender, Woodman, and Nickerson Presiding**

**1.0 Call to Order**

President Bender called the meeting to order at 2:32pm.

**2.0 Announcements**

**2.1 Recognition of Outgoing Senators**

President Bender provided recognition of the outgoing senators. He stated there are three whose terms have expired and asked them to stand and be recognized as he read their names: Phil Schwadel, William Grange, and Aaron Stalker. President Bender noted that several outgoing senators have also been reelected to another term and asked them to stand and be recognized as he read their names: Pascha Stevenson, Michael Combs, Barbara LaCost, Gerard Adams, Patty Sollars, Matt Joeckel, Clark Archer, Connie Hancock, and Scott Napolitano. President Bender welcomed them back and expressed appreciation for all of the outgoing senators' commitment to service.

**2.2 Academic Freedom Award**

President Bender stated that there is no Academic Freedom Award being presented this year as there was no one nominated. He asked for the assembly to consider nominating someone for next year. He stated that if anyone knows of someone who has contributed to academic freedom at this campus or elsewhere to consider providing their nomination through the Faculty Senate office.

**2.3 Faculty Senate President's Newsletter Delay**

President Bender said that there was no newsletter due to the absence of Karen Griffin, Coordinator of Faculty Governance, on the account of a death in her family. He stated that the newsletter would come out next week.

**2.4 Update on Board of Regents' May Meeting Agenda**

President Bender noted that, on the agenda for the May meeting of the Board of Regents, they are proposing to amend section 2.11 of their bylaws. This section states that multi-departmental academic centers for research, teaching, and/or service should be reviewed on a timetable of not less than 5 years. The proposal is to change this to not less than 7 years. He said that this is the same cycle used for academic performance reviews of every department that is not otherwise accredited. He stated that this synchronization seems to be a reasonable change, but thought that the full Senate should be made aware of this proposed change.

**3.0 Approval of March 1, 2016 Minutes**

President Bender called for approval of the minutes. Professor Leiter, College of Law, moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Peterson, Agricultural Economics and approved by the Senate.

## **4.0 Committee Reports**

### **4.1 Graduate Council (Associate VC Perez)**

Associate Vice Chancellor Perez reported that this past year was a fairly typical year for the Graduate Council. He stated that the most important thing was to move forward with the new doctoral program in Complex Biosystems which has importance beyond being a new graduate program. He stated that it is an interdisciplinary doctoral program which spans four different Colleges and many Departments. He said that it is somewhat of an experiment with how it is to be administered. He noted that it is a sign of things to come, with programs not affiliated with any one particular College or Unit. He stated that the proposal is now being reviewed through Varner Hall by an external team. He noted it is hoped to be approved in time for the fall semester. After asking for questions from the assembly, Associate VC Perez stated that any additional questions may be asked of Melanie Simpson, Susan J. Rosowski Professor Biochemistry, who is leading the effort to get the program approved.

### **4.2 Convocations Committee (Professor Cruz)**

Professor Cruz noted that the Convocations Committee is charged with administering funds to bring speakers to the University to enhance the academic life of the University in general. He stated that the Committee has a strong budget of around \$5,000 to \$6,000 to support applications each semester. He noted that the only concern from the committee is that they would like to see more applications as they have plenty of funds available. He recognized that faculty have to invest a lot of time to bring in a speaker and that the Committee greatly appreciates this work.

### **4.3 University Curriculum Committee (Professor Weissling)**

Professor Weissling thanked the Undergraduate Education Programs office for putting the report together for the committee. He stated that in 2015, the committee reviewed approximately 788 proposals that mostly included course changes and proposals for new courses. He added that around 200 of those proposals were for ACE courses and were mostly for recertification. He stated that this year we don't have ACE recertifications so the Committee is spending time looking at some of the procedures related to the ACE outcomes, honors courses, and also reviewing processes and requests for primarily ACE 8 and 9 education abroad courses. The committee has also been working on developing a new syllabus and consulted with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to receive feedback about how the syllabus could be updated to reflect changes that have occurred. The changes suggested by the Executive Committee have been incorporated by Director Nancy Mitchell. These changes are listed in the report. Professor Weissling noted, in closing, that it was questioned where the Committee's procedures are being stored. He stated that CREQ, the software program used to record all curricular actions, is used primarily and that other notations are stored in Director Nancy Mitchell's office.

#### **4.4 Committee on Committees (Professor Woldstad)**

Professor Woldstad identified that the Committee on Committees is charged with helping to recruit people to serve on Faculty Senate committees and also monitors representation. He stated that it was an uneventful year in that there were no problems and as a result there are no changes to suggest. He encouraged all Senators to talk with their colleagues to help recruit people who would be good on committees. He stated to either contact the Committee on Committees or Karen Griffin, Coordinator of Faculty Governance.

Past-President Nickerson asked if there are any committees that they are having difficulty staffing or with recruiting from particular ranks among the faculty. Professor Woldstad stated that the most difficulty is with the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panels since there were so many people who rotated off this past year. He noted that they had to fill 13 slots this year, with two people each on the ballot. He stated that perhaps this issue can be discussed more during the upcoming year so that not so many people are rotating on and off at the same time.

President Bender noted that one thing we've been talking about that might complicate the issue is the possibility to add non-tenure track faculty members to the ARRC and ARRP. He stated that this will further increase the complexity of the elections and the issue of timing of terms, but at the same time permits a larger pool from which to recruit. He noted that he hopes when faculty receive the call to volunteer that they will respond. He said that we need people to serve on these committees as this is an integral part of how the University is run.

#### **4.5 Information Technologies and Services Committee (Professor Leiter)**

Professor Leiter stated that the report that was sent out with the packet has been revised and updated and referred Senators to additional copies provided on the back table. He stated that the only revision is the addition of one issue that relates to the way that internet ports are charged and billed to students through lab fees. He said that there may be an issue of double-billing students. He stated that the ITSC is working with the CIO and Vice Chancellor of IT, Mark Askren, to resolve that issue. Other than that issue, Professor Leiter said that it has been a fairly uneventful year. He stated that IT has done an excellent job at introducing new technology to the faculty. An example is the process of adopting a new learning management system as the university moves from Blackboard to Canvas. He identified that a number of Senators have participated in the pilot program with Canvas. In closing, Professor Leiter introduced Heath Tuttle, Director of Academic Technologies, and Jeremy Van Hof, Coordinator of Academic Technologies, from the Office of Information Technology Services and stated they were available to answer any questions regarding the transition from Blackboard to Canvas.

President Bender stated that he is participating in the Canvas pilot and using it now for one class. He asked if Canvas will be available for any faculty to use next year for classes. Tuttle responded that the plan is to make Canvas available to all faculty starting in the fall. He said that it is being offered for pilot members over the summer. He

encouraged faculty who are interested in transitioning for the fall to reach out early to their office to assist with moving their content over from Blackboard. Professor Leiter clarified that there is no limit to the number of faculty who can participate in the pilot, but encouraged faculty to sign up as early as possible to give adequate time to adjust to the new user interface. Professor Belli, Psychology, inquired when Blackboard would no longer be offered. Tuttle responded that Blackboard will be phased out over two years' time.

Professor Vakilzadian, Electrical and Computer Engineering, inquired about the transfer of files from Blackboard. Van Hof clarified that the file transfer process can follow a couple of different paths. Some faculty have chosen to rebuild their courses from scratch while another path is to export content from Blackboard and import into Canvas. He stated that since there is some cleanup required when exporting and importing content that a "white glove" migration service is provided to assist faculty with the process. He stated that it takes about three hours on average to move content from a course in Blackboard into Canvas.

Professor Weissling, Special Education and Communication Disorders, asked if there was any data that came out of this pilot study such as the demographics of faculty who participated? Van Hof replied that he collected a sizeable amount of data including both student and faculty feedback. He stated that the initial findings have been presented to ITSC and that they are in process of fleshing the data out into more robust reports.

Professor Archer, School of Natural Resources, asked if WileyPLUS can be used with Canvas. Van Hof stated that Canvas works well with third-party add-ins and that WileyPLUS has been successfully used in the pilot.

Professor Wysocki, Electrical and Computer Engineering, asked about the timeframe for how long the University will use Canvas. VC Perez stated that once the migration is completed that the University expects to have a long term relationship with Canvas. President-Elect Woodman inquired if the contract with Canvas is signed and official. VC Perez stated that the contract is in process and that details are being worked through currently.

Professor Leiter added that many pilot participants stated that they actually preferred to migrate and create their new course in Canvas. He said this allowed them to remove artifacts from the old course and that they actually benefitted from going through the process.

President Bender stated that he has some material in Maple T.A. and found out at the start of the semester that Maple T.A. doesn't work well with Canvas. Tuttle stated that they have now worked out the bugs for Maple T.A. Tuttle further stated that he would like to thank Professor Leiter and the ITSC Committee for all of their help.

Professor Kaslon, Northeast Research & Extension Center, asked what the advantages are with the move from Blackboard to Canvas. Van Hof stated that Canvas was very well-received by both faculty and students. He added that it has a modern and easy to use interface, flexibility and is built with mobile access. Also, it is easy to integrate additional tools and offers more control to the instructor.

Professor Hancock, Panhandle Research & Extension Center, asked if one has to have UNL email to be a participant or if this can be used with Extension. Tuttle stated that it does have to be authenticated through UNL and come through our identity management system.

#### **4.6 Parking Advisory Committee (Dan Shattil and Dan Carpenter)**

Shattil stated that it has been a quiet year for the Committee. He identified that the Committee recommended not to increase parking fees for next year, but students are going to be assessed \$1.15 per semester in student fees to pay for their share of the bus transit system.

Professor Rudy, Nutrition and Health Sciences, asked if there are any plans to repair the damage to the circle lot in the front of the stadium and repair damage done to 14<sup>th</sup> & vine. Carpenter stated that right now they do not have the money to patch the Memorial Mall. He stated that it is currently being studied though and that it will be repaired in the future. He said that it needs to be torn out and decisions need to be made about what surface will go back in. He noted that some prefer to retain the brick, but that it is also difficult to maintain.

Professor Lee, Communication Studies, stated that when he was on the Parking Advisory Committee that a study was done by a group of consultants who had fairly radical ideas about parking. He asked about the current status of those recommendations. Carpenter stated that those recommendations are still being reviewed and that they had not received any initial support from the Committee. He said that several suggestions for ways to manage parking differently were made such as assigning individuals to parking rather than having non-reserved lots. He stated that some recommendations were not pursued by the Committee since many faculty like the flexibility to go between campuses. He said that the Committee did not want to discuss in detail moving in this direction. He noted however that they did get student residents to move in this direction though. Professor Lee noted that if faculty and staff were to agree to assigned parking that it would save the University a lot of money and that the reason fees go up is because we build new garages. Carpenter agreed that this form of parking management would be a better use of the resources we have. Professor Lee asked about transitioning to SMART buses. Carpenter stated that all StarTran buses have GPS and that there is a non-supported app built by a citizen. He stated that they are currently working with StarTran to develop a supported app.

Professor Weissling, Special Education and Communication Disorders, stated she often hears from students that they come to class late because they could not find a parking space and wondered if we are overselling lots. Carpenter stated that students always want to park in the closest lot and are not going to the other lots that are available. He said that it's all a time management issue. Professor Weissling asked what advice he would give to students for how much time in advance is needed. She added that in the first two weeks of class, students say that they're trying an hour in advance for parking. Carpenter agreed that's enough time. He said they need to call Parking and Transit Services if they cannot find a spot and we can tell them where the open lots are. He said that they also use Twitter @UNLParkingTS to notify students where spaces are open. Professor Weissling asked if there is a way to do a campaign on this in the fall. Carpenter responded yes. He identified that parking announcement e-mails are sent to all permit holders. He said that they'll do another announcement in the fall.

Professor Stewart, Art & Art History, identified that she's a bus rider and asked what role Parking and Transit Services played in the recent reorganization of the Lincoln City bus schedules. She said that there were several rounds of negotiations and that the buses for 17<sup>th</sup> Street and South Street are no longer going to stop at UNL and will only stop at the Gold's Building. Carpenter stated that he does not have any involvement in city negotiations. Professor Stewart stated that the city told her that UNL had representation on that committee. Carpenter reported that he sent an e-mail to the person sitting on the StarTran Advisory Board and had forwarded on any subsequent communication. He said otherwise he does not have any involvement with the citywide plan and just deals with the campuses.

President-Elect Woodman noted that 35,000 students are projected and asked what the impact of this growth will be on parking and transit. Carpenter stated that we have had steady growth of about 4-5% in students, but only 1% growth in permits. He surmised that perhaps the new students being recruited are not bringing cars. He said that there is a smaller demand for parking than the increase in students. Additional options are for students to rent the Zipcar so they don't have to pay for a permit.

## **5.0 Unfinished Business**

### **5.1 Resolution on Extension Educators**

President Bender stated that the resolution was introduced during the March 1<sup>st</sup> Senate meeting and that it is set for a vote today. He asked for any discussion on the resolution. Bender summarized that the resolution called for the repeal of a bylaw that is no longer relevant and would also change the notice requirement for termination. President Bender called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

## **5.2 Motion to Revise University Curriculum Committee Syllabus**

President Bender stated that the motion to revise the University Curriculum Committee syllabus was introduced at the last meeting and is set for a vote today. Bender asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Report on ACE Five-Year Review (Director Mitchell, Professor Sollars)**

Director Mitchell stated that as Undergraduate Education Programs Director, she has been working with her colleague, Professor Sollars, for the year to answer questions about the ACE program and the direction planned for the future. She stated that she would summarize the report and that the full report was available in the Senate packet. She noted that they would be glad to speak with anyone after the meeting or through email as well regarding any ideas that are not covered in their presentation.

Director Mitchell identified as background that in 2008 the faculty voted to approve the new general education requirements called ACE. It was set up by faculty, staff, and students. She identified that the governing document calls for all of the ACE certified courses to be reviewed in the first four years. She stated that to date the first iteration has been completed and that all 10 outcomes have been assessed and recertified. Further, she reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> year was stipulated to be a review of the entire program. She added that the report given and the brief presentation will summarize the work completed in the past year.

Professor Sollars stated that the review process with the faculty began in the fall. She said that they sent out invitations to 90 faculty members to participate so that all outcomes were covered and a concerted effort was made to include every College. She reported that 50 faculty members agreed to assist with the review. She said that groups were formed and performed two primary tasks. The first was to review the learning objectives and to determine whether or not the wording for each outcome fully captured its intended purpose, and the second was to construct a rubric that would enable university-wide assessment of the extent that students are actually meeting the outcome. Professor Sollars reviewed the revisions to each outcome and noted that ACE 9 is still under some additional review therefore the current changes may not turn out to be long-term. She then presented an example rubric that was created for ACE 4. She noted that similar rubrics have been developed for all of the other ACE outcomes and that they will be uploaded in the Tk20 assessment software so that all courses can be assessed according to this metric.

Director Mitchell closed by summarizing the changes made to the ACE program as a result of faculty input regarding the need to simplify aspects of the process. In particular, she noted that the recertification process has been simplified and that new assessment software is being piloted to replace the use of CREQ and Blackboard, which faculty found to be confusing. Further, she stated that they are revising the ACE website and

have updated the reporting schedule. She said that the ACE 10 reports were submitted last year and that a content analysis was completed on them. She stated that the University-Wide Assessment Committee is in the process of making recommendations based upon the report from the content analysis. Director Mitchell noted that faculty members are invited to contact her office should they have any questions about the report or the summary presented.

Past-President Nickerson inquired if independent research courses can still be used as ACE 10. Director Mitchell stated that yes they could and that they are not currently considering other changes in that area.

Professor Weissling, Special Education and Communication Disorders, stated that she is not very familiar with the ACE program and asked for clarification regarding the intended use for the rubrics developed. Director Mitchell clarified that the rubrics are just used for assessment purposes regarding whether the course is meeting the ACE objective, although faculty could choose to use them as grading rubrics. Professor Sollars added that the instructor will assess whether or not the sample or the entire class is meeting this objective through the signature assignment and that the rubrics are designed to help the instructor evaluate how well the course is meeting the ACE objective.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 2:30pm in the City Campus Union, Auditorium. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Allison Reisbig, Secretary, and Karen Griffin, Coordinator.