

**UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**East Campus Union, Great Plains Room**  
**April 24, 2018**  
**Presidents Purcell, Rudy, and Woodman Presiding**

**1.0 Call to Order**

President Purcell called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

**2.0 Elections to Faculty Senate Executive Committee**

**2.1 President-Elect**

Professor Hanrahan, Glenn Korff School of Music, was elected President-Elect by acclamation.

**2.2 Secretary**

Professor Dawes, Libraries, was elected Secretary by acclamation.

**2.3 Executive Committee Members**

Professor Buan, Biochemistry; Professor Rodrigo Franco Cruz, School of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences; and Professor Renaud, College of Journalism and Mass Communications were elected by acclamation.

**3.0 Announcements**

**3.1 Welcome New Senators**

President Rudy welcomed the following new senators: Anna Bouma, English as a Second Language; Kelli Herstein, Durham School of Architectural Engineering & Construction; Amanda Gailey, English; Dane Kiambi, College Of Journalism & Mass Communications; Ann Fenton, Northeast Research & Extension Center; John Raible, Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education; and Trish Wonch Hill, Centers: At-Large District.

**4.0 Chancellor Green (video)**

Chancellor Green stated that he was unable to attend the Senate meeting today because he was attending a Big Ten meeting in Chicago on Greek Affairs and Greek life, but he made this video to not miss this opportunity to address the Senate at the close of the academic year.

Chancellor Green noted that the academic year started off with a great educational opportunity for the campus with the largest enrollment of students we have ever had in the 149-history of the University. He pointed out that the record enrollment is a testament to who we are as a University because it shows that so many students want to come here from all over the world for a high quality education. He stated that this year we will have the largest number of students graduating in May, and at last count, there were 300 more students graduating this year than last year.

Chancellor Green stated that he is excited about the research and creative activity being conducted across UNL because of the many advancements and increased impact of research that is being conducted. He pointed out that he is also excited about our nationally leading outreach efforts and what we have accomplished in this third leg of our Land-Grant mission.

Chancellor Green noted that this has also been a year of major issues confronting the campus, reflective of what is occurring across all of higher education. He stated that the national debate on the issues of freedom of speech and academic freedom, which at times are intertwined with professional conduct, were at the forefront on our campus, and at many other universities across the nation. He reported that there also have been increased national discussions regarding the value of higher education. In addition, he pointed out that we had to deal effectively with the major budget cuts and reallocations that the university faced. He noted that he appreciates the Senate's input and involvement as we have navigated these challenges, and the dialogue the Senate has had with him and the rest of the administration as we moved through these issues. In particular, he wanted to express his appreciation for the leadership of the Senate. He noted that there have

been great Faculty Senate Presidents since he has been here who have ably led in shared faculty governance, but he wanted to personally thank Past President Sarah Purcell who adeptly and persistently worked on behalf of shared governance. He pointed out that she was a very committed leader for the Faculty Senate and he wanted to thank her for her commitment and for what she had done during a challenging year for the campus. He stated that as Professor Jeff Rudy becomes the new President, he wants to welcome Jeff and looks forward to his leadership and is confident that the year ahead will be strong.

Chancellor Green noted that the 2018-19 academic year will be a monumental year for UNL with the launch and implementation of a new strategic plan resulting from the work of the N150 Commission, beginning of a wonderful year-long celebration of our sesquicentennial anniversary, while moving upward and forward in setting new records in all three of our missions of being a world-leading Land-Grant comprehensive research university. Lastly, he wanted to thank those that are going off the Senate, and thanked them for their leadership, service, and commitment to representing their colleagues. He noted that the work the Senate does is important and he said that the administration is looking forward to working with the new senators.

## **5.0 Approval of April 24, 2018 Minutes**

The minutes were approved by the Faculty Senate.

## **6.0 Committee Reports**

### **6.1 Committee on Committees (Professor Anaya)**

Professor Anaya reported that the Committee on Committees met several times during the academic year to work on identifying faculty members to serve on numerous campus committees and to encourage and promote the value of committee participation in shared governance. She noted that the number of faculty members volunteering to serve on committees over the last several years is stabilizing, but it is still far below where it was 18 years ago. She stated that the Committee would continue to promote the value of committee service in the upcoming year.

### **6.2 Executive Committee (Past President Purcell)**

President Purcell noted that in the report distributed to the Senators they could see that the Executive Committee had a very busy year dealing with difficult issues such as academic freedom/free speech issues and the budget cuts. She pointed out that the Committee met weekly during the academic year and met frequently with Chancellor Green, EVC Plowman, and VC Boehm.

## **7.0 Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was discussed.

## **8.0 New Business**

### **8.1 James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award Ballot**

President Rudy asked the Senate to vote on the nominees for the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award. He noted that the award will be presented at the September 4, 2018 Senate meeting.

## **9.0 Open Mic**

Professor Gay, Astronomy & Physics, reported that he was serving on the Travel BRT and wanted to report on faculty concerns that are being raised in regards to travel. He noted that faculty are generally dissatisfied with Travel & Transport, and there is concern that the Concur software will add additional technical problems to the reimbursement process. He reported that the UNL faculty members on the BRT have suggested to the committee that the rules and procedures need to be made clearer, and that travel challenges need to be identified and ameliorated. He pointed out that much of the travel is resulting from and funded by research grants so state dollars are not being used. He stated that the committee has also been questioned on whether the travel changes have created any savings beyond the savings accumulated from the reduced mileage rates for University employees. He noted that the Information Technologies Services Committee is also asking whether there would be any savings from reducing desktop printers since many of those are funded by grants and research funds. He stated that faculty members should be involved in decisions as they are the thought

leaders of the campuses.

Professor Vakilzadian stated that there should be options of being able to obtain travel arrangements from sources other than Travel & Transport because faculty members can often find greater savings through other sources.

Professor Hoyt, Sociology, stated that he has concerns with system level micromanaging. He questioned what the role of the system President is and what the role of the Chancellor is, and suggested that the Faculty Senate should be talking with the Board of Regents about this and other faculty concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, Regency Suite. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Joan Latta Konecky, Secretary.