

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2023

Presidents Deb Minter, Steve Kolbe, Presiding

Nebraska Campus Union, Platte River Room

Zoom Meeting

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Executive Committee Elections

President Minter announced that two Senators were still needed to run for election to the Executive Committee. She noted that the Executive Committee is a great opportunity to learn more about the university and UNL. She asked Senators to please consider running for election.

2.2 Recognition of Senators Whose Terms are Ending and Those Who Have been Re-elected

President Minter wanted to thank all of the following Senators, whose term is ending, for their service on the Faculty Senate noting that the Senate couldn't do its work without their participation. Senators whose terms are ending: Ray Hames, School of Global Integrative Studies; Brigitte Tenhumberg, School of Biological Sciences; Robert Powers, Chemistry; David Henderson, Philosophy; Rich Wiener, Psychology; Yunxia Zhu, Supply Chain Management & Analytics; Yan Xia, Child, Youth & Family Studies; Yiqi Yang, Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design; Ashok Samal, School of Computing; Mathias Schubert, Electrical & Computer Engineering; Jennifer Wood, Animal Science; Oleh Khalimonchuk, Biochemistry; Doug Golick, Entomology; Jacques Izard, Food, Science & Technology; Jenny Nixon, Extension Engagement Zone 1; Nancy Frecks, Extension Engagement Zone 4; John Fech, Extension Engagement Zone 9; Joan Latta Konecky, University Libraries.

Senators who have been re-elected: Bob Gorman, Classics & Religious Studies; Ann Tschetter, History; Alexei Gruverman, Physics & Astronomy; Hamid Vakilzadian, Electrical & Computer Engineering; Wendy Katz, School of Art, Art History & Design; Pete Eklund, Glenn Korff School of Music; Michelle Krehbiel, 4-H Youth Development; Wes Peterson, Agricultural Economics; Chris Gustafson, Agricultural Economics; Steve Kolbe, Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Design; Ismail Dweikat, Agronomy & Horticulture; Amy Timmerman, Extension Engagement Zone 2; Dane Kiambi, College of Journalism & Mass Communications.

3.0 Chancellor Green

President Minter noted that this would be the last time that Chancellor Green is scheduled to speak with the Faculty Senate. She thanked him for always being willing to speak with the Senate.

Chancellor Green congratulated the Senators whose terms are ending and thanked them for their service and participation in shared governance.

Chancellor Green wanted to provide additional context around the budget planning from when he previously informed the Senate of the current UNL revenue shortfall and what it could mean to the campus. He stated that we are now in the process of addressing the shortfall and his next step will be to meet with the Academic Planning Committee (APC) on April 12 to present a detailed plan of how we will reduce the UNL state-aided budget by \$10.8 million. He reported that the APC will need to provide its feedback on the proposed cuts by May 26 so the reductions can be implemented by the beginning of the next fiscal year beginning July 1. He stated that he can inform the Senate that we have been successfully able to address the proposed reductions without the elimination of academic programs, although he acknowledged that there will be challenges to address the shortfall. He reported that he indicated earlier to the campus leaders that the budget reductions were to

include at least a ten percent reduction in administrative lines and noted that we are obviously planning beyond this budget cycle should there need to be further budget reductions.

Chancellor Green stated that the latest news from the Legislature as they work on the next biennium budget, is that the unicameral's Appropriations Committee voted to forward the proposed budget to the full legislature with provision of a 2.5% annual increase for the university system for the next biennium. He pointed out that the university requested a 3% increase, but Governor Pillemer had originally proposed a 2% increase in his budget proposal. He noted that the full budget still needs to go to the full Legislature where there will be three rounds of debate and the budget should be finalized by mid-May. He stated that the last part of the University system budget setting is that the Board of Regents will consider the university's budget for the next biennium during its June meeting, and it is at this meeting that the Board will decide on level of tuition for the coming year.

Chancellor Green stated that, from what he understands, the search for the 21st UNL chancellor is on track and going well and President Carter's plan is that it will culminate with the naming of the priority candidate to become Chancellor Green's successor soon after our May commencement exercises. This will keep the process on schedule to provide a seamless transition as he retires at the end of June. He noted that President Minter and President-Elect Kopocis both serve on the search advisory committee which is at work in the search process.

Chancellor Green expressed his appreciation to the Faculty Senate for their working relationship in shared governance over the past seven years and his best wishes for the future.

4.0 Approval of March 7, 2023 Minutes

President Minter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she asked for approval of the minutes. Professor Peterson, Agricultural Economics, moved for approval. Motion seconded by Professor Tschetter and approved by the Faculty Senate.

5.0 Committees

5.1 Information Technologies and Services Committee (Professor Leiter)

Professor Leiter, Law, reported that the ITSC focused predominantly on EM 16 this past year. He noted that the Faculty Senate recently approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to review the impacts of the changes to the policy on teaching and research and once the ad hoc committee's report is completed the Executive Committee will present it to the Board of Regents and President Carter for discussion.

Professor Leiter stated that this year the campus switched from VidGrid to YuJa and reported that the transition seems to be occurring seamlessly. President Minter stated that she has heard that we are working through some transcription issues from YuJa and asked if this has been resolved. CIO Tuttle reported that last fall when we began transitioning our video content from VidGrid to YuJa transcriptions came over. He stated that YuJa has developed a script that will change over the URL in Canvas, so faculty do not have to do this themselves. He pointed out that at UNO there has been 99% accuracy with the script, and he is hoping that this will remain stable. He stated that the hope is that next month all the Canvas courses from the fall semester should have their URL links updated and after this spring semester has ended the process will begin for the spring courses.

Professor Gailey, English, asked if there was a third-party contractor involved in drafting the revisions to the EM 16 policy. CIO Tuttle reported that a consulting firm, Protiviti, was used to help us update our IT standards which impacted the EM 16 policy. He noted that these are stock standards that are used at other universities.

Professor Leiter reported that Information Technology Services (ITS) is working on developing educational programs to help heighten the awareness of phishing attempts on university computers since they are so prevalent.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 Resolution to Provide Postdoctoral Association Representation, Staff Senate Representation, ASUN, and GSA Representation on the Faculty Senate

President Minter stated that the resolution presented in February is to formally provide representation to the groups listed above. She noted that these representatives would be non-voting members of the Faculty Senate. She pointed out that the practice was previously in place to have representatives from ASUN, UAAD, and UNOPA which are no longer active now that the Staff Senate has been formed. She stated that having representatives on the Senate would enable these groups to work with the Senate on common issues, such as problems being encountered with Procurement Services.

Professor Shrader, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, called the question. President Minter asked for a vote. The motion was approved.

6.2 Update on Ad Hoc Committee to Review EM 16

President Minter reported that to date Professor Leiter, Professor Ramsay from English, Professor VanderPlas from Statistics, Professor Rowe from Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Professor Vuran from the School of Computing have agreed to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee. She noted that she is still trying to get two more faculty members to serve on the committee. She stated that she is hoping that the Ad Hoc committee can provide a report to the Senate in the fall semester and that the Executive Committee can begin working with the President's Office shortly thereafter.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Open Mic

Professor Shrader noted that with the Legislature considering new laws pertaining to guns and people no longer needing to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon, he asked what kind of assurances are there that the ban on guns on campus will continue. President Minter noted that the Executive Committee has not received any word on this issue but would bring this discussion up with the Chancellor when it next meets with him. Professor Gailey pointed out that, regardless of the decision on the proposed bill, it would still be forbidden to carry firearms on campus. A question on how this will be communicated to the campus was asked in chat. President Minter stated that the Executive Committee will ask the Chancellor about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., East Campus Union, Great Plains Room A. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.