

Faculty senate meeting minutes October 27, 2021

Minutes from last meeting approved.

Chris Day: At the University Budget Review Committee, Chris reminded everyone to make sure that faculty help students in their needs and that “all of our interactions with students matter”. Several announcements were made:

November 4th: UNO distinguished alumni

November 6th: UNO homecoming celebration

December 14th: Largest gift to UNO in history and the naming of the College of Engineering.

Indoor mask mandate is still in place at UNO

Lindsey Reno: The vendor for the Web of Science was approved our subscription at a reduced rate commensurate with the number of our research personnel.

Dinah Payne: UNO alumni: \$2000 for the homecoming celebration. Following the basketball game music will be provided by the Rebirth Brass Band. There will also be an alumni party in early December. The matrix has been launched to provide job opportunities for alumni. There is almost 1 million dollars to support student scholarships. Henry Bernstein will match any funds donated until the end of the year.

Chris Broadhurst (Academic Committee): Graduate student retention focus – budgeting, reach out to all of the coordinators and graduate students to find out what could be used to foster graduate students better.

Christy Corey (Administrative Committee): The committee is done with initial revision of faculty conduct policy (grievances and charges policies and their agreement with each other). Should be ready to present this to the Senate by the beginning of next year. The other big charge of this committee for this year – moving the Gen Ed Committee and Courses and Curricula under the purview of the Faculty Senate. We currently have three committees, and these would add another two committees. By next meeting we will be able to talk about those committees. Revision of the faculty bylaws will also need to be include this new structure. Christy asks for input on the composition of those committees which will not be all faculty senators. Gen Ed committee – chairs of first year English and Math should be at the committee. Caroline Noyes has been working with the Faculty Senate in moving these committees under the faculty senate.

Faculty coffee break: Bring together faculty to talk about their concerns. Laszlo Fulop led this discussion. Chris Day asked to open up the floor about the coffee session. Laszlo Fulop took the lead on this to explain that some assistant and associate professors feel that they need to have a forum to express their concerns in the absence of higher administrators. It is not possible to have a closed door meeting because of state rules but the coffee break was opened up before the FS meeting. Nine – 12 people showed up. It might not end up being the ultimate solution – perhaps a union type organization.

Chris Broadhurst: Brought up the fact that we have to leave the room when students write their evaluations back in the old pen and pencil days. Chris D. acknowledged that there is no real forum for faculty to talk to one another without it being recorded in the minutes and on Zoom. There is always a fear of retaliation among untenured faculty members. Is the publication of the minutes

required? Currently in the Faculty Senate, there is a representative of the upper administration, staff council, adjuncts, alumni and student government.

Laszlo – thinks we should change the bylaws to allow only faculty at the faculty senate meeting. Motion to discuss this issue by Laszlo Fulop and seconded by James Marchant. Laszlo explains that this motion is because faculty need to feel free to express themselves and that if we discuss students then SGA should not be present either. Andrea Mosterman asked why not adopt this motion. Connie Phelps responded that the inclusion of administrators, students and staff council is currently part of the senate. Andrea suggested that the second half of the meeting after the general updates etc. non-faculty could be asked to leave. Connie brought up that we are subject to the open meetings law (LSU, SELU). Requiring people to leave contravenes this law. Chris Day – what if the Faculty Senate called for an executive session. Connie – they could do this but they could not vote. One solution also suggested by Chris Surprenant – restrict members of the FS to only members that have been elected. He also asked about his status as an administrator and a faculty senate member. Chris Day – bylaws say that everyone is eligible to be elected to the senate except for admin people at the Dean or above. Sarah Black – not sure that an executive session is the right solution. Would this provide an opportunity for non-tenured faculty to bring up their concerns? Chris Broadhurst made the point that the faculty senate needs to be made up of faculty senators. Steve Rick believes that making meetings open to students and to the administration is a good thing. Christy Corey said that she is not sure that the faculty senate is a forum for open discussion. Coffee sessions perhaps might provide that forum. Nicky Anthony asked if we could set up a faculty mentorship program. Laszlo Fulop acknowledged this as a useful tool but is more concerned with structural issues rather than work around solutions. Marc Landry echoes what Sarah Black and Laszlo Fulop have said. Anything that would facilitate open dialogue with a few obstacles as possible. Have a space to discuss ideas that are under development. Lezkec Malkinski suggested setting up a club for people to discuss these issues. Chris Broadhurst says that if the system is broken then it needs to be fixed. Laszlo really likes the coffee break but it is not made up of elected senators. Faculty should be in a safe space and suggests that the senate rewrite bylaws excluding everyone from the faculty senate who is not a senator. Invite people to give their reports and then dismiss them. Argues that there is a power relationship between faculty and administrators. Steve Rick said that he was more concerned by tenured faculty in the Department than upper administrators. Laszlo suggests sending out his ideas to a larger audience but not just a committee but rather the entire faculty senate. Put this on the agenda for the November meeting.

Chris Day: Do we want to stay on Zoom or try to meet in person? Or go hybrid with the owl technology. Technical issues might make it difficult to run a hybrid meeting. It was decided to continue with Zoom until the end of the year.

Any old business: None.

Any new business: Ryan Gray – panel discussion on gender disparities in STEM organized by biology and the Office of Research a week from this coming Monday. Monday November 11th at 3 pm. It will be live streamed on youtube.

APPENDIX

Attendees	First	Last	Term	Committee
	Representation			
P	Administration	N. Tina	Johnson	(21-22)
A	Staff Council	Randall	Menard	(21-22)
A	SG President	Amber	Lemelle	(21-22)
P	Alumni Assoc	Dinah	Payne	(21-22)
P	Adjunct	David	Lambour	(21-22)
P	COBA	Christy	Corey	(19-22)
A	COBA	James	Logan	(21-24)
P	COBA	Dinah	Payne (SE)	(19-22)
A	COBA	Gina	Rosa	(19-22)
P	COBA	Kabir	Hassan	(20-23)
A	COE	Martin	Guillot	(20-23)
A	COE	Dimitrios	Charalampidis (SE)	(20-23)
A	COE	Donald	Barbe	(21-24)
P	COE	Vincent	Yu	(21-24)
P	COLAEHD	Laszlo	Fulop	(21-24)
P	COLAEHD	Andrea	Mosterman	(21-24)
P	COLAEHD	Elaine	Brooks	(19-22)
P	COLAEHD	Diane	Baas	(19-22)
P	COLAEHD	Chris	Day (SE)	(20-23)
P	COLAEHD	Robert	Stufflebeam	(21-24)
P	COLAEHD	Chris	Surprenant	(20-23)
A	COLAEHD	Brian	Seeger (SE)	(21-24)
P	COLAEHD	John	Kiefer	(20-23)
P	COLAEHD	James	Marchant	(21-24)
P	COLAEHD	Chris	Broadhurst	(20-23)
P	COLAEHD	Steven	Mumford	(19-22)
A	COLAEHD	James	Roe	(20-23)
P	COLAEHD	Ryan	Gray	(20-23)
P	COS	Nicola	Anthony (SE)	(21-24)
A	COS	Adlai	Depano	(21-24)
A	COS	Kraig	Derstler	(19-22)
P	COS	Sarah	Black	(20-23)
P	COS	Steve	Rick	(20-23)
P	COS	Simon	Lailvaux	(20-23)
P	COS	Leszek	Malkinski	(20-23)
A	COS	Rachel	Clostio	(20-23)
A	COS	Linxiong	Li	(21-24)
P	Library	Connie	Phelps	(21-24)
P	Library	Lindsey Reno		(19-22)