

Faculty Senate Minutes, February 7, 2022

Attendance

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

Guests & Visitors

Kim Martin Long
Mahyar Amouzegar
Kirsten Elleby
Kristy Askam
Caroline Noyes
Eileen Dooley
Gloria J Walker
Martha Blanchard
Carolyn Golz
Enjilee Bailey
Ray Wang
Katherine Goldstein
Pam Kennett-Hensel
Scott Pentzer
Nancy Biggio
Kin Gallow
Tim Duncan

Meeting called to order at 3:31pm

Motion to accept minutes, seconded
Vote – minutes approved, no objections

Welcome from Chris Day

Dinah Payne announcements from Alumni Affairs

- Distinguished Alumni Gala raised \$80,000 with a match up to \$100,000
- Mentorship program connected 50 pairs of mentors and mentees
- Resume review and Senior Toast

Provost Amouzegar Updates from the President

- Covid 19 Task force regularly meets. Things are going very well compared to other institutions in the System
- Freshman and Graduate numbers are up, 22% & 27%. These are the admitted numbers.

- Focusing energy on retention and persistence. Traditionally we don't do that well in these areas.
- The President has appointed a small taskforce related to the next SACs accreditation visit. Next cycle is 2025, but lots of work to do now.
- Legislative agenda is developing. We are asking for a 4 to 5% salary increase for faculty and staff.
- 100% training compliance, 1 of the 5 out of 9 institutions in the system. Thank you.
- Comprehensive Campaign is going really well. Raised \$8 million, halfway to the \$50 million goal. Still in the "quiet phase." Possible big donor announcement soon. Possibly moving to "open phase" this Spring or next Fall.
- Working on a public/private partnership for campus energy services. Hoping to upgrade facilities while keeping the cost down. Pioneering this process for a System institution – if it goes well, 4 other campuses will join us.
- \$1 million gift from Frank and Paula Stewart for Library Learning Common. Congratulations to Dean of Library.
- This week UNO 25 luncheon honoring 25 businesses led by UNO alum
- State of the University address March 14, 1:30, UC. Will also be on Zoom.

No Questions.

Chris Day – thanks to President/Provost

Committee Updates

Academic Committee: Chris Broadhurst report.

Committee is doing report to foster Graduate student retention and success. Collecting data from a variety of sources. Sent a survey to graduate students last week. 130 grad students responded in the first 4 hours. 204-209 students have responded so far. Students have opinions. There will be a lot to read. Front and center in the report. Goal is to have the report submitted to the Senate in April. Hope is that the administration will be inspired by the report.

No questions.

Administrative Committee: Christy Corey.

Report on survey about Faculty Senate membership that was distributed to all faculty in the Fall. *PDF file of this presentation is available on Faculty Senate website and Moodle site.* Result summary:

114 responses.

Majority of respondents were full-time faculty with some part-time and staff and others

Majority of respondents from COLAEHD, then Business, Science, Engineering and Library

Less than half had previously served on the Senate.

49 support non-voting non-faculty representatives, 38 support voting non-faculty, 27 think the Senate should only be faculty members

Only tenured: Yes 39, No 76

Faculty Senate needs a more formal process to hold administrators accountable for issues/answers to questions: 71 Strongly Agree, 27 Agree, 12 neutral, 2 disagree, 3 strongly disagree

To what extent is the Faculty Senate effectively performing its function: 31 Not Performing Effectively, 43 Performing somewhat effectively, 9 Performing very effectively, 25 Do not know/not sure

Would you attend confidential meetings to discuss faculty issues without administrators present: 62 Yes, 22 Maybe, 16 no

When should these meetings be scheduled: 49 Immediately before regular FS meetings, 17 Immediately after, 33 Other

What next: Voting for non-faculty members? Strategies for giving the Senate more “teeth.” Host additional confidential faculty meetings. Improve communications about the Senate across UNO

Sarah Black: Seems like the best model is for non-voting external members.

Mahyar Amouzegar: In 4 years, I always assumed I was ex-officio and I never voted. Our job is to listen, answer questions and serve the community. Us voting does not seem essential. This is only my opinion.

N. Tina Johnson: I concur with Mahyar. I am only speaking for myself

Randall Menard Staff Council President: I sort of feel the same way. Possibly I might want to vote on things that affect things campus-wide, but I don't feel like voting is so important for me.

Chris Day: Regarding formal questions with the Administration. We have an anonymous question link, and we pass those questions to the administrators and

they have been very responsive. We post answers to almost all questions. You can see them on the Moodle site. I could do a better job of communicating this to all faculty. We used to have a more formal process in the past, but at that time some people felt that the Senate somehow became under the control of the Administration. I thank Mahyar, Tina and other administrators for coming to the meetings and answering our questions. I appreciate what the Administrative Committee is doing examining these issues.

Chris Broadhurst: We need to define shared-governance better and have a model that works specifically for a true shared-governance model.

Christy Corey: Would anyone care to organize confidential meetings?

Dinah Payne: We cannot violate open meetings law.

Chris Day: Faculty coffee hour would be a better way to think about these meetings.

Steve Mumford (member of Administrative Board): There are many rich and open ended comments in the survey, and there was a sense of energy and fervor around the survey. People seem passionate. I had no sense that people were divulging anything confidential. Can we share these comments verbatim? They bring important additional light beyond the survey results.

Christy Corey: Ethically concerned about sharing these comments. Still thinking about this. I will revisit this in the next Faculty Senate meeting. We will discuss it in the next Administrative Board meetings. There was definitely plenty to read.

No additional comments.

Short discussion about how to move forward specifically with the voting rights issue.

Chris Day: I really appreciate the work the Administrative Committee is doing. It is very important for everybody. Amber Lemelle, SGA President wanted to read a statement about voting rights, but it was too late to add that to the agenda, and she must leave before the new business section. We will hear her statement at the next FS meeting.

Amber Lamelle: I would like to do that.

Budget Committee Report: **James Marchant**.

We have not met. We have financial information and questions and will schedule a meeting before the next FS meeting.

No questions

Chris Day: Thank you committees.

Tim Duncan Vice President, Athletics and Recreation Presentation on Strategic Plan 2025 [*PDF file of this presentation is available on the Faculty Senate Moodle site*]:

6 goals: Academic Excellence, Provide Dynamic student-athlete experiences, Develop a championship culture, strengthen the New Orleans connection, Maximize revenue generation and philanthropic support, Strategically invest in facilities

Successes: Up to #7 out of 13. Increases of ticket sales and donations.

Record 120 out of 196 athletes with 3.0 GPA.

Men's Basketball longest winning streak in decades.

Men's and Women's cross-country best ever

Esports opened in Rec Center – partnership with IT. See this as a recruitment opportunity and help with Computer Science program.

Working on Beach Stadium for beach sport competitions. It will be available for rent.

Southland Conference with 4 other sister institutions. We still think is the best conference for us at this time.

EmpowHer Privateers to help more support woman athletes. Fundraising opportunity to fund woman athletics and their educational opportunities. Trying to raise more than \$100,000.

Sport Sponsorships: Football, Woman's Soccer, Woman's Golf, Marching Band. Included in the strategic plan and feasibility study. Want to know the costs to start football, woman's soccer and marching band. We know the cost for woman's golf. Key plusses: enrollment, campus life, retention, alumni, community engagement. Data for 6 peer institutions: enrollment after one year of football increased between -7% and 13%. Average gain: 1 year 2%, long term (8 year average) 37.8%. They conclude from their data that each student athlete brings 1.92 additional students to a school, and suggest that student athletes are the best tool for recruitment.

Timeline for FCS Football and Woman's Soccer is two years of preparations in advance of first game. Scholarships are mandated by NCAA. Southland average for Football 61.5 per institution and Woman's Soccer 12. \$2 million to start Football and Soccer. No University money would be used for this. Average Southland revenue is \$1.87 million.

Will have focus groups of faculty from 4 different colleges.

5 Student focus groups.

2-3 staff focus groups.

February to April timeline.

Summer alumni, donor and community focus groups.

Partner with marketing firm and put this on a student referendum in November. Part of this will ask if they would add money to their fees to support this.

Thursday, February 10 Academic Honors night – Woman 5pm Men 7pm. Free for all faculty and staff.

Dinah Payne: Appreciate that you came and talked to us, and I thought your presentation was amazing.

Jim Logan: Very excited by this.

Amber Lamelle: Please come to the basketball game. How will students find out about how much their tuition will go up because of this? Institutions with teams have higher fees.

Jim Logan: We plan to be very clear about all of this.

No other comments.

Chris Day: Thank you for an excellent presentation.

Introduction of Resolution presented by Connie Phelps:

From Senate Executive Committee

Whereas the creation and restructuring of academic units has great potential to affect programs, curricula, faculty workload and administrative processes, and;

Whereas the Faculty Senate has authority in the establishment of curricula, the setting of standards of instruction, the determination of requirements for degrees, and generally the formulation of the educational policy of the University;

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate requests full inclusion in any and all discussion and decisions regarding the creation and restructuring of academic units, departments, schools, institutes, colleges, etc.

Call for a second to have discussion

Dinah Payne: Seconds for discussion

Chris Day: Call for discussion

Jim Logan: I think it is great that everyone get in on this, I am not arguing that, but my concern is that it should not be brought to the full Senate before the changes are considered by more directly impacted constituents. I am concerned that the resolution as it is written makes it sound like the whole Senate must weigh in. I cannot support the resolution as it is currently written.

Connie Phelps: Given the shortness of time and the comments I am seeing in the chat, there are suggestions to table this until the next meeting. I move to table it.

Dinah Payne: Seconds

Chris Day: This is tabled. This will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

Chris Day: What is the feeling about moving to in-person meetings?

Chris Broadhurst: I am interested in meeting in person. Maybe the April meeting? March meeting is close to Mardi Gras. I would like to be back to in-person meetings.

Chris Day: Specifically what do people feel about March? Objections to staying on Zoom for March? OK – we will stay on Zoom for March.

Chris Day: Old Business – none

Chris Day: New Business?

Robert Stufflebeam: I want to make a comment on the resolution. It seems as though the resolution is asking for transparency. I was in a meeting earlier today and it seems as though there is some fire to disassemble the college. Can we ask

the Administration if there is some plan or timetable they are working on in this regard? Can we ask these questions regardless of the status of this resolution?

Dinah Payne: Have you heard that COLAEHD will be disbanded?

Robert Stufflebeam: We are told that there is going to be a School of Social Science. The timing of this seems odd since the Dean just announced that they are stepping down. Can we get clarification?

COLAEHD Dean **Kim Long** (via chat): The College is not being disbanded. It is true that there is consideration of creating more Schools, but they would still be part of COLAEHD.

Robert Stufflebeam: This tells me that there are active discussions about reorganization. I would like transparency about the plan. I think we need high level discussions about this.

Chris Day: The general gist if the resolution is for more transparency.

Chris Day: No new business.

Move to adjourn – seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:59

Attachment 1.

Madame President Lemelle
Faculty Senate Statement

On behalf of the Student Government Association and as representative of the University of New Orleans student body I would like to bring attention to the importance of student representation on the Faculty Senate Board. Last semester, there was discussion regarding the removal of votes for non-faculty members. While I do understand the purpose of moving forward with this proposal, I would like to bring more focus on what this would mean for student representation. In making Faculty Senate Meetings private (discussed in previous meeting) and/or denying votes to non-faculty members, this would also be removal of my attendance in board meetings and/or vote when making decisions as a board. The discussions held and decisions made in these meetings are extremely important and directly affect our student body. As student body President of this university, I feel it is my duty to speak up ensuring that our representation is not discarded on this board.

Thank You,

Amber Lemelle

(Note: SGA President Lemelle will present this at the March 8 Faculty Senate meeting)

Attachment 2.

University of New Orleans Faculty Senate
Resolution 01a-2022

Whereas the creation and restructuring of academic units has great potential to affect programs, curricula, faculty workload and administrative processes; and,

Whereas the Faculty Senate has authority in “the establishment of curricula, the setting of standards of instruction, the determination of requirements for degrees, and generally the formulation of the educational policy of the University;”

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate requests full inclusion in any and all discussions and decisions regarding the creation and restructuring of academic units (Departments, Schools, Institutes, Colleges, etc).