

UNO Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2022

Attendance

Present: Nicola Anthony, Sarah Black, Chris Broadhurst, Dimitrios Charalampidis, Christy Corey, Laszlo Fulop, Ryan Gray, Martin Guillot, Linxiong Li, James Logan, Leszek Malkinski, Ariya Martin, Dinah Payne, Connie Phelps, Lindsey Reno, Ray Rodriguez, James Roe, Brian Seeger, Lisa Verner,

Absent: Donald Barbe, Angelo Charles, Rachel Clostio, , Adlai Depano, Kabir Hassan, N. Tina Johnson, John Kiefer, Simon Lailvaux, David Lambour, James Marchant, Randall Menard, Andrea Mosterman, Steve Rick, Robert Stufflebeam, Michelle Wade, Vincent Yu

Minutes from the August 25, 2022 meeting were approved.

Updates from Faculty Senate President

The academic calendar for 2023-24 is up.

Creating college level awards, have had a couple of meetings

Anonymous questions have been posted or submitted to those who can answer

President Nicklow was not able to attend the Senate meeting and there are no updates from Provost Amouzegar.

Athletics

Tim Duncan provided an update on Athletics initiatives (PowerPoint slides enclosed) and introduced his staff members.

There will be a student vote for a new fee that will provide funds for a football team, as well as other sports and student activities. There will be a new stadium built with donated funds, regardless of the outcome of the vote. There were a number of questions from senators.

- Did athletics ask academic departments about student activities/experience?
Yes.
- How were fee amounts determined?
There was a feasibility study done and athletics looked at similar fees at comparable institutions.
- What unit on campus will administer the funds?
Academic Affairs.
- Will the fee be charged during the summer semester?
This needs to be clarified.
- Will stadium have faculty seating?
- How will our stadium be different from Tulane's (in that they're not able to fill it)?
We have alumnae that stay in New Orleans.
- Concern was expressed about donors who will only donate to athletics.
TD responded that the new stadium will be funded by new donors, so this can only be helpful.
- How much of funds will be derived from private donors?

35-45% would have to be privately raised. 55-65% student fees. Why aren't faculty and staff donating?

- Could the large fee have an impact on retention?
There are no numbers on this.
- How many students have to vote for it to be valid?
There is no specific number. The referendum will go forward if there is an affirmative vote from a simple majority of those who voted. The vote will be online and is taking place at the same time as home coming royalty vote.

Discussion followed.

The vote will take place on November 9.

- How long will it take for the results to come in?
TD will get back to us on this question.
- Is there early voting?
They are working with process that has already established and it is unclear whether or not this allows for early voting.

The fee takes the place of a fee that students are already paying for athletics.

- If students say no, how much has this process cost UNO?
The feasibility study was paid by outside funding. Other costs were paid out of regular athletics budget.

Funds generated by the football team would likely pay offset the costs of other athletic teams.

- Will there be community benefit to the community? Will there be trash clean up?
Will work with neighborhoods to figure out traffic and safety concerns. ABM will continue trash pick up for UNO athletic events as normal.

Updates from Dinah Payne, Alumni Association Representative

The alumni board is seeking nominations for new board members. Some upcoming alumni events:

- Alumni Gala November 9
- Homecoming November 7-12
- Hall of distinction January 21
- Wine country tour in 2023

Dinah Payne will accept donations to Privateer Pantry in her office. They accept both food and toiletries

There was a question about donating funds directly to Privateer Pantry, instead of food or toiletry items. DP will provide a link for this.

Crawfish trays are also being sold as fundraiser for privateer pantry. Details will be provided. One can also bring canned goods to the alumni center and receive a brick from the recently demolished Bienville hall.

Updates from the Academic Committee

The Academic Committee met today and discussed Faculty 180. There might be some flexibility in the way that it is used. There is some uncertainty as to next steps. The committee is

reluctant to send out a survey when the issues are so numerous and overlapping. They may start with input from department chairs. Discussion followed.

Updates from the Budget Committee

The Budget Committee met last week and discussed long term strategies to address salary compression. Brian Seeger has shared a document that the committee can use to frame the conversation going forward. There was also discussion of student fees and adjunct compensation.

Updates from the Administrative Committee (Documents enclosed)

Completed bylaws changes: voting, gen ed, UCCC, committees will be only committees to not be comprised of only senators. Senators will not have to serve on one of these committees AND a board.

Grievances policy change.

Faculty conduct policy

Faculty should review these changes and will vote at the next meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

There was discussion about an anonymous question that was submitted expressing concerns about cuts to the Library budget. There were no decisions made.

A senator asked why the Provost and CFO position search open forums are not being recorded or offered via Zoom. Discussion followed but there were no decisions made.

Public comments

An audience member commented that four (of five) study abroad programs would not be operating this year and asked whether the senate would consider reviving the international education advisory board. There was discussion, but no decisions were made.

In response to this comment, Provost Amouzegar candidly provided highlights of the University's current budget situation. The University budget has been "cut to the bone" and any further reduction will result in layoffs. He stated that the four colleges are his priority and that a Library closure is not out of the question if necessary.