

# FACULTY SENATE MEETING 8/26/2024

## 1. Roll call (C. Summa)

## 2. Approval of the minutes (C. Summa)

Unanimous approval, no opposed, no abstentions

## 3. Updates from the Faculty Senate President (A. Mosterman)

### a. SEC Activity

SEC has been meeting monthly over the summer. Either Andrea or Connie Phelps has been attending Leadership and Executive Cabinet meetings over the summer (Budget cuts, shutting down Milneburg, etc.).

### b. Letter to the President

The SEC has sent a letter to the President regarding some issues that have come up in the recent Executive Session of the full Faculty Senate – this letter, and the President’s response have been posted on Canvas

### c. Anonymous comments/queries to the SEC

*UNO Cares issues – sent to the Academic Committee for consideration*

### d. Differential Fees – sent to the Budget Committee for consideration

Research Mission and VP of Research – the Provost will provide a more detailed update on the VP or Research search. The other part of this question involved ways to strengthen research and the SEC will discuss this in their next session

Why Maintain Division 1 Athletics – addressed in letter to the president (see Canvas)

What can Alums do? Response from VP of enrollment management, Randall Langston – answer will be posted ASAP on the Canvas site. Maybe we can add an alumni.uno.edu – IT would have to run that if we did it – to keep alumni more closely connected to the University. Maybe a mechanism to send out text messages via IT. **Maybe we should invite Randall Langston to speak at our next meeting.**

## 4. Updates from Provost Darrell Kruger

Recommended to the UL Board that 13 faculty members be promoted from Assistant to Associate and 2 from Associate to full Professor – they have all been approved.

Sabbaticals – there was a recommendation for a sabbatical that was approved – Darrell has worked with Tina Johnson – they will give the Secretary a summary of those applications and approvals – 12 of 24 were recommended for approval and these were approved by the UL system. The process starts locally then ends up in Academic Affairs – this process should include a faculty committee who have been successful.

New Academic Programs – UNO was approved to proceed with 1 new 4 year program and 3 certificate programs at the level of the UL system – now it goes to the Board of Regents for Approval.

VP for Research – Dr. Johnson has served in an interim capacity and this September an internal search will be opened for a VP of Research. It will be a 75% appointment – Steve Johnson has agreed to chair that search – we welcome the Senate to provide a representative to serve on that Committee

SACS – we are in the process of going up for re-accreditation – last time was 2015 – the written report will go in on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – our onsite visit will be March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2025. Dr. Kreuger is going to try to get more involved with shared governance with Senate Committees.

### Q: Non-credit education (Professional and Continuing Edu.)

PACE – mostly third party provided

On campus – one (soon two) of these programs that live here specifically

Our interaction with these programs in the future (questions/suggestions) should go through Academic Affairs through Caroline Noyes and Dr. Kreuger.

## 5. Report from VP of Business Affairs Mamie Gasperecz on budget cuts and lay offs

### Proposed Budget 2024-2025

#### *Process*

Receive confirmation of state appropriation of ULS for 2024 in Summer (\$140K/month less than last year)

Receive confirmation of one-time allocation share

Athletics – reduced their budget by 25%

Enrollment projections dictate university revenues

Enrollment decline projected to be just over 5%

#### *ULS 2024-2025 budget to include 15% reduction*

Goals: 5% now

\$4.8M – unfulfilled positions – about 50/50 academic and staff positions

Smaller than the \$4.8 – Athletics

\$250K / year in cost savings once that the decommissioning of Milneburg is fully rolled out.

up to 10% by 12/31 and up to 15% by 6/30

Primarily as a result of unfilled positions

I will attempt to get these slides

State sales tax law may sunset which will cause havoc with ULS budget if it is allowed to happen. It could cause up to 19% or 24% budget reductions should it happen.

Question: How much is UNO compensated for Dual Enrollment - \$150 per course

Question: How much do we owe in bonds? Not sure this will be answered next time she comes to speak with us

Question: We are operating in some areas like we still have 17K students – can we get breakdown of what portion of each division was cut.

Question: changes to lifelong learners – law passed in 1990 – should have a program that allows someone older than the age of 55 – can take university coursework and the state shall reimburse them – the state has never reimbursed them. We have \$270K of tuition that was not being collected. We are working on tightening this up – it is in transition about how this will be dealt with going forward with individual students.

## 6. Updates Master Planning and Space Utilization Committee regarding closure of Milneburg Hall, relocating of MH faculty and classrooms, committee charge (S. Rick and J. Mokhiber)

James Mokhiber: they met several times at the end of Spring about “reducing our footprint” and reducing costs.

Settled on the possibility of closing Milneburg – timeline by December – this is what we decided by the end of Spring semester

Met over the summer – two weeks ago he asked Mark Pyle – “where have things arrived at this point?”

College Beyond has been relocated and consolidated into Administration Building

Tours of Kirschman Hall – current residents of Milneburg – discussions ongoing

Lactation studio being moved to Library

MFA studios – looking for spots for these they may be moving to PAC?

Archaeological Collection – Ryan Gray - \$175K possible need to provide an appropriate space possibly library

What specifically is the Charge and the Process for the Space Utilization Committee? We need to insist on this as a body in terms of what this committee’s collaborative mandate/power is and should be...

Steve Rick – It behooves everyone to get this figured out as soon and as painlessly as possible – December is going to come quickly

Question: Who actually makes these decisions – it seems that the Executive Cabinet makes these final decisions – there does need to be some fine tuning in terms of input.

Master Planning and Space Utilization Committee – there are no representatives from Milneburg on this committee. There may have been communication issues in explaining to the faculty that some decisions had to have been made quickly over the summer – some of these were made by the Dean Samuel in order that PLUS’ upcoming accreditation so that this would not be in jeopardy this coming Fall.

Ryan Gray – faculty want to see spaces, have an opportunity to approve those spaces – very little has been communicated – timeline is unrealistic.

*Maime – the administration has been not pushing forward too hard because we were on summer break.*

*Question : there are logistics and decisions that need to be made and how do we become not only informed, but given the authority to make decisions.*

Andrea – will ask at the Executive Cabinet meeting:

*What is a plan of execution?*

*Invite him to come to discuss this with him further.*

David Beriss – how do we do this in such a way that we can perhaps even improve on the spaces and make them welcoming to students?

## 7. Committee Reports

### a. Budget

Chair – Steve Rick – met last week

The budget committee elected Steve Rick as chair, and Steve and Lyndsey Reno are the reps for the university budget committee. And the budget committee will be looking into the future budget cuts and differential tuition reimbursement to departments.

### e. Academic

Chair – Chris Summa – meeting this week

### f. Administrative

*Chair – Connie Phelps*

## **Prioritize tasks**

- 1 \*Revising or rewriting the Faculty Grievance Procedure
- 2 \*Coming up with a uniform process of elections for faculty senators and committee reps (which is actually part of the Bylaws)
- 3 \*Writing a Faculty Senate Handbook
- 4 \*Reviewing current AP AP-OP-29.1 and come up with faculty input mechanism for administrative review process for deans and other upper administrators (recent request from Pres. J.)
- 5 Revising the FS Bylaws - HOLD
- 6 Revising or rewriting the Faculty Conduct (Hearings/Charges) Procedure - HOLD
- 7 **Plan of attack** – Divide into smaller groups. Bolded person will kickstart.

## 8. Old Business

Driftwood student newspaper/media initiative – Beth Blankenship and James Mokhiber are working on reviving Driftwood – they have reconstituted themselves as a student club. All old debt has been fully retired.

## 9. New Business

N/A

## 10. Adjournment

