

UNO Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 12:30 P.M.,

Location: LIB 407

1. Roll call (C. Summa)

2. Approval of the minutes (C. Summa)

Minutes unanimously approved

3. Updates from President Kathy Johnson

She has never had a coworker work as hard as Randall Langston

1) Budget alignment

WWNO gave her time and space to talk about good things as well as the budgetary issues

2) Bringing forth a plan for the future

Emphasize our desire to be an educational anchor for the city and region

Emphasis on experiential learning

Kicking off the implementation of this plan on the 9/27

3) Systems and Infrastructure

While this is not the ideal time to do a shift in SAS system, we are well into it its not the disaster it might have been (she's seen worse)

Justin McKenzie will be joining us on Oct 1

4) People

Vince Granito is stepping as interim AD - we are delaying the search for a new permanent AD

Honors Program - It's important that we have a robust undergraduate Honors Program .

We'll be starting soon to put together a search. We'll need to put together a task force to identifying challenges and

Vice President for Research and Economic Development – she feels it's important to split apart the Economic Development part and do that with the Beach. An AP exists in the UL system that says we have to do a National search but she wants to do an internal search. She has requested a waiver from the UL system in order to do an internal search. Steve Johnson will be chair of the search – ideally for a Jan 1 start. Research and Tech Park has given us \$100K over the summer to do research on recruitment, etc. She has envisioned that it was a 75% FTE position, in order to allow someone to continue to have an active research program themselves.

Question: why don't we have an interim VP for Research? Carol Lunn has been keeping her apprised and she makes decisions as needed.

Question: is a research program a prerequisite? No

Discussing a redesign of the first 2 years to aid in student retention and success

In October we will go over the data to make sense of the

A donor is covering the first 2 years of engagement in this process (contract is \$37K / year)

Schedule

Why are students taking online classes? There was a lot of difficulty for students (she was told) because certain teaching/ class times are more popular than others, and some classes become difficult to schedule

Goal is to move to only T,Th and M,W longer classes, potential for teaching once-a-week classes on Fridays

Question: What is the timeline? Her hope was that there would be a process to petition, based on pedagogy. Replicating M,W schedule blocks on T,Th and use the first 50 min of these blocks for any classes that need to be 3 day. Data-wise, only 13% of students choose classes that meet on Friday.

Question : Is the website a high priority?

It is absolutely a high priority – that and changing the logo

Question: What are our enrollment standards and how does this affect our enrollment?

Pathways – these students are often vastly underprepared for college but we need to determine

Question: What is the rest of the budget plan?

We are down 5%

Next 5% - outsourcing the arena

Final 5% - efficiencies across functional units

4. Introduction of Nerolie Rayson, Director of Alumni Affairs and Engagement

She wants to help get Alumni involved in student recruitment

Every year the Annual Fund raises up to \$500K for the general fund

Henry Bernstein has promised a matching gift of up to \$150K toward the Annual Fund fundraiser this year

5. Report from VP of Enrollment Management Randall Langston

New Students – up 20% (829 to 996)

Transfer Students - up 60% (from 305 – 489)

Last Fall to this Fall - a ~3.5% increase

Overall 6601 → 6488 – down about 2% because of decrease in graduate students

We need a strategic enrollment management plan

We may need to optimize financial aid and add more need based grants

Predictive analytics and modelling – what are the predictors for a student enrolling and

attending UNO – focus our efforts on students who are more likely to actually attend

How do we get outside of our core area (New Orleans) and promote our institution further out

Customer Service: How do we demonstrate via our actions that we care about our students? Student success is the core of what we do.

Question: There used to be a “real time” registration tracker – where did this go? Not sure – he will check on this.

Question: What would be the most impactful thing that could be done at this point?

Probably looking at registration patterns – are we proactively reaching out to them and being responsive.

Question: Is there a strategy for activating faculty and alumni toward recruitment efforts? Absolutely – this is part of the plan that we hope to move forward with – we are not doing a great job of this right now.

Question: Is there a strategy for specifically targeting, for example Latinx students?

Roberto Barrios and Matt Tarr and some others are talking about strategies for this and he would love to meet with them.

Question: What is going on with staffing/hiring in Financial Aid? The bugs are beginning to be ironed out with WorkDay. Three consultants have been working on answering student questions. We have just hired a new Scholarship Coordinator. Another Financial Aid advisors and senior Administrator will eventually be hired.

6. Updates from the Faculty Senate President (A. Mosterman)

a. General updates

Encourage colleagues to submit anonymous questions/comments

One sabbatical was granted and it was Andrea. She will not be here in Spring

In an absence, then the VP runs the meeting, but this is longer term. At LSU, if it vacancy happens in the first 6 months, there is a new election, but otherwise, the VP will step in.

Next meeting we will have a vote on what we choose to do.

It is ideal if we have the vote at the next meeting. We would have to vote to suspend the rules to have both votes in the same meeting. Secretary will be prepared to run several votes in the next meeting.

b. SEC Activity

We are working with Provost on a policy for on-campus time for Faculty

c. Anonymous comments/queries to the SEC

7. Committee Reports

a. Budget **and Fiscal Affairs Committee**

Differential Tuition discussion

Overall process of UNO budget reduction process

b. Academic **Committee**

Debbie Charrier will be meeting with the Academic Committee

Caps have been raised in Writing courses in the English Department from 18 to 25

c. **Faculty and Administrative Affairs Committee**

8. Old Business

a. Space and Utilization Committee updates on charge and closing of MH.

Space utilization committee decisions going to executive committee for approvals.

Sample redesign of the space utilization committee.

appointing someone to be point person

9. New Business

a. Motion to form an ad-hoc research committee

David Podgorski: [Proposal for creation](#) of an ad-hoc research committee

Discussion: Mamie: There have been cash flow issues causing delays on payouts, and "we are not out of the woods at this point". It isn't the research office or the president's office, but the business office.

Sen. Price: Can't we get a revolving line of Credit:

Mamie: A bank isn't going to loan us money.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 2:13PM

Second: Keifer

Approved