**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 3/15/2018**

**1. Roll call**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Senate Roster** | **2017-2018** |  |  |  |
|  | *#* |  | **Representation** | **First** | **Last** | **Term** |  |
| X | 1 | 1 | Administration | Mahyar | Amouzegar | (17-18) |  |
| X | 2 | 1 | Staff Council | LeeAnne | Sipe | (17-18) |  |
|  | 3 | 1 | SG President | Nigel | Watkins | (17-18) |  |
|  | 4 | 1 | Alumni Assoc |  | TBD | (17-18) | *TBD* |
|  | 5 | 1 | Adjunct |  | TBD | (17-18) | *TBD* |
| X | 6 | 1 | Business | Dinah | Payne (SE) | (16-19) |  |
| X | 7 | 2 | Business | Joe | Beams | (16-19) |  |
| X | 8 | 3 | Business | Christy | Corey (SP) | (16-19) |  |
|  | 10 | 4 | Business | James | Logan | (15-18) |  |
| X | 11 | 5 | Business | Tarun | Mukherjee | (15-18) |  |
| E | 12 | 1 | Engineering | Donald | Barbe | (17-20) |  |
| X | 13 | 2 | Engineering | Dimitrios | Charalampidis (SS, SE) | (17-20) |  |
| X | 14 | 3 | Engineering | Ting | Wang | (15-18) |  |
| X | 15 | 4 | Engineering | Guillermo | Rincon | (16-18) | *finishing up Christy Ikeda's term* |
| X | 16 | 1 | Liberal Arts & Education | Robert | Stufflebeam | (17-20) |  |
| X | 17 | 2 | Liberal Arts & Education | Ivan | Gill | (17-20) |  |
| X | 18 | 3 | Liberal Arts & Education | Kenneth | Farizo | (16-19) |  |
|  | 19 | 4 | Liberal Arts & Education | Zarus | Watson | (17-20) |  |
| E | 20 | 5 | Liberal Arts & Education | D. Ryan | Gray | (16-19) |  |
| X | 21 | 6 | Liberal Arts & Education | Chris | Day | (17-20) |  |
| X | 22 | 7 | Liberal Arts & Education | James | Mokhiber (SVP) | (17-20) |  |
| X | 23 | 8 | Liberal Arts & Education | Peter | Schock | (17-20) |  |
|  | 24 | 9 | Liberal Arts & Education | John | Kiefer | (17-20) |  |
| X | 25 | 10 | Liberal Arts & Education | Ed | Chervenak | (16-18) | *replacing Vern Baxter (15-18)* |
|  | 26 | 11 | Liberal Arts & Education | John | Hazlett | (16-18) | *replacing Beth Blankenship (15-18)* |
| X | 27 | 12 | Liberal Arts & Education | Robert | Dupont | (15-18) |  |
| X | 28 | 13 | Liberal Arts & Education | Juliana | Starr | (15-18) |  |
|  | 29 | 14 | Liberal Arts & Education | Cheryl | Hayes | F 2016 | *Fall replacement, Jeffrey Ehrenreich (15-18)* |
| X | 30 | 1 | Sciences | Nicola | Anthony (SE) | (15-18) |  |
|  | 31 | 2 | Sciences | Melanie | Stiegler | (15-18) |  |
| X | 32 | 3 | Sciences | Kenneth | Holladay | (15-18) |  |
| E | 33 | 4 | Sciences | Wendy | Schluchter | (17-20) |  |
|  | 34 | 5 | Sciences | Greg | Seab | (17-20) |  |
| X | 35 | 6 | Sciences | Gerald | LaHoste | (17-20) |  |
|  | 36 | 7 | Sciences | Joel Andrew | Webb | (17-20) |  |
| X | 36 | 8 | Sciences | Steve | Rick | (17-20) |  |
| X | 37 | 9 | Sciences | Vassil | Roussev | (15-18) |  |
| X | 38 | 1 | Library | Connie | Phelps (SE) | (15-18) |  |
| X | 39 | 2 | Library | Lindsey | Reno | (16-19) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| X | : Present | | |  |  |  |  |
| E | : Excused | | |  |  |  |  |
| L | : Late | |  |  |  |  |  |

**2. Approval of** **minutes**

The minutes of the 2/21/2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

**3. Updates from the Senate President and Vice President**

* Evaluation of administrators: The Dean of Sciences is up for review this year.
* DACA update (from the Senate VP): The Senate has already passed an amended DACA resolution. We have also opened a Google forum to get together as much questions and information as possible, so that the administration can help us clarify vague issues (e.g., what to do with students on campus).
* Need for Faculty Council vote on changes to bylaws: Quorum was an issue in the past Faculty Council meetings. There was a Qualtrix survey sent out asking if the minutes of the previous meeting could be approved. Once they were, the next step would be to approve the changes in the bylaws. A document needs to be drafted so that the changes can be approved via electronic means. We need to ensure that the correct process is followed so that changes are not challenged in the future.
* Major changes (Workday): Workday will be replacing PeopleSoft by June 2019. Data needs to be shifted from the current system to the new system.

**4. UNO President Update**

The President asked if there were any questions about the President’s Address today.

A senator asked if we need to contact legislators about the budget issues. The President responded that he has already been communicating with at least half of the legislators weekly. He plans to spend more time talking to key individuals.

Board of Regents cuts of about $26 million are expected, which may result in about $600,000 to $1 million cut for UNO. The biggest issue, however, seems to be the elimination of the state portion of TOPS, although this seems to be more of an issue for LSU. Only about a quarter of UNO students will be affected. In fact, UNO enrollment may even benefit from this situation. However, no speculations can be made yet.

**5. Elections of Senate Officers**

* The Senate VP mentioned that a folder for nominations has been uploaded on Moodle for the Senate President, Vice President, and Secretary positions.
* The Senate officers met today with Colby Stoever and reviewed the IPEDS numbers. In particular they confirmed the correct number of full time faculty numbers, by examining the list of all faculty members, in order to determine the correct number of senators per college (as a reminder, each college and the Library are represented by one senator per ten full time faculty members). The Senate VP presented the corrected IPEDS numbers to the Senate. In the numbers presented, Associated Deans were included\*. The number of senators per college are presented next:

Business: 4

Engineering: 3

Liberal Arts & Education: 12

Sciences: 7

Library: 1

Also, each college and the Library have an additional senator as a member of the Senate Executive Board. Based on these numbers, the next Senate will have two fewer senators compared to this year.

\*NOTE: The Associate Deans were included because, according to the bylaws, administrators at the level of Dean and above should not be included in the count. Nevertheless, even if the Associate Deans were not included, the numbers presented above would be identical.

**6. Report from Academic Affairs**

The Provost introduced Patrick Steward, the Associate Vice President for Special Projects and Partnerships. The Provost mentioned that after joining UNO he realized that we needed to have this new position to improve our engagement in the community.

Patrick Steward made a presentation about his objectives and several of his activities, a summary of which is presented next:

* Increasing community engagement and looking for student opportunities (e.g., service learning).
* Help with improving recruitment, retention, and graduation rates by improving the student experience (e.g., by helping increase the number of gifts, equipment, etc). Also, helping with MoMENtum, which is one of UNO’s retention committees designed to help with persistence rates (mainly with African American students, but it is open to others).
* Honing fund raising skills amongst all faculty and Academic Affairs and fortifying efforts across campus.
* Raising UNO’s national and international profile as a place where students can find the resources and support they need to succeed (e.g., the recent GNO inc. collaborations).
* Provide training for Chairs, Deans, and other administrators (e.g., the Chairs summit).
* Raising the profiles of academic programs by finding resources for the programs.
* Helping with the Driftwood student newspaper by looking for advertisers who can provide resources.
* Working with the Office of Research to create more research and internship opportunities. The Provost added that there is a big overlap between undergraduate research and service learning.

**7. Old business**

None

**8. New business**

* We have been collecting questions for the Administration. There were two major ones which came in are:
  + Should the deadline for submitting midterm grades be later? Some suggest that they should be after the middle of the semester, while others prefer to have them earlier. We will look more into this matter.
  + There was a question about phone or email response by the Admissions Office. There seems to be some miscommunication about where to transfer prospective students’ questions.
* Regarding the teaching evaluation completion rates, the Senate President asked Peter Shock if the English department is moving forward with purchasing their Scantron machine and with going back to paper & pencil evaluations. Peter Shock responded that this is in the works.
* A senator brought up the issue of sabbaticals. A very small number of sabbaticals are usually approved for UNO faculty (one or none each year). Sabbaticals are very important for career development, and they are self-financed. He suggested that we contact our colleagues at the other two major research institutions in our system (ULL and LATech) and ask them if they are as discontent as our colleagues are. Perhaps we can start having some communication with their Faculty Senates and work together.

The President mentioned that he agrees that sabbaticals are beneficial in terms of career development. They also make sense financially. A counterargument to the latter could be that “if they can be replaced then why do we need them”. This why it is difficult to use the financial benefits as an argument.

At the end of the conversation there was a general agreement that we should contact other Senates and work together towards a common goal.

* The Associate Provost (Caroline Noyes) mentioned that faculty evaluations for 2016-2017 will have to be completed. Some senators (who are also Chairs) mentioned that they have already completed the ones for their departments. The Associate Provost clarified that only one evaluation has been entered on Faculty 180, in particular. Instructions will be sent out soon.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 4:40pm.