

9-28-2020

University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2020

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University Faculty Senate Minutes

September 28, 2020

Online Zoom meeting

Senators in attendance: John Burnight (Chair), Danielle Cowley (Vice-Chair), James Mattingly (Past-Chair), Amy Petersen (Faculty Chair), Imam Alam, Megan Balong, Francis Degnin, Melissa Dobosh, Kenneth Elgersma, Gretchen Gould, Kenneth Hall, Mark Hecimovich, Thomas Hesse, Rob Hitlan, Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, William Koch, Matthew Makarios, Nicole Skaar, John Wiles (Fifty percent quorum met, with 19 of 20 voting senators present; the Faculty Chair is non-voting, as provided in the Faculty Constitution, and the Senate Chair votes only in case of a tie).

Call to Order at 3:30 PM [time stamp 0:00:00]

Following a precedent set in earlier meetings to maintain order in the Zoom virtual environment, all microphones were closed at the beginning of the meeting and participants opened them to speak only if recognized by the Chair. Senators used yes and no buttons to vote accordingly, and to press neither yes nor no, if they wish to abstain from voting.

Call for Press Identification

None present

Introduction of Guests

Regular Guests: Mark Nook, Jim Wohlpart, John Vallentine (absent), Patrick Pease, Becky Hawbaker (United Faculty President), Elle Boeding (NISG President).

Other guests: none.

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 0:00:30]

Board of Regents established budget requests for the year at the most recent meeting and a building moratorium for the remainder of the year. The moratorium pertains only to state-financed projects, so will not affect us immediately.

Comments from Provost Wohlpart [time stamp 0:03:40]

Faculty survey was sent out today to understand how COVID and our responses to it are affecting faculty. A brief discussion ensued regarding COVID-testing available and campus policies for administering tests.

Comments from Faculty Chair Petersen [time stamp 0:08:35]

Chair Petersen reminded Senators of the upcoming Fall Faculty Meeting October 19th 3:30PM in Zoom. Please remember to register for the Zoom meeting, which is required for participation. An agenda will follow soon.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp 0:09:59]

President Hawbaker announced numerous new appointments to the UF Executive Board. Listening posts are upcoming, so you can ask questions of UF leadership. Remember the upcoming recertification election and remember to vote, because an abstention is automatically counted as a "no" vote.

Comments from NISG President Elle Boeding [time stamp 0:15:70]

Highlighted student protest events last week and upcoming events. Encouraged faculty to engage with these events and thanked faculty for their handling of these issues in the classroom. NISG website has a collection of resources to foster and inform anti-racism discussions and activism.

Comments from Senate Chair Burnight [time stamp 0:18:55]

Thanked Senators for rapid turnaround to approve the letter that we forwarded to the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors. Our initial effort toward a county-wide mask mandate was thwarted, but we will persist.

Minutes for Approval September 14, 2020 [time stamp 0:19:40]

MOTION: Balong/Elgersma (17-0-2) Senator Elgersma noted a minor change.

The minutes are approved as amended.

Calendar Items to be Docketed for the October 12 Meeting:

1520 [Consultation: HLC visit and Assurance Argument \(Scott Peters and Kristin Moser\)](#) [time stamp 0:20:40]

Skaar/Balong (16-0-3) *Docketed in order for the next meeting.*

1521 [Proposed charge and membership for the new Senate DEI Committee](#) [time stamp 0:21:50]

Skaar/Balong (16-0-3) *Docketed in order for the next meeting.*

1522 [UCC and GCCC Curriculum Proposals: CBA and CHAS-Technology](#) [time stamp 0:22:56]

Mattingly/Cowley (16-0-3) *Docketed at the head of the agenda for the next meeting.*

Docket Items

1396 [UCC and GCCC Program Changes](#) [time stamp 0:23:59]

Hecimovich/Skaar (16-0-3) *Proposed program name changes were approved.*

Associate Provost Patrick Pease explained that these are program name changes handled early in the cycle to facilitate handling at the next BoR meeting.

1394 [Constitutional changes related to term/temp faculty voting eligibility](#) (previously tabled)

MOTION: Elgersma/Skaar (15-0-4) -- removed the petition from the table for discussion. [time stamp 0:28:24]
Chair Petersen presented issues raised by an ad hoc committee which met last Spring surrounding the issues of the University Faculty Senate's model for representation, prompted by last year's change to the Faculty Constitution, providing voting rights for contingent faculty members. Issues raised were whether we should continue to hold seats for contingent faculty members, now that they are already voting members of the faculty, whether authority to change the representation model should be moved from the Faculty Constitution to the Senate Bylaws, and if so, which of 3 proposed alternatives should be adopted. A lengthy discussion ensued, regarding the merits of various proposals. Eventually, a straw poll revealed that Senators appeared to be strongly in support of proposing that authority be delegated to the Faculty Senate to determine its representation model.

MOTION: Degnin/Hesse 1 (13-0-6) -- sent the proposal back to the ad hoc committee for specific language.

[time stamp 1:20:52]

Tabled again, but returned to the ad hoc committee to propose specific language for a constitutional change.

Other New Business

No new business

Adjournment at 4:52 PM [time stamp 1:21:30]

MOTION: Makarios/Skaar -- for adjournment

Submitted by James Mattingly, Immediate Past-Chair of the University Faculty Senate