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University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2021

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University Faculty Senate Minutes

March 8, 2021 Online Zoom meeting

Please note that a complete audio recording of this senate meeting is available at [UNI Scholarworks](#). The time stamps noted throughout these minutes refer to that recording.

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, Carolyn Hildebrandt, Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, William Koch, Matthew Makarios, ~~Tony Gabriele~~, Andrew Stollenwerk, 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).

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

Call for Press Identification

None present

Introduction of Guests

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

Other guests: Paula Knudson, Cole Passick, Jian Li

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 0:00:39]

President Nook provided an update regarding the disposition of some potentially troubling bills in the Iowa legislature. It appears that the "Free Speech" bill is likely to pass. The current bill mirrors the recommendations of the Board of Regents. The UNI leadership team continues to monitor the situation, especially regarding the tenure bill, and to lobby for community support against this bill. The President also provide some updates regarding current arrangements on both F2F and virtual commencements. There were no questions or comments.

Comments from Provost Wohlpart [time stamp 0:07:45]

Provost Wohlpart explained that the F2F component of commencement will limit campus participation to maximize the ability of students' families and guests to attend, at the request of students. Faculty will be asked to provide congratulatory comments for the virtual commencement. Then Provost Wohlpart yielded the rest of his time to Associate Provost Patrick Pease, who presented refined alternatives for next year's academic calendar. The preferred alternative, as revealed in robust discussion, added a week to the previously approved academic calendar, beginning on August 23 and ending May 13 (instead of May 6). This alternative includes an 18-day Winter term (instead of 15 days) and 4 reading days (2 each semester in the Fall and Spring) for students to prepare for final exams, scheduled on the Thursday and Friday prior to finals week.

Comments from Faculty Chair Petersen [time stamp 0:20:50]

Chair Petersen reminded that we are currently engaged in Spring faculty elections and issued a call for volunteers to serve on the Faculty Handbook Committee next year. She invited interested faculty members to contact herself, John Burnight, or Becky Hawbaker to nominate themselves for the Faculty Handbook Committee.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp 0:22:30]

President Hawbaker announced that the current contract with the Board of Regents is now officially ratified after the recent negotiations with the Board and the vote by the United Faculty membership. She reminded

faculty to respond to the survey distributed this week regarding merit pay, then also reminded that United Faculty's elections are also currently underway.

Comments from NISG President Boeding [time stamp 0:24:22]

NISG elections are underway and there is currently a new President and Vice-President elect. There are still many senate seats and leadership positions open for NISG. Also, the Chief Justice is graduating this year, so NISG needs a new Chief Justice. She advocated that faculty encourage students to volunteer for these leadership opportunities (some of which are paid).

Comments from Senate Chair Burnight [time stamp 0:20:08]

Chair Burnight welcomed Carolyn Hildebrandt to the senate, who succeeds Rob Hitlan, who is on PDA this semester.

Minutes for Approval [time stamp 0:28:00]

February 22, 2021

MOTION: Elgersma/Cowley (16-0-2) *Minutes were approved without amendment.*

Calendar Items

1549 [Consultation: Student Affairs \(Paula Knudson\)](#) [time stamp 0:29:14]

MOTION: Holcombe/Kirmani (17-0-1) *Docketed at the head of the order for handling today.*

1550 [Emeritus request for Arthur Cox \(Finance\)](#) [time stamp 0:30:37]

MOTION: Kirmani/Mattingly (17-0-1) *Docketed in regular order.*

Docket Items

1426 [Consultation: Student Affairs \(Paula Knudson\)](#) [time stamp 0:31:18]

Vice-President of Student Affairs Paula Knudson presented a committee's recommendations regarding next year's budget for the allocation of next year's student fees. There were a number of questions and comments, especially regarding the growing allocation of these funds to support intercollegiate athletics at the expense of other items, historically.

1425 [Proposed changes to Student Academic Ethics Policy \(Policy 3.01\)](#) [time stamp 0:40:30]

MOTION: Degnin/Cowley (18-0-0) *The proposed policy change was approved.*

Previously Tabled

1413 [Proposed change to Policy 4.16 Extra Income Compensation](#) [time stamp 1:00:14]

MOTION: Elgersma/Mattingly (16-0-2) *The proposed policy change was approved.*

1414 [Proposed change to Policy 0.0](#) [time stamp 1:10:53]

MOTION: Degnin/Hesse (17-0-1) *The proposed policy change was approved.*

Other New Business [time stamp 1:15:17]

Senator Bill Koch provided a tribute regarding the personal influence of 3 former UNI faculty members who passed away during 2020.

Adjournment at 4:49:35 PM [time stamp 1:19:35]

MOTION: Koch/Elgersma

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