4-25-2022

University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2022

University of Northern Iowa, Faculty Senate
University Faculty Senate Minutes
April 25, 2022 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: Francis Degnin (Chair), Melissa Dobosh (Vice-Chair) John Burnight (Past Chair), James Mattingly (Faculty Chair), Gretchen Gould (Secretary), Imam Alam, Nick Bailey, Megan Balong, Karen Breitbach, Michael Conrad, Kenneth Elgersma, Mark Hecimovich, Thomas Hesse, Rob Hitlan, Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, Karla Krueger, Matthew Makarios, Andrew Stollenwerk, Ali Tabei, John Wiles (Fifty percent quorum met, with 18 of 19 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.)

Regular Guests: José Herrera, John Vallentine, Patrick Pease, Becky Hawbaker

Additional Guests: Darcie Davis-Gage, Randall Harlow, Tolif Hunt, Mary Losch, Kristin Moser, Amy Nielsen, Jennifer Waldron, Mark Welford

Call to Order at 3:30 PM

Courtesy Announcements

Provost Herrera [time stamp 0:01:32]
Provost Herrera noted that he has now met with most of the departments, and plans to meet with chairs over the summer and the remaining departments in the fall. He thanked the Senate and wished them a good summer. He noted that the Senate and state House have not yet decided on the final budget, and that projected enrollment for the new class is a bit north of 1500.

Faculty Chair Mattingly [time stamp 0:05:50]
Faculty Chair Mattingly discussed the rationale behind the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook with respect to faculty discipline, and thanked the members of the working group which developed them. It is hoped that the Faculty Handbook Committee would review and approve the changes before bringing them to a special meeting of the Senate in early May for a consultation. It would then become effective on July 1 with the next revision of the Faculty Handbook.

UF President Hawbaker [time stamp 0:08:14]
President Hawbaker also spoke about the new faculty discipline procedures proposed for the faculty handbook, and noted that overall they do have robust protections for faculty that are in keeping with AAUP principles. She noted that while there are still several elements to work out, she is hopeful that the proposed procedures can be brought to the FHC on May 6 and the Senate on May 9. She thanked those who were able to attend UF's faculty appreciation picnic. She also announced the winners of various UF awards for the period covering the past three years.

Comments from Senate Chair Degnin [time stamp 0:12:50]
Senate Chair Degnin shared a thank-you letter sent by NISG Vice-President Alisanne Struck to the Senate. He reminded the chairs of the three Faculty Senate Committees to submit their annual reports by the end of the year if possible, and they will be presented at the first meeting in the fall. He announced that the Senate reception will be on May 2 from 3:30-5:00 in Seerley Hall's Great Reading Room. He also expressed his appreciation to UF Chair Hawbaker, Faculty Chair Mattingly, and others for their efforts on
Minutes for Approval: February 28, 2022 meeting [time stamp 0:14:47]
MOTION: Elgersma/Balong (16 in favor-0 against-2 abstentions)
MINUTES APPROVED WITHOUT AMENDMENT.

Docket Items:
Policies and Curriculum:
1484  Policy Authorizing the Faculty Constitution [time stamp 0:16:24]
MOTION: Balong/Elgersma (14 in favor-0 against-4 abstentions)
Senate Chair Degnin introduced the policy. UF President Hawbaker noted that while it was important to establish this policy, she is of the opinion that it serves as a reminder of the need to further delineate the roles of the faculty union and faculty governance structures in the Constitution. She asked if there might be a potential Senate subgroup willing to work with her on language to consider, particularly on the part of the Constitution dealing with delegation of functions. Senator Hesse and Chair Degnin both thanked Faculty Chair Mattingly for his efforts in developing the policy.

1485  10.08 University of Northern Iowa Policy on Intellectual Property Rights [time stamp 0:22:15]
MOTION: Holcombe/Dobosh (15 in favor-0 against-3 abstentions)
Chair Degnin thanked members of the Policy Committee, including committee chair Randall Harlow and Senator Tom Hesse, for their work on this policy.

Consultations:
1486  4+1 BA/MA Accelerated Program Model [time stamp 0:24:05]
Darcie Davis-Gage and Jennifer Waldron summarized the 4+1 model. Senator Krueger asked about the effects on students in teaching programs and whether they might be able to have similar options, given their student teaching requirements. Dean Waldron replied that while there had been no specific discussions about this so far, they were open to discussing the possibilities. Dean Waldron thanked the Graduate Council and other involved faculty for their work in developing the model.

1487  Strategic Plan Update [time stamp 0:30:00]
Kristin Moser (co-chair) and Amy Nielsen (faculty representative) of the University’s Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee (USPCC) updated the Senate and answered Senators’ questions about the status of the development of the new 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, the goals and strategies for which were recently handed off to the SPCC by the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). The USPCC is now working on developing metrics and procedures for institutionalizing the plan across campus.

1488  Courtesy Appointments (Faculty Handbook) [time stamp 0:47:36]
Jennifer Waldron, Mary Losch, and Tolif Hunt discussed the process and rationale for a Faculty Handbook policy on faculty courtesy appointments, which allow for institutional recognition of individuals who are not current employees on campus but who are engaged in scholarship, research, and/or public service in collaboration with faculty who are current employees. Mark Welford spoke in support of the importance of such arrangements in connection with grants originating outside of the USA.

Other New Business [time stamp 0:59:00]
None

Emeritus Requests:
1489  Emeritus Request: Flavia Vernescu [time stamp 0:59:42]
MOTION: Elgersma/Burnight (16 in favor-0 against-2 abstentions)
Senate Chair Degnin offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

1490  Emeritus Request: Deborah Gallagher [time stamp 1:02:03]
MOTION: Balong/Makarios (17 in favor-0 against-1 abstention)
Senate Chair Degnin offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

1491  Emeritus Request: Mary Donegan-Ritter [time stamp 1:04:50]
MOTION: Balong/Krueger (15 in favor-0 against-3 abstentions)
Senators Krueger and Balong offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

1492  Emeritus Request: Forrest Dolgener [time stamp 1:08:38]
MOTION: Breitbach/Balong (16 in favor-0 against-2 abstentions)
Senator Breitbach offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

1493  Emeritus Request: John Owusu [time stamp 1:11:14]
MOTION: Balong/Dobosh (15 in favor-0 against-3 abstentions)
Mark Welford (Geography) and Senate Chair Degnin offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

1494  Emeritus Request: Dennis Dahms [time stamp 1:13:43]
MOTION: Elgersma/Conrad (17 in favor-0 against-1 abstention)
Mark Welford (Geography) offered comments in support of the emeritus request. Senator Hesse asked for the clarification that the Senate is voting to approve the emeritus request only, not the research associate status mentioned in the letter, since the latter does not fall under the Senate’s purview.

1495  Emeritus Request: Anne Woodrick [time stamp 1:16:47]
MOTION: Alam/Burnight (17 in favor-0 against-1 abstention)
Past Chair Burnight, Senator Breitbach, and Chair Degnin offered comments in favor of the emeritus request.

1496  Emeritus Request: Christian Ogbandah [time stamp 1:19:42]
MOTION: Dobosh/Elgersma (16 in favor-0 against-2 abstentions)
Vice-Chair Dobosh offered comments in favor of the emeritus request.

1497  Emeritus Request: Annette Lynch [time stamp 1:22:14]
MOTION: Balong/Makarios (16 in favor-0 against-2 abstentions)
Senator Balong and Chair Degnin offered comments in favor of the emeritus request.

Adjournment at 4:57 PM
MOTION: Bailey/Dobosh

Please note that the letters of support for the emeritus requests are appended to these minutes.

Submitted by John Burnight, Immediate Past Chair of the Faculty Senate
March 23, 2022

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate:

I am writing in support of Dr. Flavia Vernescu’s application for emeritus status following her retirement at the end of this semester. Dr. Vernescu has taught at UNI since 1991, and during that time she has made many contributions to the French program, first in the Department of Modern Languages and, more recently, in the Department of Languages & Literatures.

During her career at UNI, Dr. Vernescu has offered over 25 classes as part of the French program, creating several new courses, including Studies in French Business and Culture, Studies in Advanced Culture, and Adaptation to the Screen of French Literary Works. For many years, she directed the on-campus Summer Institute for Teachers of French as well as serving as a UNI representative and director for the Regents’ Program in Lyon, France. In recent years, she also began offering elementary courses in Italian. All this is more notable because Dr. Vernescu is a native speaker of Romanian with a capacity for learning new languages of which I am very envious.

As a scholar, Dr. Vernescu is the author of the monograph, *Clivage et intégration du moi chez Julien Green*, a psychoanalytic study of the French-language author Julien Green. Her critical work also has appeared in a number of journals including *Alphabetum*, *Revue Francophone de Louisiane*, and *Dalhousie French Studies*. I was able to work with her as a translator when she provided a French translation for the English language text of *The Late Night Book*, a children’s book app for the iPad that appeared in a multilingual second edition.

Dr. Vernescu has taken on a range of service activities throughout her career, bringing her language skills to bear to help with musical performances or as part of community outreach efforts. She has also been a regular member of departmental committees.

Finally, as a department head, I have appreciated Dr. Vernescu’s insights and her concerns for student well being. Her presence in the department will be missed, and I wish her an enjoyable retirement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim O’Loughlin
Department Head and Professor
April 3, 2022

Dr. Francis Degrin, Chair Faculty Senate
University of Northern Iowa

Dear Dr. Degrin and Senators,

I am honored to write this letter of support for Dr. Deborah Gallagher in her application for Emeritus status at the University of Northern Iowa.

Dr. Gallagher served as an assistant professor, associate professor, and professor at the University of Northern Iowa for the past 31 years after teaching for 10 years in secondary English and special education in secondary and elementary school prior to coming to UNI. Her commitment to education is further demonstrated through her recognition in 2020 with the James F. Lubker Faculty Research Award, her receipt of the Senior Scholar Award from the Disability Studies in Education Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association, her recognition through the award of the UNI Diversity Matters Award in 2015, her receipt of the John B. and Florence S. May Fellowship in Learning Disabilities from the Curry School of Education, the University of Virginia in 1989-1991, and receipt of the UNI College of Education Outstanding Faculty Award for Scholarship for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Dr. Gallagher has served as the principal/co-investigator for approximately three grants that yielded approximately $1.5 million to prepare inclusive educators. She has published three co-authored books, 25 peer-reviewed book chapters, and 16 peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Gallagher serves as an international advisory board member for Educational Review and the British Educational Research Journal, associate editor of Remedial and Special Education, and is co-editor of two double special issues for the Learning Disabilities Quarterly and the International Journal of Inclusive Education. She is a frequent presenter at international, national, state, and local conferences over her years at the University of Northern Iowa.

Dr. Gallagher is active in service to national professional organizations, such as AERA, and national educational journals that feature work by scholars in special education. She is a member of the Iowa Academy of Education and a frequent consulate for the Iowa Department of Education and served as President of the Learning Disabilities Association of Black Hawk County early in her career. As a focus group leader for the Teacher Education Strategic Initiative (TESI), and other leadership roles at UNI, she has had a role in shaping the Educator Preparation Program over the course of her years of service to UNI. Dr. Gallagher has provided leadership on numerous search committees for the College of Education, served on the COE Education Senate, promotion and tenure committees, and provided leadership for the Ed.D program.
In retirement, Dr. Gallagher continues to support the Department of Special Education in curriculum matters and continued efforts to update a course on diverse learners that provides a foundation for preservice elementary and secondary teachers preparing to work in today’s diverse schools. It is my pleasure, and that of the entire department, to recommend the recognition of Dr. Deborah Gallagher as a Faculty Emerita.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robijn Dada, Interim Department Head
Department of Special Education
UNI Faculty Senate  
Dr. Francis Degrnin, Chair  
Re: Request for Emeritus Status for Dr. Mary Donegan-Ritter

March 16, 2022

Dear Dr. Degrnin and Faculty Senators,

I am writing in support of Dr. Mary Donegan-Ritter's request for emerita faculty status following her retirement in spring semester 2022.

Dr. Donegan-Ritter's legacy at UNI is through service. She has served as an associate professor in the Early Childhood Division in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction since 2013. Prior to this time, she served as an instructor in the department serving the undergraduate, post baccalaureate and graduate programs. Dr. Donegan-Ritter has taken a leadership role in the community through her collaborative work with Hawkeye Community College to create pathways for Cedar Falls and Waterloo high school students interested in careers in early childhood education. This initiative will create a seamless connection between dual credit courses, completion of an AA degree at Hawkeye and transfer to UNI for completion of their teacher preparation program.

This past year she and colleagues in the Department of Special Education created the innovative joint Unified Early Childhood Special Education collaborative engagement to prepare students for a range of potential career paths that prepare teachers to serve children from birth to Grade 3 in classrooms and their homes.

Dr. Donegan-Ritter served as the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Division since 2020, the Assistant Department Head from 2017-2019, and the Interim Department Head for the Department of Teaching from 2019-2020. Her leadership has shaped the department as she supported all divisions in thinking about future needs in the education sector.

Dr. Donegan-Ritter is a 'can-do' person. She always finds the time to support her colleagues and 'stand in the gap' as needed. She has an incredible capacity for work that is demonstrated through her leadership in so many places. This year she is serving as Chair of the College of Education Senate. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction will miss her calm, yet energetic pace, and her thoughtful consideration of ways to remove barriers.

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction and I are very pleased to recommend Mary Donegan-Ritter for emerita status.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robin Dada  
Department Head, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
March 29, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in strong support of Dr. Forrest Dolgener as an Emeritus faculty for the University of Northern Iowa. I cannot think of a Faculty more deserving of the emeritus designation at UNI. Dr. Dolgener has more than 40 years of service to the University. He has great rapport with colleagues, staff and students in the Department of Kinesiology. He is a good teacher, has a strong record of publication, and is a selfless server of the university. Although he has a strong record of professional accomplishments, Dr. Dolgener worked on weekends on the preparation of classes or research until fairly recently. During department meetings, he is always a calming voice that helps give direction to the department.

Department of Kinesiology will greatly miss Dr. Dolgener. I highly recommend Dr. Dolgener to you without any reservation. For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fabio Fontana, PhD
Department Head and Professor
Department of Kinesiology
fabio.fontana@uni.edu
319-273-6854
April 14th, 2022

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate:

It is an honor to write in support of Dr. John ‘Henry’ Owusu’s application for emeritus status, highlighting his many accomplishments and reflecting on his steadfast commitment to mentoring departmental colleagues. After twenty-two years as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and full Professor at UNI, Dr. Owusu will retire at the end of this semester. I would like to speak in detail about three areas, among Dr. Owusu’s many other accolades, that are representative of his commitment to the profession, the university/college/department, and to his colleagues: his research record, his LAC teaching contributions, and his commitment to mentoring colleagues.

Dr. Owusu’s research record is impressive in terms of the volume of contributions and their overall impact. Over his career he has published thirteen refereed journal articles/book chapters. In 2012, Dr. Owusu published *Africa, Tropical Timber, Turfs, and Trade: Geographic Perspectives on Ghana’s Timber Industry and Development* as a Rowman and Littlefield book. Reviewers noted that his book was ‘impressive’, ‘distinctive’ and a ‘must-use resource’ for research and teaching. His body of work has established Dr. Owusu as a leading expert on economic development and resource management in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Through excellent teaching and dedicated mentoring, Dr. Owusu’s career at UNI is characterized by his record of fostering and advancing student success. This is evident in the upper division/graduate courses he developed and taught, and well as via LAC classes. He regularly taught in two LAC categories with consistent offerings of ‘Human Geography’ and ‘Africa’. These courses reached undergraduate students in all majors and all points in their student career to include first-year students, graduating seniors, and a dedicated Honors section of the ‘Africa’ course. As a fellow ‘Human Geography’ instructor I appreciated the particular focus and expertise that Dr. Owusu brought to his course, dedicating considerable time to the concept and construct of ‘culture’ in all its many diverse and myriad forms.

I arrived to UNI in 2005 as a brand new Assistant Professor, starting in a department where I was the only tenure-track faculty member. I am so very fortunate that all of my colleagues were always supportive, but none more so than Dr. Owusu. From the moment I interviewed and then arrived on campus, to the year I requested consideration for promotion and tenure, to my earning the rank of full Professor two years ago, Dr. Owusu has been kind, helpful, encouraging, and professional through every different stage of my
career. This includes a particular attention to detail and process as a member of the PAC as well as the many times he informally stopped by my office to offer encouragement or congratulations, for accomplishments large and small, and at times when he sensed that I was worried, dispirited or struggling. I know that his goodwill towards me was not unique and that he has provided the same mentoring and support to other colleagues as they progressed through the process from being new hires to newly tenured and/or promoted faculty members.

In consideration of Dr. Owusu’s research accomplishments, teaching contributions, and commitment to mentoring—along with so many other achievements and accolades not mentioned in this letter—I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically recommend that he be granted the status of Professor Emeritus.

Sincerely,

Alex Oberle, PhD
Professor
Department of Geography
University of Northern Iowa
Feb 11, 2022  
Prof. Dennis Dahms  
Department of Geography, UNI

Dear Faculty Senate:

I strongly support Dr. Dennis Dahms’ petition to obtain faculty emeritus status and become a research associate.

Dennis was a vital and critical member of the department throughout his long and storied career at UNI, and his continuing scholarly activity remains the envy of most of the university. He is an associate editor of *Catena*, one of Quaternary Geomorphology’s premier journals, and just in the last two years he has published the following work:

2022 *Dahms*, Dennis, Markus Egli, W. C. McIntosh and N. W. Dunbar (In review). Age, geochemistry and geomorphic significance of new Lava Creek ash exposures from Lander, WY, USA. (*Geomorphology*).


Dennis is a fine scholar with a superior record of research and publication. He is highly regarded among his contemporaries in the field of Quaternary Geomorphology and Geochronology. He has placed his work in many venues of note including in the journal of Science. His research is high quality, timely, and has brought considerable positive attention to UNI. He plans to continue to use the soils science lab in ITTC and his office and continue publishing.

Dennis brought much more to the table than just research, he remains an exceptional and dedicated teacher, from the classroom to advising to curriculum development. Further, his teaching remains broad-based in that it appeals to a range of students; he clearly focuses on presenting viewpoints that go beyond his discipline. I find it most impressive that his research record did not slow him from a sincere and intense dedication to the nature and quality of teaching. Dennis was and I hope remains a fine colleague. He was the archetype faculty member who contributes at all levels of a department, in teaching, research and service. Dennis was critical to the establishment of the BS in Environmental Resource Management at UNI. He remains a person who is willing to drop everything to help the unit as a whole move forward in any direction it needs to go.

Dennis is a person of character. He is honest, ethical, straightforward but most pleasant, and he works well with all around him, from the student to the university president. He is energetic and vivacious in personality, and he continuously engages people and the system in a positive way.

I strongly recommend that you give him your fullest consideration for faculty emeritus status and as a research associate.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mark Welford
1 April 2022

Professor John Burnight, Chair
Distinguished Faculty Members
University Faculty Senate
University of Northern Iowa

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Professor Anne Woodrick’s application for Emeritus Faculty status at the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Woodrick first arrived at UNI in 1988 and it has been my pleasure to serve on the UNI Anthropology faculty with Professor Woodrick for 32 years.

At the core of Dr. Woodrick’s legacy at UNI will be her reputation as an outstanding teacher. Among my many colleagues over the years, Anne has consistently demonstrated a great passion for teaching. Demanding but fair, she was employing critical thinking strategies in all of her classes years before the approach became a widespread expectation for teaching at UNI. Anne’s love for Anthropological methods, concepts and literature were always evident in her teaching. She has taught numerous courses over the years but in my recollection, she was always the go-to faculty member in our department to teach Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Native Central and South America, both of which she has also offered with Honors sections. Her advanced courses have always been in great demand. Among these, I point to Qualitative Research, Tribal Religions and Religion, Magic and Witchcraft. As she retires, the Witchcraft course in particular will be greatly missed in the SAC curriculum but in other programs ranging from Women’s and Gender Studies to Philosophy and World Religions. It will leave a hole in our curriculum that may never be filled.

Dr. Woodrick also did important research during her years at UNI. Her expertise is in religiosity. She began her career researching religiosity among rural women in Yucatan, Mexico. More recently, she combined her extensive research experience in Mexico, her fluency in Spanish and her ethnographic research skills to conduct research among Iowa’s burgeoning Latino population. The result was numerous and pioneering publications appearing in such highly regarded journals as Human Organization, Urban Anthropology, Anthropological Quarterly and Ethos.

In addition to Dr. Woodrick’s outstanding record as a teacher and scholar, I must also remind you of her legacy of service to UNI. For recent examples, she served on the 2012-2013 UNI President Search Committee, as a member if the CSBS Strategic Planning Committee and on the 2017 Faculty Summer Fellowship Committee. But in particular, I want to highlight Anne’s many years of service to UNI.
athletics. Anne served at the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative from 2002-2011, one of the most demanding and time-consuming service jobs on campus. She also served on the Missouri Valley Conference President’s Council and she was a member of the search committee that hired women’s basketball head coach Tanya Warren. When she was recently inducted into the 2021 UNI Athletics Hall of Fame, it was duly noted that Anne “impacted the lives of countless student-athletes through her advocacy and leadership.”

My colleagues in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology and I enthusiastically endorse Dr. Woodrick’s application for Emeritus status. She will be missed but, of course, we wish her the very best for her retirement and future plans.

Respectfully,

Mark A. Grey, Ph.D.
Professor and Head,
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology
Dear colleagues:

I am writing in support of Dr. Christian Ogbondah’s appointment to emeritus faculty. Dr. Ogbondah has a long and distinguished record of publications, his writing and service have had a global impact advancing journalism and democracy, and he has been an outstanding teacher at UNI for over 30 years.

Dr. Ogbondah has been remarkably consistent in his scholarly production for almost 40 years; as a result, he has published a truly impressive amount of both traditional scholarship and journalism. Dr. Ogbondah has published three books, has another forthcoming, and has authored dozens of academic essays published as journal articles and book chapters. Across his career, he has presented his research in nearly 400 conference presentations. As an internationally recognized expert on journalism, Dr. Ogbondah applies the theoretical expertise from his research to the production of journalism. Thus, his practice of journalism is a form of scholarship of engagement. In this endeavor, his output is truly staggering; he has published over 3,000 articles in newspapers throughout the United States and across the world.

Dr. Ogbondah has not only produced an incredible amount of scholarship, he has produced work that is of the highest academic merit. UNI recently recognized the quality of Dr. Ogbondah’s work by awarding him the 2022 Distinguished Scholar Award. In 2009, he received the Regents’ Award for Faculty Excellence, which honored his excellence in research, teaching, and service. Throughout his career, the many other academic and professional communities of which he is a member have provided him with opportunities for scholarship and service because of the quality of his work. Within the United States, he has been selected as a fellow of the American Press Institute and American Society of Newspaper Editors, and has been primary or co-investigator on a number of grant projects funded by institutions including USAID, the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation. In total, these projects have been awarded nearly $2 million. Internationally, he has received numerous awards and honors. He was selected for the Scholar Achievement Award from the United Arab Emirates University and Ambassador of Press Freedom for the Premium Times Center for Investigative Journalism. His work on the role of journalism in democratic reforms has been published and circulated by Freedom House, a prominent international watchdog organization. In 2021, Dr. Ogbondah was invited by the Nigerian Press Institute to present to serve as a resource to journalists in the country focused on democratic reform. His impact as a scholar of and advocate for the role of a healthy press in democratic reform is a tremendous professional legacy of both scholarship and service.

Dr. Ogbondah has accomplished all of this while remaining a dedicated teacher to multiple generations of UNI students. He has taught over 20 different courses at the university at the undergraduate and graduate level. To each of these courses he brings his tremendous expertise,
as well as a deep commitment preparing his students professionally while also caring about them as people. This dedication to students has led him to receive multiple teaching awards throughout his time at UNI. It has also helped his students to go on to accomplished careers as journalists across the state, country, and globe. He has also been a tremendous teacher and advocate for international students in our department and across the university. Beyond the classroom, he has provided numerous workshops and presentations to support international undergraduate and graduate students at UNI. I know he plans to spend his time as emeritus faculty continuing to provide training to journalists and journalism students.

In sum, Dr. Ogbondah has been a model of excellence in research, service, and teaching throughout his career at UNI. He has also been a truly wonderful colleague to me and everyone in our department; he is kind, generous, and always deeply humane.

I strongly support his application for emeritus professor.

Sincerely,

Ryan McGeough, Ph.D.
Department Head
Department of Communication and Media
University of Northern Iowa
2/11/2022

Dear Faculty Senate Colleagues,

This letter is a request to grant Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Annette Lynch who will be retiring June 2022 after a total of 31 years of service to UNI. Dr. Lynch received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1992, and took her first academic position at UNI in the fall semester of 1991. In her time at UNI, Dr. Lynch has held multiple positions vital to the university’s core mission. From 1999-2002 she was the Director of the Women’s Studies program. She has been a project director and PI for the Campus Violence Prevention Project (2000-2005 & 2007-2013) and a Co-Founding Director of the Center for Violence Prevention. Most recently, she has served (with much appreciation from her colleagues) as the Director of the School of Applied Human Sciences from 2015-2021. With her work as the director of SAHS recognized by a 2017 United Faculty Administrator of the year award.

Dr. Lynch is a tireless advocate for her students. In the classroom she is meticulous about providing high quality, student-centered, engaging learning activities to her students. Dr. Lynch’s teaching excellence can, in-part, be recognized by the various teaching awards she has earned (e.g., Regents award for faculty excellence, Outstanding teaching award, Apple Polishers). However, a larger part of her success can be witnessed through the prolonged mentoring relationships she continues with her students long after they graduate. In short, Dr. Lynch has educated and mentored countless students to successful careers in their fields.

One of Dr. Lynch’s most important contributions to UNI has been working with colleagues to build the Textiles and Apparel curriculum into a STEM focused product development program that successfully places graduates at top performing corporate headquarters locations, including NorthFace, Target, Jockey, and Adidas, as well as at design houses in New York City. This program development work included the creation of a National Science Foundation funded Textile Materials Testing Lab, Digital and 3D Printing and Computer Aided Design Labs, and a Product Development Lab. During her tenure, these labs were used to introduce middle school and high school students throughout the state to the link between fashion and stem careers, notably through the Hip Hop Literacy and Girls Empowerment summer programs. This work with girls empowerment was recognized in 2015 with a Title IX Champion Award from the Iowa Chapter of the American Association of University Women. In response to student requests, she also launched the annual Catwalk Runway Show (celebrating its 30th year this spring) and Uprising Magazine, a cross-disciplinary fashion/culture/art publication that received the Student Leadership Diversity Matters Award in 2021.

Dr. Lynch has been prolific in her scholarly and service activities while at UNI. At the time of this letter she has authored over 20 peer-reviewed articles, books, and book-chapters. In addition, she has participated in close to 40 peer-reviewed presentations at regional and national conferences over her
career. What is most notable is that she has created ways in which this research can be applied to her service. Through national level service (e.g., National Campus Advisory Board, Editorial Board of Fashion Style and Culture), state level, (e.g., Regents Task Force on Campus Gender Violence Prevention, Iowa Campus Safety Summit) and at UNI (e.g., Gender Violence Prevention Partners, Center for Violence Prevention Co-Director) Dr. Lynch has consistently applied her research to communities in which she lives and works to better people's lives.

Dr. Lynch is also well regarded for collaborating across the university and Regents system with her DOJ funded gender violence prevention grants, with this work recognized by a Regents Faculty Excellence Award in 2006 and a Helping Students Succeed Commendation from UNI Student Affairs in 2012. This sexual violence prevention work was also supported by Verizon Foundation funding, directed toward infusion of the work into campus ROTC programs across the country and student scholarships focused on ending gender violence. This work laid the foundation for the opening of the Center for Violence Prevention in 2011, a center that recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with a generous gift from Patricia and O. Jay Tomson. In honor of the Northeast Iowa couple’s donation and Patricia’s decades of work advocating for children and families impacted by abuse, the center was rededicated as the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not add two additional points. First, Annette is the type of colleague we all should strive to be. She is a mentor, an encourager, and a friend to everyone she works with. Second, she is willing to stand up for what she believes in. She is a role-model for anyone in the academy, who encounters a situation where their morals are at odds with a situation. The University of Northern Iowa, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and School of Applied Human Sciences is better because she chose to be a faculty member her in Fall of 1991.

We wish Annette all the best in her retirement. As the director of the School of Applied Human Sciences, I support her application for Professor Emeritus status.

Sincerely,

William Roy Henninger IV, PhD (he/his)
Associate Dean, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Interim School Director, School of Applied Human Sciences
University of Northern Iowa
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