University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, August 22, 2022

University of Northern Iowa. Faculty Senate.
University Faculty Senate Minutes
August 22, 2022 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), Gretchen Gould (Secretary), John Burnight (Past Chair), James Mattingly (Faculty Chair), Imam Alam, Nick Bailey, Megan Balong, Karen Breitbach, Michael Conrad, Robert Earle, Julie Kang, Randall Harlow, Mark Hecimovich, Rob Hitlan, Charles Holcombe, Sang Koh, Karla Krueger, Matthew Makarios, Andrew Stollenwerk, Ali Tabei (Fifty percent quorum met, with 18/19 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.)

**Call to Order** at 3:30 PM

**Call for Press Identification**

**Introduction of Guests and Welcome to New Senators** [time stamp 00:00:30]

New Senators: Sang (Steve) Koh, Randall Harlow, and Robert Earle

Regular Guests: Mark Nook, José Herrera, John Vallentine, Patrick Pease, Becky Hawbaker, Chris Martin, Leila Masinovic

Additional Guests: Cara Burnidge

**Courtesy Announcements**

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 00:01:43]

_President Nook welcomed everyone back and thanked Senators for their service. He congratulated everyone involved for getting the UNIFI curriculum underway and discussed how UNIFI is generating a lot of excitement among students and alumni, as well as counselors and students at community colleges. President Nook also highlighted the work of the Council for Inclusion, Transformative Social Justice, and Advocacy, and Social Justice. The Council has partnered with Rankin & Associates to conduct a campus climate survey. They have already gathered data through listening surveys and are not getting ready to roll out the campus wide survey. President Nook emphasized the importance of getting a good response and would like us to encourage our colleagues and, especially, our students to participate in this survey._

Comments from Provost Herrera [time stamp 00:08:46]

_Provost Herrera welcomed everyone back and noted the energy on campus. The search for the Chief Academic Nurse is underway. The first candidate is on campus and all of the candidates look great. There will also be another search for the dean for graduate college (though the official title has not been agreed upon yet). The committee is being formulated and will be given the charge soon. This position is important because we need to increase graduate enrollment._
President Nook also informally announced that we have a new Associate Counsel, Emily Pittinger, [time stamp 00:12:27], who will begin her duties on Monday, October 3rd (per the group chat).

Comments from Faculty Chair Mattingly [time stamp 00:14:11]
Faculty Chair Mattingly shared that the Fall Faculty Meeting will be on Monday, October 3rd at 3:30 in the Lang Auditorium. Virtual attendance is possible, but he is hoping for more face to face attendance. Covid-pending, there will be a reception at 3pm in front of the auditorium. This meeting will celebrate new faculty and award winners. Faculty Chair Mattingly also reminded everyone that the new Senate delegation framework that passed on March 28, 2022 (docket item 14.81). Senate bylaws now state that each department can elect a Senator (instead of each college delegating a certain number of Senators). The nominating committee will be working on a new approach to electing Senators and Faculty Chair Mattingly requests that Department Heads start thinking about how to elect new Senators.

Senator Makarios, Chair of the Governance Committee, clarified that the committee hopes to get a proposal out regarding at-large Senators this fall ahead of Spring elections.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp 00:17:38]
United Faculty President Hawbaker welcomed everyone back and expressed how struck she was by the Fall Faculty Speaker and their definition of burnout as the gap between the aspirations you have for your career and the reality of your work life. United Faculty can help bridge this gap and they recognize the workload of our faculty. She emphasized 3 key things that are happening this year. First, there will be a recertification election that will then allow UF to bargain for a new contract with administration. Finally, after that contract is bargained there will be elections for new union leadership and UF President Hawbaker emphasized this as an opportunity for faculty to learn how to support and advocate for faculty. She reminded us to Vote Yes for UF during the last two weeks of October.

Faculty Senate Chair Degnin reminded everyone that not voting counts as a “no” vote.

Comments from NISG President Masinovic [time stamp 00:21:13]
NISG President Masinovic stated that NISG has been tabling and plans to hold a debate this Fall.

Comments from Senate Chair Degnin [time stamp 00:23:48]
Senate Chair Degnin reminded Senators to send the name of their alternate to Karen Breitbach and Melissa Dobosh. Additionally, Senate Chair Degnin recognized how effective the new Senate schedule has been working since being implemented last year. As a reminder, the Senate transitioned from meeting as a full Senate twice a month to meeting as a full Senate once a month and meeting in committee once a month. He sent his thanks to Jim Mattingly, Amy Nielsen, and John Burnight for their work on this. Finally, Senate Chair Degnin is finalizing the committee memberships and, as those get shared, asked that committee chairs set up the calendar and calendar invites for the year.

Comments from Guest Cara Burnidge [time stamp 00:26:22]
As a member of the Council for Inclusion, Transformative Social Justice, and Advocacy, and Social Justice, Burnidge wanted to thank us for the opportunity to work on the council and shared that she has had the opportunity to take an informal inventory of the DEI activities across campus. As a result, the Council recommended a climate study with an external partner as part of the process. First, she is co-chairing the Climate Study Working Group with Kristen Moser. The group includes 16 members including students, faculty, and staff and has partnered with Rankin & Associates. This working group held 18 listening sessions and spent the summer following up on the recommendations and suggestions that came from these sessions. Second, the next step will be the administration of a campus-wide climate study survey. This will be an online survey available October 4-November 4th. It is critical that faculty not only take the survey, but also encourage their students to take the survey, too. Dr. Burnidge also emphasized some of the safeguards in place for participant confidentiality and emphasized that we need a robust response from the campus community. For more information, go to uni.edu/resources/climate-study.

Minutes for Approval:
Minutes from April 25 2022 [time stamp 00:34:02]
MOTION: Breitbach/Makarios (14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)
MINUTES APPROVED WITHOUT AMENDMENT

Minutes from May 9 2022 (special meeting) [time stamp 00:35:24]
MOTION: Hecimovich/Makarios (16 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)
MINUTES APPROVED WITHOUT AMENDMENT

Docketed Items:

1498   End of year report from the Governance Committee   [time stamp 00:36:37]
MOTION TO RECEIVE: Gould/Hecimovich (15 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstention)
MOTION PASSED

1499   End of year report from the Nominating Committee   [time stamp 00:38:13]
MOTION TO RECEIVE: Holcombe/Conrad (13 in favor-0 against-0 abstention)
Senator Breitbach asked that everyone check their own status on that report and in the committees.

1500   End of year report from the Policy Committee   [time stamp 00:39:35]
MOTION TO RECEIVE: Balong/Holcombe (14 in favor-0 against-0 abstention)
MOTION PASSED

1501   Emeritus Request: Jennifer Waldron   [time stamp 00:40:17]
MOTION: Hecimovich/Conrad (12 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstention)
Associate Provost John Vallentine and Faculty Senate Chair Degnin offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

1502   Emeritus Request: Ivonne Cuadra   [time stamp 00:42:38]
MOTION: (14 in favor-0 against-0 abstention)
Faculty Senate Chair Degnin offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

1503 Emeritus Request: Chris Lukasiewicz [time stamp 00:44:41]
MOTION: (13 in favor-0 against-0 abstention)
Faculty Chair Mattingly and Faculty Senate Chair Degnin offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

1504 Emeritus Request: Joseph Marchesani [time stamp 00:47:34]
MOTION: Breitbach/Holcombe(15 in favor-0 against-0 abstention)
Senator Breitbach, Faculty Chair Mattingly, and Faculty Senate Chair Degnin offered comments in support of the emeritus request.

Adjournment by 4:22PM. Balong/Makarios [time stamp 00:50:48]

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

Submitted by Melissa Dobosh, Vice-Chair of the University Faculty Senate
March 29, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in strong support of Dr. Jennifer Waldron as an Emeritus faculty for the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Waldron is certainly deserving of the emeritus designation at UNI. Dr. Waldron has about two decades of service to the University. She had great rapport with colleagues, staff and students in the Department of Kinesiology. He has an excellent record of publication, and several of her scholarly work was done in collaboration with undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Waldron has also provided substantial contributions to the University. She spent several years in the graduate council, she was the head of IRB committee, and more recently Dr. Waldron served as Dean of the Graduate College. Department of Kinesiology will greatly miss Dr. Waldron.

I highly recommend Dr. Waldron 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.ed
319-273-6854
7 May 2022

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate,

We are pleased to have the chance to provide this letter in support of our colleague, Ivonne Cuadra, as she seeks Emeritus Status at the University of Northern Iowa.

Dr. Cuadra was a vibrant and versatile teacher who taught almost 40 different courses in our curriculum. She designed courses to be delivered both face to face and online, and taught everything from entry level Spanish coursework through advanced graduate coursework in Spanish. Notably, she also coordinated elementary Spanish coursework and helped train teaching assistants. Additionally, she taught and helped direct our Spanish M.A. abroad coursework in Santiago de Compostela, Spain and Querétaro, México and taught numerous graduate courses. Needless to say, she was truly an expert in the language, culture and literature of Latin America and Spain, and was always willing to develop or retool content and methods to serve our programs.

She devoted a great amount of time to her graduate students, directing or serving as a reader for more than 60 graduate research papers and serving in almost 100 comprehensive exam committees. She also did reading workshops in the community at Hawkeye Community College and the Waterloo Public Library. Dr. Cuadra also had numerous publications, including a book and several articles on Latin American Literature. She also published her creative work.

We appreciated Dr. Cuadra’s devotion to teaching and scholarship, but especially want to recognize her ability to build bridges and friendships with students, such as those studying abroad in the M.A. programs, or with the community, such as with partners at Hawkeye Community College, or at our own campus, by designing and delivering coursework that extended into the Liberal Arts Core. She also guided numerous graduate students in their research and served on exam committees, always with grace, intelligence and humor.

We enjoyed and appreciated the years spent working with Ivonne, and we will miss her.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cooley
Jennifer Cooley

Juan Carlos Castillo
August 10, 2022

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate:

I am writing in support of Chris Lukasiewicz’s application for emeritus status following his retirement from UNI at the end of the Spring 2022 semester. Following a brief stint at the U.S. Naval Academy, Chris began his career at UNI in 2005 as the Head of the Military Science Department (ROTC). After his service to ROTC, Chris served as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Economics for 17 years.

During his time at UNI, Chris taught economics courses that are quite challenging for newly minted college students. Quantitative analysis is rarely a popular subject matter for first- and second-year students. Chris, however, willingly taught the two required quantitative courses that all business students take in their first two years — Decision Analytics (aka, Dec Tech) and Business Statistics (aka, Biz Stat). Each semester, he led four sections of business statistics through challenging material. He was also willing to teach these courses in a variety of settings including large and small sections, evening classes, and summer classes.

Chris was not only a valued colleague within the department and college, he also had an exemplary reputation with students. He made himself available to help students during or outside his scheduled office hours. Lines outside his door were a common sight, reflecting his strong connection with his students. Despite teaching two difficult courses required of all of the business majors, his student assessments ranked among the highest in the College of Business. Chris also garnered a reputation for being willing to have the “difficult conversations” with students that were not committing themselves to their coursework. He was firm but fair in his expectations. It was clear that he always had students’ best interests at heart.

In addition to his high marks in the classroom, Chris served as the coordinator of the College of Business’ scholarship program for the majority of his years in the department. He worked with the UNI Foundation, Financial Aid, and each of the five departments in the College of Business to award all Foundation-supported student scholarships. This is not an idle service obligation. One previous head of the Economics department described his leadership in this role as the best he had seen relative to others that held this post.

While teaching, Chris remained active in his profession as a consultant for entities on campus. During his last several years, Chris advised the UNI Racquetball Club and the UNI Gamers Club, supporting his reputation as a favorite of students. A 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army, Chris remains active with veteran groups in Iowa.

Since I have held this position for only a very short time, I sought feedback from those that have known, interacted with, and taught with Chris at UNI. His colleagues describe him as a great teacher, always ready to help when needed, easy to work with, very friendly, and a wonderful colleague. From my own perspective, whenever you met him in the hallway, Chris always had a bright smile on his face. During any breaks, he was off to a river or stream somewhere in the U.S.
to fly fish. I enjoyed hearing his stories of these trips. As the Head of the Economics Department, and on behalf of his colleagues in the department and the college, I strongly recommend Chris Lukasiewicz for emeritus status.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Brett C. Olsen, Ph.D.
Finance Dept Head; Economics Dept Head
Associate Professor of Finance
1-21-22

Dear Faculty Senate,

I am writing this letter in support of Joseph Marchesani receiving a Professor Emeritus status.

It has been my privilege to work with Joe over the past 30 years. He has been my colleague, mentor, and friend.

Mr. Marchesani has excelled as an educator. He has always placed his students first. He has carefully organized his courses to provide in-depth instruction on different facets of media instruction and then challenged his students to use that knowledge to create media projects. His students have shared their appreciation of him as a teacher. I had the privilege to teach a class with him and I learned a lot.

He used the same process when guiding his UNI video creation and editing team. He has provided necessary guidance for his team of students and then nurtured their work to create high quality videos for UNI.

I greatly appreciated Joe’s support and guidance throughout the years. Whenever I have had a question about media, he would spend time providing me with what I needed. When he didn’t know the answers, he would do extensive research and help me implement what he found. He even worked as a second reader on some of our master’s papers when it was in his area of specialty.

Joseph Marchesani has worked a productive 50 years at UNI. He has provided the student guidance and faculty support that warrants his receiving the Professor Emeritus status.

Sincerely,

Leigh E. Zeitz, Ph.D.
Associate Professor - Learning Technologies