

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
East Campus Union,
January 13, 2009
Presidents Kathy Prochaska Cue, John Fech, and Steve Bradford, Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

President Prochaska-Cue called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 UNL Lactation Support Program

President Prochaska-Cue reported that a handout was being provided on the UNL Lactation Support Program. She pointed out that this is a draft policy and asked that the Senate review it.

Professor Harbison, Chemistry, asked why the term lactation was used instead of breastfeeding. Associate to the Chancellor Poser stated that the administration looked at policies at other universities and all used the term lactation. She pointed out that the hang tag on the back of the document is an example of what would be printed. She stated that she is looking for feedback on the draft.

Past President Bradford noted that lactation is defined as expressing milk and is a broader term than breastfeeding. Associate to the Chancellor Poser agreed and stated that women may need privacy in order to pump. She asked that anyone with comments email her at sposer1@unl.edu.

Prochaska-Cue pointed out how things have changed and how employers are now concerned with providing privacy for mothers. She noted that this policy shows how institutions have become more family oriented.

2.2 Update on Senate Motion to Investigate the Cancellation of Dr. Ayers' Visit

President Prochaska-Cue reported that she spoke with FIRE and AAUP about conducting an investigation. She noted that FIRE stated they could not do the investigation because they do not have the needed resources but they continue to be interested with this particular issue.

President Prochaska-Cue noted that she then contacted AAUP but their response was that they do not have the resources to do an investigation but they would be willing to work with a UNL internal committee to provide some assistance and suggest policy changes. She reported that she has not looked further into getting an external consultant to conduct the investigation.

President Prochaska-Cue reported that she is now forming a committee to look into the procedures. She stated that at this point she is proposing that an internal review committee be formed that would consult with the AAUP. She asked if anyone has objections to proceeding this way. She noted that no objections were made. She reported that she hoped the focus of the internal committee will be on the procedures and how faculty will be more involved in the future if such a decision is needed. She pointed out that the intent of the investigation is not to place blame on anyone. She stated that she hopes to get the internal committee functioning within the next couple of weeks.

3.0 President Milliken

4.0 Chancellor Perlman

President Prochaska-Cue reported that President Milliken and Chancellor Perlman will be unable to attend the meeting because they were attending the funeral of Emeritus Professor Robert Knoll.

5.0 Approval of 12/2/08 Minutes

Professor Flowers, Psychology, moved and Professor Konecky, University Libraries, seconded approval of the minutes. Motion approved.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Curriculum Committee (Professor Walklin)

Professor Walklin stated that he has served on many of the Senate's committees and he appreciates the work of the Senate. He noted that the Curriculum Committee is composed of members elected by their college as well as a Senate appointee. He reported that this is a good committee that is very active and is willing to deal with issues and get them resolved. He stated that the Curriculum Committee might be one of the most

important committees that the Senate has to deal with, particularly since there seem to be those who want to wrest the control of the curriculum away from the faculty.

Professor Walklin noted that the Curriculum Committee approves or disapproves courses and this past year courses were automatically sent to the interim ACE committee for review. He pointed out that UNL is now considered to be one of the national leaders in general education among universities because of the new ACE program.

Professor Walklin reported that the Curriculum Committee is still processing some IS courses because these courses will assist students with their transition into the ACE program. He pointed out that some students need courses to finish up under the IS/ES program.

Professor Walklin reported that the temporary committee to review ACE courses has been set up and has been busy approving and certifying courses for the ACE program. He noted that the courses approved by the interim ACE committee will default back to the Curriculum Committee next fall and there will be two training sessions for members of the Curriculum Committee to help them deal with the ACE proposed courses.

Professor Walklin pointed out that when the ACE program was approved it was with the understanding that all of the colleges had to approve it. The same is true for the ACE courses. He noted that the administration wanted a program that would more easily allow students to transfer between colleges. He reported that if a proposed ACE course is not accepted by any college then the course cannot be approved. He stated that the members of the interim ACE committee are working very hard to get all of the proposed courses approved.

6.2 Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (Professor Hoff)

Professor Hoff thanked the Senate for being invited to speak. He reported that the IAC is a wonderful committee which looks at the academic support services for athletics to ensure that it is functioning the way it should be. He noted that the Subcommittee to Assess Athletics Academic Support Services 2007-08 Report has been filed in the Senate Office.

Professor Hoff stated that the Subcommittee to Assess Athletics Academic Support Services was charged by the IAC to see if there is any difference in the academic performance of athletes when they are in competition season and when they are not. He reported that the assessment showed that there was practically a statistical flat line here at UNL. Academic performances were pretty much the same regardless of whether the athlete was in competition season or not.

Professor Hoff reported that freshmen in all sports did better statistically in the fall semester. He stated that it was not clear why this happened although it is suspected that freshmen student athletes are required to attend study hall in the fall which might give them more time for studying. The other possibility is that freshmen usually do not compete in their freshman year and do not get caught up in the competitiveness experienced by the older athletes. He thanked the Subcommittee for the report.

Professor Hoff reported that one of the other duties of the IAC is to choose the male and female athlete of the year which is typically done in March or April.

Professor Hoff stated that the IAC also looks at transfer or scholarship appeals. He noted that the IAC did entertain two transfer appeals this past year but denied the transfer in accordance to NCAA and Big 12 policies.

Professor Hoff reported that the IAC has decided to send a representative to attend the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Conference being held in Tucson in March. He noted that the COIA is composed of Faculty Senates around the country that joined together in a common cause to review college athletics and has been endorsed by the President of the NCAA. He pointed out that the IAC felt that it would be good to have a representative at the Conference although it does not adhere to the COIA policy.

Professor Starace, Physics and Astronomy, asked if the IAC seeks input from student athletes. Professor Hoff replied that there are student athletes represented on the IAC and the subcommittees. He reported that ASUN appoints students to the IAC. He noted that all athletic schedules have to be reviewed and approved by the IAC in order for them to be valid schedules. He stated in the past the student representatives on the IAC voted to not approve a game that was to be held during final exams week.

6.3 Teaching Council Report

President Prochaska-Cue reported that Professor Bailey was not able to attend the meeting. She stated that if anyone has questions on the report that was provided they should contact Professor Bailey at jbailey1@unl.edu.

7.0 Unfinished Business

7.1 Motion to Change the Commencement and Honors Convocations Committee Syllabus

President Prochaska-Cue reported that at last month's meeting Professor Wunder, History, suggested an amendment to have a faculty member represent the Graduate Council on the Commencement and Honors Convocations Committee. She stated that Professor Peterson, Agricultural Economics, seconded the motion, but due to the lack of a quorum the amendment could not be voted on. She pointed out that there was now a quorum and asked if there was any discussion on the amendment. Hearing no discussion she asked for a vote on the amendment. The amendment was approved.

President Prochaska-Cue then asked if there was any discussion on the motion. Professor Peterson called the question. Motion to change the Commencement and Honors Convocations Committee Syllabus was approved.

8.0 New Business

President Prochaska-Cue asked if there was any new business. No new business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, Auditorium. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and David Rapkin, Secretary.