

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
City Campus Union,
April 26, 2011
Presidents John Lindquist, Barbara LaCost, and John Fech, Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

President Lindquist called the meeting to order at 2:31p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Welcome New Senators

President Lindquist welcomed the new senators and stated that their service to the Senate was appreciated. He noted that the Rules and Bylaws of the Senate were sent to them and can be found on the Senate's website and they will learn more about how the Senate works as they attend meetings.

3.0 Senate Elections to the Executive Committee

3.1 President Elect

President Lindquist reported that the President Elect will serve for a year after which he/she becomes President. He noted that the President serves as chief representative of the UNL academic assembly to the Board of Regents, the state, and the Faculty Senate. He pointed out that the President deals with any matter of importance to the faculty.

Professor Peterson, Agricultural Economics, moved to approve by acclamation Professor Schubert as President Elect. The motion was second by Professor Rinkevich, Classics & Religious Studies. The motion was approved.

3.2 Secretary

President Lindquist noted that the Secretary revises and distributes minutes of all Senate meetings and makes sure that Senate proceedings are done correctly. Professor Saner, West Central Research & Extension Center, moved to approve by acclamation Professor Shea as Secretary. The motion was second by Professor Konecky, University Libraries. The motion was approved.

3.3 Members of the Executive Committee

President Lindquist reported that the Executive Committee members shall act for the faculty between meetings of the Senate and academic assembly, meet with the Chancellor, and assists the Chancellor in matters pertaining to the faculty. The Executive Committee reports to the Senate and receives instructions from the Senate. Professor Peterson moved approval by acclamation the election of Professor Anderson, School of Music; Professor Irmak, Biological Systems Engineering; Professor Nickerson, School of Biological Sciences; Professor Purdum, Animal Science; Professor Rinkevich, Classics & Religious Studies; Professor Struthers, College of Journalism & Mass Communications; Professor Wysocki, Computer & Electronics Engineering; and Professor Varner, Southeast Research & Extension Center to the Executive Committee. The motion was second by Professor Anaya, University Libraries.

President Lindquist wanted to acknowledge and thank those Executive Committee members whose term is ending on the Committee. He thanked everyone for their participation and noted that it has been an honor to work with them over the last several years. He stated that he believes service on the Executive Committee is very important work and that the faculty should have a say in what gets done at the university. He stated that he believes faculty members need to participate in faculty governance and this was his reason for running in the past for election to the Executive Committee. He noted that serving on the Executive Committee and as President has been a great learning experience and enabled him to see how the university works from a different perspective. He reported that he learned about the university as a whole and how it functions. He stated that he has great appreciation for those who have served on the Executive Committee and the Senate. He noted that he appreciates his interactions with the administration, and in particular, he appreciates all he has learned from all of the deans' searches he was involved in. He noted that his final duty as President is to welcome the new President Barbara LaCost. President LaCost expressed tumultuous gratitude for all the work that President Lindquist has done. She pointed out that he was a good prompter on thinking of ways to accomplish the work that needed to be done. She presented President Lindquist with gifts of appreciation on behalf of the Senate.

4.0 President Milliken

President Milliken said he appreciated the opportunity to talk to the Senate and especially to thank all of the senators for their service. He noted that it is bittersweet for him because it might be the last time he gets to see Professor Stock at one of these meetings. Professor Stock is the last of the English department professors from whom President Milliken took a course—an exceptional one—as an undergraduate student here. He offered his congratulations to John for his service as President this past year and to Barbara for beginning her term as President of the Faculty Senate.

President Milliken reported that in some ways this is a great time to be in higher education because there seems to be recognition from state and national policy makers that higher education is essential to the success of the country. He noted that he was recently informed that 36% of Nebraskans have an associate's degree or higher, but the goal is to raise this figure to 65% or higher, which will require a lot of work on our part. He pointed out that the bad news is that we are not being provided a lot of new funding to meet this goal. He reported that the federal government will likely make reductions in the Pell program, which has been a basic building block for supporting students and has allowed us to expand our "Collegebound Nebraska" program. He noted that we should be okay next year, with steady funding for undergraduate financial aid, but the following year we may see reductions to the Pell grant program.

President Milliken stated that there have also been reductions to research funding agencies and these agencies have been an important part of the growth of the research enterprise here and at other institutions across the country. The research funding has extended access to more people and has increased the level of research at the university.

President Milliken reported that the state budget will be delivered to the legislature tomorrow and debate on it is expected to begin on Monday. He noted that included in the budget at this time is a 0% operating increase for the University and \$25 million for Innovation Campus. He pointed out that Presidents of universities don't usually say thank you to legislators for a 0% increase, but considering economic conditions, it may be the best we can do. He stated that the 0% increase will represent five years of essentially flat funding for the university and it does create difficulties. He noted that UNL has grown approximately 2500 students over the past five years without new state funding to support enrollment growth.

President Milliken stated that UNL will be seeing announcements from its sister campuses about their proposed budget reductions. He stated that there is always pressure to keep tuition moderate and affordable and it is difficult to replace the loss of the general fund with tuition dollars. He reported that the tuition would need to be increased significantly to replace lack of growth in state general fund. He stated that he hopes the Governor's and the Appropriations Committee's recommendations hold and while it is not the best news for the university, it is better than most places.

President Milliken reported that regulatory changes are occurring in Washington D.C. to be imposed on every institution that offers distance education. The regulation requires institutions to acquire authorization from any state in which it offers online education to students residing in that state. He noted that there was recently an announcement that the government has extended the compliance deadline date to July 1, 2014, but institutions must show good faith efforts to comply now. He pointed out that this regulation is likely directed at for-profit institutions such as the University of Phoenix, but that all higher education institutions will be affected by the regulation. He noted that over the last two years enrollment in web based courses increased over 30 percent and 20 percent, respectively, and that this is one way to generate more revenue and provide educational opportunities for people who live outside Lincoln, Omaha, and Kearney.

President Milliken stated that the capital campaign effort so far has raised \$1.0 billion university-wide, and UNL is on track to achieve its goal. He noted that the donors have identified excellent priorities for how their contributions should be used. He stated that the announcement of the Buffet Early Childhood Institute has the ability to make us the epicenter for research, education, and policy development in this area and the creation of the Institute is equivalent to a \$100 million dollar investment.

President Milliken reported that next Sunday the third Water for Food Conference will be held with over 400 participants from around the world. He pointed out that the Water for Food Institute was made possible through the generous donation of \$50 million from the Robert B. Daugherty Foundation.

President Milliken was asked if the Board of Regents will review UNL's peer group in light of UNL's transition into the Big Ten. President Milliken reported that there seems to be some interest in a review of

peers for all four campuses. He noted that there have been some significant changes at some of the campus peers since the 1990's when the current peer groups were set. He pointed out that five of the 10 current peer group members for UNL are Big Ten institutions. He suggested that if any changes were to be made to the peer list, UNL would probably see more Big Ten schools included in its peer group.

President Milliken reported that the Board of Regents will consider the university's budget at its next meeting and will be set in June. He noted that tuition will be set at this time. He stated that last year he told the Board and the Governor that he did not think that providing salary increases was the right thing to do given the economic conditions. He believes, however, that we cannot sustain a great university without being competitive and as a result he has announced at every opportunity that salary increases will be given for the year beginning July 1, 2011. However, the increases mean that there will need to be additional reallocation of funds. He noted that this is part of the environment these days for higher education because of declining state support. He pointed out that this means that we will need to continue to invest in our priorities.

President Milliken thanked the Senate for inviting him to speak and stated that he looks forward to speaking to them again next year.

5.0 Chancellor Perlman

Chancellor Perlman stated that it has been a privilege to interact with President Lindquist and the Executive Committee and he thinks this past year has been productive. He noted that he was able to have candid conversations with the Executive Committee. He stated that we should consider the faculty forums, like the ones he did with Pennsylvania State University President Spanier, as a major step forward for communication with the faculty and moving things forward, whether it's on a single topic or multiple topics. He stated that he is supportive of having more forums and if opportunities arise for him to respond to the faculty in general, he is happy to do this.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Academic Planning Committee now has his recommendations for the budget cuts. He stated that he believes dealing with the budget cuts now is the right choice. He reported that there will be some cash flow problems that will need to be dealt with and while he does not think any of these budget cuts will make the university better, we have to do what is needed to address the budget situation. He noted that the cuts try not to make any significant damage to the university.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he appreciates how the Board of Regents determines the peer groups for the campuses and the university. He noted that the peer group is used for salary peer reviews, and while this is an important process, it is only one process that the group is used for. He stated that he does not think we need to wait for the Board to revise the peer group list because he is already looking at the Big Ten universities for moving forward and getting inspirations of where we want to go as a campus. He stated that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Professor McCollough, Anthropology, noted that President Milliken stated that we need to put our money into our priorities. She asked who is determining these priorities. Chancellor Perlman stated that this depends. He has had the same set of priorities for some time because this is a land grant university. He stated that questions he asks is how we are going to get students here and he knows that this will be done by offering a great undergraduate education. He believes that the culture of the campus has changed and he thinks we care more about the experiences our undergraduates are having than ever before. He pointed out that the undergraduates are a very important aspect of what we do and that leading research will keep them here after they graduate.

Chancellor Perlman noted that the Board of Regents has a strategic compass on their website (<http://www.nebraska.edu/docs/StrategicFramework.pdf>). He pointed out that it is not an easy matter to set priorities at a university like this and we want to attract students by offering wide opportunities. He noted that we cannot just focus on one group and ignore the rest and the essential needs of the State of Nebraska need to be determined. Another question in identifying priorities is where we can achieve national and international efforts. He stated that there are some areas where this is occurring such as the Water for Food Institute. He stated that deans have been invited to do strategic planning and he hopes that the faculty has been engaged in this process. He pointed out that faculty members need to fight for a stronger voice if they feel it is necessary in their department and/or college. He noted that not everyone will agree with this and not everyone will have a voice in every priority that is made on campus. He stated that if faculty members think the priorities are out of whack or the process is not sufficiently open they need to inform members of the Faculty Senate and its Executive Committee so it can address these issues with him.

6.0 Approval of April 5, 2011 Minutes

Professor Carlson, Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was second by Professor Anaya. The motion was approved.

7.0 Unfinished Business

7.1 Motion to Create a Policy on Cancelling Senate Meetings

President LaCost reported that the Executive Committee has decided to postpone the motion for further work.

8.0 Presentation of the Louise Pound-George Howard Award

Chancellor Perlman stated that he was particularly pleased that this award was being presented today because he was unable to attend the Honors Convocations when the award was first presented. He then presented the award to Professor Barbara DiBernard for her extraordinary service to UNL. Professor DiBernard accepted the award and stated that she was honored and humbled by the recognition and expressed her sincere thanks to the Faculty Senate and those who supported her throughout her career at UNL. Attached is a copy of Professor DiBernard's speech.

9.0 Presentation of the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award

Chancellor Perlman recalled sitting in Professor Lake's freshman law class and stated what an honor the James A. Lake Academic Freedom award is. He then presented the award to Professor John Bender. Professor Bender wanted to extend a special thank you to his wife and son for their support of his work to support academic freedom. Attached is a copy of Professor Bender's speech.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 2:30 p.m. in the East Campus Union, Great Plains Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Patrick Shea, Secretary.