

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
City Campus Union, Auditorium
March 1, 2011
Presidents John Lindquist, Barbara LaCost, John Fech, Presiding

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Upcoming Faculty Forums

President Lindquist reported that members of the Executive Committee teamed up with some faculty members from the APC to plan two faculty forums to discuss the future of UNL and how moving into the Big Ten will impact the university. He announced that Chancellor Perlman will speak at the first forum and will provide his vision for what he thinks the campus needs to do as a university to fit into the Big Ten. He noted that the discussion will be open for questions.

President Lindquist reported that President Graham Spanier, President of Pennsylvania State University and former Chancellor of UNL, will speak at the second forum. He stated that President Spanier will discuss his experiences and his perspective of moving into the Big Ten. President Lindquist noted that Pennsylvania State was the last university to join the Big Ten. He stated that the discussion with President Spanier will be moderated by Professor Borstelmann from the History department. He reported that this forum will be held on Monday, April 18, 2:00 – 3:30 in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery with a reception immediately following.

2.2 Executive Committee Members Needed

President Lindquist reported that eight of the thirteen members of the Executive Committee will be leaving the committee either through term expiration or retirement. He stated that two of the positions that need to be filled are President-Elect and Secretary. He asked people to volunteer to serve on the Executive Committee or talk to someone they think would be a good candidate. He stated that he would like to have names of nominees by the end of the month. Anyone interested should contact Karen Griffin, Coordinator, of the Faculty Senate. He noted that when he served as a senator he wondered what happened on the Executive Committee and after serving he wishes that everyone had the experience of being on the Executive Committee. He pointed out that it is a valuable experience and although it is a lot of work a person gains a much greater appreciation of the university after being an Executive Committee member. He asked the Senators to please volunteer to serve.

2.3 Department Senate Elections

President Lindquist reported that there were still some departments that have not replaced their outgoing senator. He asked senators to encourage their colleagues to serve on the Senate.

2.4 Welcome and Reception for CIC Team

President Lindquist stated that the reason for the Senate meeting being moved to City Campus is to facilitate Senators to attend the welcoming reception for the visiting CIC team. He noted that the reception begins at 4:00 and is located across the hall from the Senate meeting.

2.5 Update on Deans Searches

President Lindquist noted that there are two deans' searches being conducted: Dean of the College of Engineering and Dean of Agricultural Research Division. He reported that the Engineering Dean search has been narrowed down to five candidates and on campus interviews are currently being held. He stated that the search committee for the Dean of the Agricultural Research Division is determining who will be the top candidates. He noted that the selected candidates will be interviewing on campus soon.

3.0 Approval of 12/7/10 and 2/1/11 Minutes

Professor Flowers, Psychology, moved for approval of the 12/7/10 minutes. Professor Stock, English, second the motion. Motion approved.

Professor Rinkevich, Classics and Religious Studies, moved for approval of the 2/1/11 minutes. Professor Flowers second the motion. Motion approved.

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Honorary Degrees Committee (Professor May)

Professor May stated that the Honorary Degrees Committee actively solicits the faculty for nominations. The Committee then reviews the nominations and forwards recommendations to the Faculty Senate for approval. She stated that the Honorary Degrees Committee also solicits nominations for the Pound Howard Award. She stated that the Committee hears presentations by the nominators for this award and then selects a recipient. The name is put forward to the Faculty Senate for approval.

Professor May stated that the Honorary Degrees Committee discussed the need to remind the campus of the significance of an honorary degree, particularly in terms of the nominee being a possible commencement speaker. She pointed out that commencement is the last opportunity for the university to capture the minds of the students and their parents. She stated that the Committee wants people to carefully consider possible nominees and to think about bringing national and international notoriety to UNL through the honorary degree recipients. She noted that Associate to the Chancellor Nunez has stated that he will assist the Committee in conveying this message to the faculty.

Professor May reported that the Honorary Degrees Committee suggests that the Faculty Senate host a reception for the Pound Howard Award winner similar to the reception for the Academic Freedom Award winner. She noted that this award recognizes the volume of service of an individual and is typically awarded to a faculty member. She reported that the Committee felt that it would be wonderful to highlight the recipient of the award in some small way at the end of a Senate meeting.

Secretary Shea asked if the Committee was asking for any change in procedures. Professor May stated that the Committee is asking for a reception for the Pound Howard Award winner which is currently not done. A more nebulous suggestion is to have Associate to the Chancellor Nunez organize a means for soliciting more outstanding candidates for honorary degrees. She asked that the Senate follow up on this. She suggested that the Senate considers the process and the visibility that the honorary degree recipients bring to the university, and to explore how to expand solicitation of nominees. President Lindquist asked for clarification on soliciting more outstanding honorary degrees candidates. Professor May noted that oftentimes honorary degree recipients are selected to be the commencement speaker, but many universities utilize honorary degrees as a way to bring in well respected people who can give recognition to the campus. She stated that she does not think this has been considered here in the past.

4.2 Graduate Council (Assistant Dean Bellows)

Assistant Dean Bellows reported that the Graduate Council serves as an advisory body to the Dean of Graduate Studies. She stated that the last program approved was a Ph.D. in Music in May of 2010. She reported that three new certificate programs were approved last year. She noted that there are two open seats on the Council and she wanted to thank Professor Zorn for his service on the Council.

Secretary Shea asked what other kinds of things the Graduate Council has dealt with in the past year besides approving graduate specializations and certificates. Assistant Dean Bellows reported that the Council has been in a period of transition this year with the changes in the Dean of Graduate Studies. She stated that the Council is reviewing recommendations for a parental leave policy for graduate students and will be looking to follow some of the Big Ten universities in how they handle the matter.

Assistant Dean Bellows stated that the Graduate Council is looking at increasing the TOEFL scores. She noted that most of the Big Ten schools have a minimum score of 79. She reported that the Graduate Chairs have been polled and there is almost unanimous support for increasing the minimum TOEFL score. She stated that the Graduate Council will be discussing the issue next week.

Secretary Shea suggested that the additional comments made by Assistant Dean Bellows should be included in the report so we have a record that they were reported to the Senate. Assistant Dean Bellows stated that she will update the report and send it to the Senate office.

Professor Starace, Physics & Astronomy, asked if the Graduate Council is involved with academic program reviews. Assistant Dean Bellows stated that she is not aware that the Council has any involvement with academic program reviews.

Professor Eskridge, Statistics, asked what the status is of the Dean of Graduate Studies position now that Dr. Weissinger has become the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Assistant Dean Bellows stated that

the Council will be getting an update from SVCAA Weissinger about a search to fill the position.

4.3 Parking Advisory Committee (Professor Lee)

Professor Lee stated that the Parking Advisory Committee is an advisory committee for Parking & Transit Services and makes recommendations to VC Jackson. He reported that the good news is that there will be very little change in the parking rates for faculty and staff. He noted that people who park in the garage will see a \$2 per month increase in parking fees over a three year period, but people parking in the perimeter lots will see a decrease.

Professor Lee reported that Parking Services wants to expand the 17th and R Street parking garages because of the plan to add additional housing in the area and this will require funding. He stated that the Committee explored the possibility of separating out the Transit Services and making it self-financed which would have paid for the addition to the parking garage. However, the students on the Committee responded that they would rather have higher parking permit fees for students rather than putting a higher transit fee on all students. He reported that the students also suggested that students wanting reserved parking permits pay the same amount as faculty and staff members do for reserved parking areas.

Professor Lee stated that something that could impact parking in the future is the recreation center expansion. He noted that the expansion will take out some parking but he does not know if money will be available to replace lost parking. If not, parking permit fees could be raised.

Professor Starace noted that when he worked in Ferguson Hall he could park in the 10th street parking garage for a daily fee, but this option is not available in the other garages. He pointed out that people with a garage parking permit cannot park in A lots. He stated that he is concerned with the limitation on garage parking permits. Professor Lee stated that he is not sure if this is true so he will check with Dan Carpenter, Director of Parking & Transit Services and get back to the Senate Executive Committee about it.

Professor Wysocki, Computer & Electronics Engineering, noted that he works up at UNO and has received a parking ticket here at UNL when he attended a Senate meeting. He stated that he would appreciate it if there could be a working arrangement between UNO and UNL. Professor Lee pointed out that UNO pays considerably less for parking but he will speak to Dan Carpenter about it.

Past President Fech asked for clarification on the actions of ASUN. He noted that currently student parking is lower than faculty/staff parking but the ASUN members are advocating for an increase in parking fees? Professor Lee stated that \$3.3 million is needed to build an extension onto the 17th & R Street parking garage. One option to get this funding is to make the Transit System a self-financing system and student fees would need to be increased to do this. He pointed out that currently only 25% of Transit Systems revenue comes from student fees and the other 75% comes from parking permits. He reported that the ASUN representatives on the Committee caucused the ASUN and it was determined that rather than increasing fees for all students, it would be better to raise the parking permit rates for students who want reserved parking. He stated that the Committee went with the option suggested by the students because the students supported it. Secretary Shea asked if this is the way it is going to be. Professor Lee reported that VC Jackson has signed off on the proposal already. President-Elect LaCost asked if student prices are raised to the level of faculty/staff permit fees will the students still be restricted to specific areas. Professor Lee stated that students will still be restricted in where they can park.

Professor Haribson, Chemistry, asked why the university is in the business of parking. He suggested that the university sell the garages to private companies and people can purchase permits through the companies. Professor Lee reported that the Parking Advisory Committee looked into a deal with the city garages but these parking spaces are more costly. He stated that an issue to consider is whether offering parking is important for recruiting both faculty and students. He stated that he does not know if parking could be handled privately and he does not think this has ever been considered except for getting some additional parking spaces through existing city parking.

Professor Zorn, Finance, pointed out that on most campuses parking is one of the most important concerns for people. He noted that we are a commuter campus and parking will be an important issue for faculty. He stated that he is not sure of the tax effect, but he believes parking fees deducted from an employee's salary are pre-tax dollars.

Professor Lee noted that perimeter parking is inexpensive and the rates have recently been made lower. He pointed out that city campus is land locked and there is not much room to build on for parking. He suggested

that the Senate might want to have Dan Carpenter come and speak about parking.

Professor Wysocki asked how many years it will take to cover the \$3 million needed to expand the 17th & R Street parking garage. Professor Lee stated that the university will be buying bonds to cover the costs but he is unsure how long it will take to pay them off.

Professor Potuto, Law, asked if the Parking Advisory Committee urges the administration to have the costs of construction for new buildings cover lost parking rather than putting the cost on the backs of the permit holders. Professor Lee reported that he and others have been screaming for this. He stated that when talking about this issue two self-financing units must be considered. He noted that Housing would have to increase room and board rates substantially to entirely cover the cost of replacing existing parking spaces when it builds the extension on to the Robert Knolls Residence Center. He stated that raising the cost of room and board rates this much will more than likely have an impact on recruiting. He stated that he thinks when academic buildings are constructed some money does go for replacing existing parking, but the existing parking is a surface space and garage spaces are more costly. The additional cost is put on the backs of the permit holders. He noted that UNL has very high parking rates compared to many other universities in the country.

President Lindquist asked if the additional information that Professor Lee provided today could be put into the Parking Advisory Committee report as this would be helpful.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Motion to Approve the Ballot for the Academic Planning Committee, Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee, and Academic Rights & Responsibilities Panel Elections

President Lindquist noted that the ballot was presented at last month's meeting and asked if there were any questions. Professor Chouinard, Mathematics, noted that Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee was listed twice on the ballot instead of listing Academic Rights & Responsibilities Panel. Coordinator Griffin stated that she corrected the ballot after Professor Chouinard contacted her about the error. The motion was approved.

5.2 Motion to Revise the Computational Services and Facilities Committee (CSFC)

President Lindquist reported that the motion to revise the committee came from the Computational Services and Facilities Committee and therefore does not need a second. He noted that the revisions change the syllabus of the committee substantially.

Professor Schubert, Electrical Engineering, asked if the purpose of the CSFC is changing with the revisions. He pointed out that he does not know how the CSFC's new responsibilities to develop, assess, and promote future information technology strategies for UNL can be accomplished. He stated that it seems as if the faculty members of the CSFC are being asked to take on the tasks of administrators. He noted that previously the CSFC assessed the needs of the faculty with computing.

Professor Brooks, Chair of CSFC, stated that the changes reflect the way the CSFC actually functions. He noted that the original language of the syllabus is about 25 years old and many things in it are no longer applicable. He stated that the changes in the responsibilities are intended to help support the Chief Information Officer. President Lindquist pointed out that the changes make sense to him. The motion was approved with one vote against it and one abstention.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Motion to Approve Revisions to the Procedures to Be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocation and Reductions

President Lindquist reported that last April the Senate approved some revisions to the Procedures and ASUN subsequently approved it but the APC has made additional revisions and corrections to the document. He stated that the motion to approve the revisions comes from the Executive Committee and given the importance of the document and the fact that we will likely be having more budget cuts, he was making the motion an emergency motion. He noted that the changes are not substantial and not enough to require a month to review. The motion to accept the changes was approved with one abstention.

6.2 Motion to Approve Revisions to the Academic Planning Committee Operating Procedures

President Lindquist stated that the motion to revise the APC's operating procedures is to accommodate the changes made to expand the APC which was approved by the Senate in December. He stated that because of the importance of needing to expand the APC the Executive Committee is bringing the motion forward as an emergency motion. The motion was approved.

6.3 Requirements for Travel Reimbursements

Professor Starace reported that he distributed the Executive Committee minutes of the meeting with VC Jackson to his department and he heard back from many of the faculty members who complained about the regulations, particularly the requirement that documentation must be provided for everything over \$5 and itemizing foreign receipts. He pointed out that this can take an entire afternoon for faculty members to do. He asked that the Executive Committee review the policies of the Big Ten universities to see if the travel reimbursement process can be made less difficult. President Lindquist pointed out that the regulation is a state law and the university cannot change it. He stated that the best way to get this regulation changed is for people to write to their state senator telling her/him how time consuming the requirement is for employees.

Secretary Shea noted that the Executive Committee had a lengthy discussion about the issue with VC Jackson. He stated that the Executive Committee suggested that the university should argue for changes in the requirements, but VC Jackson told the Committee that the university has had to pick its battles and the budget is a more urgent issue. He noted that VC Jackson was sensitive to the problem and would like to see some changes in the requirements. He stated that everyone at the university is in agreement and the change would be good but administration is choosing not to fight this particular battle at this time.

Professor Schubert noted that he has been a part of these conversations and he is glad that someone brought the issue up again as it affects every faculty member and the university as a whole. He pointed out that the university is impacted negatively if the faculty members do not travel to attend conferences and conduct research. He stated that he does not think this argument should be dropped and that the Senate should urge the administration to encourage them to fix the problem.

Professor Scheideler, Animal Science, asked when the law changed and why the faculty wasn't notified. President Lindquist stated that he believes an email message was sent out about the change but he does not know for sure when this occurred. Professor Scheideler stated that another aspect of the travel reimbursement problem is the self-auditing that is occurring in the department offices. She pointed out that this is starting to deter faculty work. President Lindquist reported that this was discussed with VC Jackson and the Executive Committee learned that the stringency of the travel reimbursements depends on the person who is in charge of the accounting for the department and the college. He stated that the Executive Committee members are hearing many different stories on how travel reimbursements are handled across the campus. He stated that VC Jackson was supportive of the idea of contacting Business & Finance if there is someone who is going to the extreme with requirements for travel reimbursement. He noted that this issue will be raised again with the administration.

Professor Stockton, West Central Research & Extension Center, pointed out that the university is under a lot of pressure from the legislature and there have been some abuses by faculty members in the past. He cited an incident of a faculty member traveling first class on a purchasing card. He stated that the pressure is coming from the legislature, but hopes that over time the requirements will be relaxed. Professor Kranz, Northeast Research & Extension Center, reported that this conversation has come up in his division. He pointed out that many of the travel dollars being used are not state dollars, they are grant money, yet faculty members still have to deal with all of these requirements.

Professor Starace asked if it would be possible to have Business & Finance compare our travel regulations with the Big Ten universities to see if they have such strict regulations. President Lindquist stated that he will ask VC Jackson if this is possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 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.