

**University Faculty Senate Minutes**  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, 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.**

**Meetings are open and any faculty member may attend. If you wish to attend, email a member of Senate leadership for the Zoom link.**

**Senators in attendance:**

Kenneth Elgersma (Chair), Alexa Clements (Vice-Chair), Melissa Dobosh (Faculty Chair, Past Senate Chair), Randall Harlow (Parliamentarian), Nick Bailey, Megan Balong, Erika Bass, Andy Berns, Cathi Bowler, Karen Breitbart, Rebecca Dickinson, Tim Dooley, Evette Edmister, Scott Giese, Melanie Hill, Rob Hitlan, Mark Hecimovich, Charles Holcombe, Wu-Ying Hsieh, Julie Kang, Syed Kirmani, Alexandra (Ana) Kogle, Reza Lahroodi, Matthew Makarios, Dayna Miller, Susan Moore, John Preston, Shelley Price-Williams, Mohammed Rawwas, Karla Steege Justice, Ali Tabei

(Fifty percent quorum met, with 29/31 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 [timestamp 0:00:00]

**Call for Press Identification:** *None present*

**Introduction of Guests**

**Regular Guests:** Mark Nook, José Herrera, Deirdre Heistad, Chris Martin, Lizbeth Montalvo (NISG President).

Other Guests: David Grant (Languages and Literature), Michael Hager (UNI Finance and Operations), Becky Hawbaker (Teaching), Pavel Lukashev (Physics, CHAS Senate), Randy Sharp (Construction Management), Francis Degnin, Robin Dada, Ben Forsythe, Sarah Vander Zanden, Kirk Manfredi, Amy Nielsen, Elina Dobrila, Kevin Droe, Heather Schroeder (Division of Student Life), Allyson Rafanello (Division of Student Life), Doug Mupasiri

**Courtesy Announcements**

Comments from President Nook [timestamp 00:01:06]

*President Nook highlighted items from the Board of Regents Meeting. The regents approved UNI's request to establish the Civic Education Center. President Nook acknowledged the efforts of Scott Peters and Jennifer McNabb efforts towards this achievement.*

*President Nook updated the Faculty Senate on UNI's state appropriations request to the Board of Regents and highlighted four requests. These are: 1) \$1 million every year as a special allocation to support the Civic Education Center, 2) \$2.5 million tuition differentiation, 3) \$1.63 million dollars to support grants for students in the UNI at Iowa Community Colleges Program (UNI@IACC). 4) \$3 million to offer resident tuition rates for students from states that border*

*Iowa. These four items were approved unanimously by the Board of Regents. President Nook encouraged interested parties to get additional details at the Board of Regents website, which has the recording and minutes from this meeting.*

*Senate Chair Elgersma asked if the other institutions have proposed a similar civic engagement center. Nook responded that UNI is the only institution to propose such a center.*

*Senate Chair Elgersma asked if an increase in 2,000 students would create an imbalance with the \$3 million request, resulting in a deficit. President Nook said no and provided details on how the plan would address this issue.*

*Senator Tabei asked for clarification if the in-state tuition plan includes the other state universities. President Nook responded that this plan is just for UNI and discussed differences in the non-resident student tuition models at the other state universities.*

Comments from Provost Herrera [timestamp 00:15:35]

*Provost Herrera thanked Dr. Scott Peters and Jennifer McNabb for their work to develop the Civic Education Center proposal. He discussed the fall enrollment number of 9283 students. He reported that 25 lines were allocated to the deans, including 14 tenure/ tenure-track lines. 11 term faculty lines will be renewed. Additional faculty lines may be allocated in November and January.*

Comments from Faculty Chair Dobosh [timestamp 00:20:40]

*Faculty Chair Dobosh reminded the Senate that the Fall Faculty Meeting will be on Monday, October 7 at 3:30 pm with a reception starting at 3:00.*

Comments from United Faculty President Martin [timestamp 00:21:12]

*United Faculty President Martin reminded the Senate that the United Faculty recertification election will take place from October 8-22. Approximately 500 faculty are in the bargaining unit and are eligible to vote. He also commented on the report sent out by United Faculty regarding UNI faculty salaries, which showed that UNI faculty salaries are lower than salaries at our peer institutions. Details of this report can be found at [ufaculty.uni.edu](http://ufaculty.uni.edu).*

Comments from NISG President Montalvo [timestamp 00:23:33]

*NISG President Montalvo updated the Senate on NISG's meeting with the Board of Regents, where plans to increase collaboration between the state universities was discussed. She reported that this was a positive interaction. In addition, NISG has helped facilitate the District 38 Iowa Senate debate that will take place on October 2 and has worked with Panther's Vote to encourage participation in the upcoming elections.*

Comments from Senate Chair Elgersma [timestamp 00:25:45]

*Senate Chair Elgersma discussed curriculum proposals and asked for input on how to improve the process of reviewing curriculum.*

**Minutes for Approval** [timestamp 00:27:08]

Motion to approve the August 26, 2024 minutes

MOTION: Berns/Price-Williams (22 yay/ 0 nay/ 1 abstention) *Minutes were approved without amendment.*

**Consultations:**

1611 [Consultation: Student Life Division updates](#) [timestamp 00:28:45]

*Dr. Heather Schroeder and Dr. Allyson Rafanello updated the Faculty Senate regarding changes in the Student Life Division. The presentation that contains hyperlinks has been shared with the Senate. Dr. Schroeder highlighted the 6 values and the strategic priorities established by Student Life and provided an overview of the division's structure and organization. Dr. Rafanello reviewed new locations of many Student Life offices to more central locations in Maucker Union. Faculty were encouraged to refer students to the Dean of Students Office whenever they are unsure of where to send students for support.*

*Faculty Senate Chair Elgersma commented that the slides would be attached to the Senate Petition on the website so they are available.*

1612 [Consultation: UNI Budget Update](#) [timestamp 00:44:31]

*Michael Hager updated the Senate on this year's plan for UNI's budget and requested that the presentation will be made available to senators. He clarified that the budget is the financial plan for the year and the financial statements submitted at the end of the year report on actual spending. Both the budget and financial statements are submitted to the Board of Regents. Hager identified state appropriations and tuition as the major revenue sources. He discussed the budget breakdown in three ways: IPEDS categories, divisions, and personnel vs. non-personnel costs. The budget breakdown for Academic Affairs was further discussed.*

1613 [Consultation: Academic Positioning](#) [timestamp 00:54:14]

*Interim Associate Provost Deirdre Heistad provided an update on 5 Academic Positioning initiatives: Data Analytics, Nursing, Applied Engineering and Construction Management, Alternative Credentialing, and Academic Advising.*

*Data Analytics: The search for a datahub director did not result in a hire, and the position was reconfigured. UNI is currently searching for an Assistant Professor in Data Science who will start in August 2025. The tenure home is not established, and will be determined based on the candidate's expertise.*

*Nursing: 25 students started in the nursing program this fall and 50 are expected to start in January.*

*Applied Engineering and Construction Management: 2 years ago, Provost Herrera began working with Applied Engineering and Technical Management (AETM) to address declining enrollment in the program. These conversations resulted in the decision by President Nook and Provost Herrera to split Applied Engineering and Construction Management into separate departments. In May 2024, an executive advisory committee was established to assist in "identifying the parameters of this administrative reorganization." Two focused working groups (Applied Engineering and Construction Management) were created in Fall 2024. The EAC*

*recommended moving Construction Management to the College of Business, which was reviewed by the Construction Management Focused Working Group. The Provost decided not to delay moving Construction Management to the Wilson College of Business. These changes were discussed by the Council of Provosts and submitted to the Board of Regents.*

*Alternative Credentialing: The 24-25 Academic Catalog now includes definitions for certificates. The Graduate Research & Online Education College will provide leadership to support Alternative Credentialing. Dr. Kyle Ruddick will serve as the inaugural Administrative Fellow for Micro-credentialing and Environmental Analysis.*

*Academic Advising: An advisor training program that reflects best practices and consistency in advising across campus has been established. This program is being piloted by select academic departments in CHAS and CSBS this year. After the pilot year, a timeline will be established so that all faculty and staff advisors can complete the training program. This effort will be supported by the new Undergraduate Advising Council to the Provost.*

Discussion of item 1613 [timestamp 1:06:20]

*Faculty Chair Elgersma commented that there has been a lot of feedback from faculty and some senators may want to discuss these issues in executive session.*

*Senator Tabei commented that he was part of the data science focused working group and search committee. He reported that there was no feedback on what had happened, only that the search failed. The assistant professorship was initially designed through an EPSCOR grant, and the assistant professor would be mentored until they can take a leadership role. However, the person who would mentor this new hire has not been clearly identified.*

Motion to move to executive session. [timestamp 01:09:21]

MOTION: Harlow/ Bass (27 yes/ 0 no) *motion passes*

Motion to extend Senate meeting by 15 minutes [timestamp 01:12:11]

MOTION: Berns/ Price-Williams (24 yes/ 0 nos/ 0 abstention) *motion passes*

*Senator Kirmani asked if the decision to split Construction Management and move it to the College of Business had an academic reason.*

*Provost Herrera shared slides to illustrate reasons for moving Construction Management to Wilson College of Business (WLSN). He identified declining enrollment in AETM as the reason for the proposed changes. He stated that quick action is necessary for these changes to be implemented by the fall 2025 semester. He stated that Construction Management majors need to be managers and therefore this program would be better positioned in the WLSN. He added that this would also differentiate UNI's Construction Management program and that the smaller size of WLSN would allow the dean to provide more support for the program. He also reported that several construction management programs are housed in business colleges at other institutions.*

*Faculty Chair Dobosh noted that the meeting may need to be extended.*

*Interim Associate Provost Heistad commented that the faculty senate approval of the curriculum packet will impact recruiting.*

Motion to table discussion with respect to academic positioning [01:27:08]

MOTION: Giese/ Balong (21 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions) *motion passes*

Motion to extend meeting by 10 minutes [01:28:13]

MOTION: Balong/ Moore (21 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions)

**Items Requiring Senate Votes:**

1614 [Curriculum Proposals: WLSN, Educator Essentials & Professional Experiences, and Interdisciplinary](#) [timestamp 01:29:00]

*Senate Chair Elgersma explained that there were two proposals in the packet that fell under the Graduate College Curriculum Committee (GCCC), an MA in Organizational Management and a Graduate Certificate in Career and Technical Education. The GCCC informed Elgersma that they have not yet reviewed the Graduate Certificate in Career and Technical Education. Chair Elgersma suggested that a motion be made to approve all curriculum proposals in this bundle except the Graduate Certificate in Career and Technical Education.*

Motion to approve all curriculum in this bundle except the Graduate Certificate in Career and Technical Education. [timestamp 01:29:53]

MOTION: Balong/ Makarios (23 yes/ 0 no/ 0 abstentions)

*Interim Associate Provost Heistad: This is the first of four packets that will come to the Senate from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC). She highlighted that the packet from the UCC was small in total number of proposals, they represent significant changes. She thanked Robin Dada, Benjamin Forsythe, and Sarah Vander Zanden for coming to the meeting to address questions.*

**New Business:** None stated

**Adjournment**

MOTION (Makarios/ Moore)

Submitted by Alexa Clements, Vice Chair, University Faculty Senate

**Zoom chat is appended:**

00:13:26	David M. Grant:	David M. Grant, Languages & Literatures
00:13:28	Michael Hager:	Michael Hager, UNI Finance and Operations
00:13:38	Becky Hawbaker:	Becky Hawbaker, Teaching
00:13:42	Pavel Lukashev:	Pavel Lukashev (Physics) from CHAS Senate
00:14:01	Randy Sharp:	Randy Sharp, Construction Management
00:14:16	Deirdre Heistad:	Deedee Heistad, Provost's Office

01:56:20

Tim Dooley: To stick my neck out and get it on the record, moves like this undermine the integrity of Academic Positioning as a whole. A crucial decision was made in the summer when a limited number of stakeholders were available. The impression is that faculty input on such a crucial matter is neither necessary nor desired. The slides are interesting, but it would have been nice to see these at the beginning of the process rather than after it was over. As an aside, CHFA was also concerned about numbers of departments in a college when a previous provost decided to merge us.