

University Faculty Senate Minutes

February 8, 2021

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.

Senators in attendance: John Burnight (Chair), Danielle Cowley (Vice-Chair), James Mattingly (Past-Chair), Amy Petersen (Faculty Chair), Imam Alam, Megan Balong, Francis Degnin, Melissa Dobosh, Kenneth Elgersma, ~~Gretchen Gould~~ (Jim Kelly), Kenneth Hall, Mark Hecimovich, Thomas Hesse, ~~Rob Hittler~~ (PDA), Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, William Koch, Matthew Makarios, Tony Gabriele, Andrew Stollenwerk, John Wiles (Fifty percent quorum met, with 18 of 20 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 [time stamp 0:00:00]

Following a precedent set in earlier meetings to maintain order in the Zoom virtual environment, all microphones were closed at the beginning of the meeting and participants opened them to speak only if recognized by the Chair. Senators used yes and no buttons to vote accordingly, and selected neither button to abstain from voting.

Call for Press Identification

None present

Introduction of Guests

Regular Guests: Mark Nook, Jim Wohlpart, John Vallentine, Patrick Pease, Becky Hawbaker, Elle Boeding (NISG President).

Other guests: Jennifer Waldron, Brenda Bass, Ana Kogl, Heather Asmus, Ryan McGeough, Suzanne Riehl.

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 00:00:28]

Announced upcoming listening sessions on the Provost's search, as an opportunity to have input regarding the search. This legislative session continues to be a busy one, last week regarding the free speech event that occurred on campus last Fall, and the upcoming budget. Some discussion also emerged with legislators regarding the legislature's perennial assault on academic tenure in the state of Iowa.

Comments from Provost Wohlpart [time stamp 00:05:42]

Clarified that the tenure bill may never make it out of committee. There is also a proposed bill against engagement with the 1619 Project in Iowa public schools, which has also not made it out of the house committee, and there is no similar bill in the Senate. The Provost offered updates and thanks regarding faculty work General Education, Academic Positioning, and the upcoming HLC visit.

Comments from Faculty Chair Petersen [time stamp 00:08:17]

Chair Petersen had no announcements today, deferring her time to the agenda.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp 00:08:29]

Provided a brief overview of the state of the current bargaining season with the Board of Regents. She highlighted the bargaining committee's emphasis on strengthening the contract with respect to protections for tenure and for vulnerable or marginalized faculty.

Comments from NISG President Boeding [time stamp 00:10:09]

Encouraged senators to encourage their students to run for NISG offices and to vote in the upcoming election. Also, invited them to have students contact her for further information.

Comments from Senate Chair Burnight [time stamp 00:11:20]

Chair Burnight ceded his announcement time to Past-Chair Mattingly, who announced an initiative for the remainder of the Spring term to examine the issue of senate representation, after the Faculty voted at the Fall Faculty Meeting to delegate that question to the Faculty Senate, and return to the senate by the end of the term with a specific proposal. He invited 4-6 senators to volunteer to serve on an ad-hoc committee to deliberate and decide on a specific proposal.

Minutes for Approval [time stamp 00:15:20]

January 25, 2021

MOTION: Holcombe/Hecomovich (14-0-4) *Minutes approved without amendment.*

Calendar Items: [time stamp 00:17:37]

1543 [Consultation: HLC visit \(Scott Peters and Kristin Moser\)](#)

1544 [Emeritus request for Lynn Dykstra \(Teaching\)](#)

1545 [Emeritus request for Aricia Beckman \(Special Education\)](#)

1546 [GERC update \(Brenda Bass and Ana Kogl\)](#)

MOTION: Holcombe/Hesse (14-0-4) *Items bundled on consent agenda and docketed.*

1547 [Consultation: Models for the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar](#) [time stamp 00:20:06]

MOTION: Hecomovich/Degnin (15-0-3) *Docketed for today's discussion, which required a two-thirds majority of senators present.*

Docket Items

1416 [Consultation: Academic Positioning Project Management Team](#) [time stamp 00:21:40]

Jennifer Waldron and Jim Kelly, of the Academic Positioning Project Management Team (PMT) provided a detailed update regarding the status of the initiative and the ongoing listening sessions. Approximately 195 faculty have already engaged in these sessions or are currently scheduled to do so. A survey will be conducted when the listening sessions are completed in order to gather input from faculty, which will guide next steps for the initiative. Questions ensued.

1417 [Bachelor of Science degree edits](#) [time stamp 00:41:43]

MOTION: Elgersma/Hecimovich (15-0-3) Motion to approve the edits passed.

Suzanne Riehl, of the University Curriculum Committee, and Patrick Pease described the intent and need for the proposed changes to the Curriculum Handbook, pertaining to requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree on campus. Impacts for faculty are: 1) Bachelor of Science programs will no longer require a cognate; and 2) future Bachelor of Science program proposals must identify which courses count toward the research requirement. Questions ensued.

1418 [Emeritus request for Phil Fass \(Art\)](#) [time stamp 00:47:26]

MOTION: Hall/Makarios (15-0-3) *The request for emeritus status by Phil Fass was approved.*

Chair Burnight highlighted comments from the letter of support provided with the emeritus request (letter of support appended to these minutes).

1419 [GERC update \(Brenda Bass and Ana Kogl\)](#) [time stamp 00:48:46]

Co-chairs Brenda Bass and Ana Kogl provided updates regarding the progress of the General Education committee, resulting from the latest faculty survey. These updates pertained primarily to refinements of definitions for some learning outcomes and structures for certificates to be offered within the General Education program. The committee expressed a hope to have a completed proposal ready for a senate vote before the end of the academic year. Discussion ensued. Senators were encouraged to send additional questions and/or concerns to Chair Burnight to aggregate and submit to the General Education committee, so they could provide answers at the next senate meeting, during which a vote is expected on the guidelines presented during this meeting.

1420 [Consultation: Models for the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar](#) [time stamp 01:12:55]

Patrick Pease led a discussion among senators and others regarding the calendar for Fall 2021. It is noteworthy that this is an extension of calendar experimentation that was begun this year, and that any proposals regarding the academic calendar must be approved by the Board of Regents. Three models were presented (see the spreadsheet at the above

link), in which the total number of instructional days, location of observed holidays, and start and end dates were varied. Senators identified favored models, such that models A (4 senators) and B (9 senators) received support, but no senators favored model C, which included the latest end to the academic year. Five (5) senators abstained from registering a preference. NOTE: A motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes was offered and passed during this discussion.

Previously tabled

1412 [Proposed change to Policy 3.06 regarding religious observance](#)

1413 [Proposed change to Policy 4.16 Extra Income Compensation](#)

1414 [Proposed change to Policy 0.0](#)

1415 [Potential changes to Senate representation model](#) (withdrawn)

These items were NOT taken from the table during this meeting, due to time constraints. Docket item 1415 was withdrawn by its originator.

Other New Business

There was no other new business discussed.

Adjournment at 5:10 PM [time stamp 01:40:30]

MOTION: Elgersma/Cowley

Submitted by James Mattingly, Immediate Past-Chair of the University Faculty Senate

NOTE: Please see appendix for text of an Emeritus support letter referenced in these minutes.

August 10, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Philip Fass. Professor Fass has been a valued member of the Department of Art for many years and is well deserving of Emeritus status.

Since coming to UNI in the early nineties, Prof. Fass has admirably served as a teacher and designer. He has taught a wide range of courses in Graphic Design primarily on typography and publication design, his areas of expertise. Phil introduced a wonderful course titled Book Structures, focusing on hand-made books of all kinds. Over the years, I have been delighted to see some amazingly creative and innovated projects produced by the students in this class. Phil also introduced a capstone course for our Graphic Design majors called Portfolio Preparation. In this course, senior-level students fine tune their portfolios in consultation with local design professionals in preparation for the first steps into their careers. Phil also organizes a Portfolio Night each spring to showcase the results of their efforts. This event is always a highlight of the end of the semester.

During Phil's tenure at UNI, the Graphic Design program has flourished in remarkable ways. Alumni have earned positions with top companies around the world and built substantial careers in the field of design. The Department of Art takes pride in their accomplishments and we applaud and thank Prof. Fass for his deep and passionate work in the classroom.

Sincerely,



Jeffery Byrd

Professor & Department Head