

University Faculty Senate Minutes

March 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, Kenneth Hall, Mark Hecimovich, Thomas Hesse, Carolyn Hildebrandt, Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, William Koch, Matthew Makarios, ~~Tony Gabriele~~, Andrew Stollenwerk, John Wiles (Fifty percent quorum met, with 19 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).

Called to Order at 3:30 PM [time stamp 0:00:00]

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: Paula Knudson, Cole Passick, Jian Li

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 0:00:39]

President Nook provided an update regarding the disposition of some potentially troubling bills in the Iowa legislature. It appears that the "Free Speech" bill is likely to pass. The current bill mirrors the recommendations of the Board of Regents. The UNI leadership team continues to monitor the situation, especially regarding the tenure bill, and to lobby for community support against this bill. The President also provide some updates regarding current arrangements on both F2F and virtual commencements. There were no questions or comments.

Comments from Provost Wohlpart [time stamp 0:07:45]

Provost Wohlpart explained that the F2F component of commencement will limit campus participation to maximize the ability of students' families and guests to attend, at the request of students. Faculty will be asked to provide congratulatory comments for the virtual commencement. Then Provost Wohlpart yielded the rest of his time to Associate Provost Patrick Pease, who presented refined alternatives for next year's academic calendar. The preferred alternative, as revealed in robust discussion, added a week to the previously approved academic calendar, beginning on August 23 and ending May 13 (instead of May 6). This alternative includes an 18-day Winter term (instead of 15 days) and 4 reading days (2 each semester in the Fall and Spring) for students to prepare for final exams, scheduled on the Thursday and Friday prior to finals week.

Comments from Faculty Chair Petersen [time stamp 0:20:50]

Chair Petersen reminded that we are currently engaged in Spring faculty elections and issued a call for volunteers to serve on the Faculty Handbook Committee next year. She invited interested faculty members to contact herself, John Burnight, or Becky Hawbaker to nominate themselves for the Faculty Handbook Committee.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp 0:22:30]

President Hawbaker announced that the current contract with the Board of Regents is now officially ratified after the recent negotiations with the Board and the vote by the United Faculty membership. She reminded faculty to respond to the survey distributed this week regarding merit pay, then also reminded that United

Faculty's elections are also currently underway.

Comments from NISG President Boeding [time stamp 0:24:22]

NISG elections are underway and there is currently a new President and Vice-President elect. There are still many senate seats and leadership positions open for NISG. Also, the Chief Justice is graduating this year, so NISG needs a new Chief Justice. She advocated that faculty encourage students to volunteer for these leadership opportunities (some of which are paid).

Comments from Senate Chair Burnight [time stamp 0:20:08]

Chair Burnight welcomed Carolyn Hildebrandt to the senate, who succeeds Rob Hitlan, who is on PDA this semester.

Minutes for Approval [time stamp 0:28:00]

February 22, 2021

MOTION: Elgersma/Cowley (16-0-2) *Minutes were approved without amendment.*

Calendar Items

1549 [Consultation: Student Affairs \(Paula Knudson\)](#) [time stamp 0:29:14]

MOTION: Holcombe/Kirmani (17-0-1) *Docketed at the head of the order for handling today.*

1550 [Emeritus request for Arthur Cox \(Finance\)](#) [time stamp 0:30:37]

MOTION: Kirmani/Mattingly (17-0-1) *Docketed in regular order.*

Docket Items

1426 [Consultation: Student Affairs \(Paula Knudson\)](#) [time stamp 0:31:18]

Vice-President of Student Affairs Paula Knudson presented a committee's recommendations regarding next year's budget for the allocation of next year's student fees. There were a number of questions and comments, especially regarding the growing allocation of these funds to support intercollegiate athletics at the expense of other items, historically.

1425 [Proposed changes to Student Academic Ethics Policy \(Policy 3.01\)](#) [time stamp 0:40:30]

MOTION: Degrin/Cowley (18-0-0) *The proposed policy change was approved.*

Previously Tabled

1413 [Proposed change to Policy 4.16 Extra Income Compensation](#) [time stamp 1:00:14]

MOTION: Elgersma/Mattingly (16-0-2) *The proposed policy change was approved.*

1414 [Proposed change to Policy 0.0](#) [time stamp 1:10:53]

MOTION: Degrin/Hesse (17-0-1) *The proposed policy change was approved.*

Other New Business [time stamp 1:15:17]

Senator Bill Koch provided a tribute regarding the personal influence of 3 former UNI faculty members who passed away during 2020. The text of his tribute is appended to these minutes.

Adjournment at 4:49:35 PM [time stamp 1:19:35]

MOTION: Koch/Elgersma

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

Remembering faculty from my undergraduate days, 1970 to 1975

By Bill Koch

March 8, 2021

Last year, three professors from my undergraduate days here at UNI passed away: Ed Amend and Fred Halberg in the Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, as it was called back then, and Ron Roberts of Sociology. So I would like to say something about each one, and to have this tribute included in the Faculty Senate minutes.

I took Humanities 2 with Ed Amend in the Spring of 1971, in the big auditorium in Gilchrist Hall, which burned down in 1975. The class was one of those large sections, and Ed let students have raucous discussions over America's presence in Vietnam. During one active discussion, a student asked, so thoughtfully, why war has to be the reality and not peace the reality. On a different topic, another student said that he expected to see, in the near future, a lot of development in communications technology. He was very certain of it.

I took a philosophy course with Fred Hallberg and we were assigned *Autobiography of a Yogi*, a book I still see ads for in scholarly magazines. This autobiography is filled with lots of stories of limbs being amputate and then miraculously restored. Fred put us Christians on the spot, asking why we would not accept as real these stories of miracles but accept the stories of miracles in the Bible. He posed many challenging questions, but in a friendly way, questions that only were meant to help us be consistent in our thinking.

I didn't take a class with Ron Roberts but he was at many of the student 'teach ins' that would occur in the Hemisphere Lounge in the union. He was just starting his career at UNI and

had just published a book on communes that was getting a lot of buzz. So he was very energetic and friendly.

Now they are gone, and it has made me wonder about the impression I've made on my students. But mostly I'm just thankful for having such good teachers. And I like to think that Ron, Fred and Ed are now enjoying a well-deserved Sabbatical, on the sprawling campus of liberal education up there in heaven, where the campus green is – I also like to think – the Garden of Eden.