

University Faculty Senate Minutes
April 12, 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 20 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]

Call for Press Identification

None present

Introduction of Guests

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

Other guests: Brenda Bass & Ana Kogl (Co-Chairs, GenEd Committee); Darcie Davis-Gage (Graduate Faculty Chair).

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 0:00:50]

President Nook provided a legislative update regarding 2 bills pertinent to the University, especially related to mandatory training on divisive topics and on freedom of speech. He also provided an update on budget bills, noting that initial proposals included the same funding level from last year, including last year's reductions.

Comments from Provost Wohlpart [time stamp 0:05:05]

Provost Wohlpart provided clarification regarding UNI's portion of last year's budget reduction and also provided an early preview of indications for next year's enrollment. The upshot is that early indications suggest that the university's enrollment is likely to remain approximately flat or slightly higher than last year. These are early indications, however, so any projections carry significant risk.

Comments from Faculty Chair Petersen [time stamp 0:06:59]

Chair Petersen described that this week's vaccine clinic would be the only one on campus this semester, so interested parties need to respond now. Students will receive the J&J single-dose vaccine, whereas Faculty and Staff will receive the Pfizer vaccine, and the second dose is expected to be administered on May 2. Also remember that students may suffer side effects from the vaccine, so please be forewarned that it may have an effect on their engagement.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp 0:09:25]

President Hawbaker registered concern with respect to some elements of the new General Education program. Some UF members have voiced concern that fears regarding redistribution of courses and faculty among departments may result in conflict among departments over enrollment, and that others have voiced concern regarding certificates composed of courses for which there is a requirement that there are no prerequisites. She hoped to pass along those concerns to those present.

Comments from NISG President Boeding [time stamp 0:11:23]

President Boeding addressed the Faculty Senate for the last time as a student and expressed her appreciation for the Faculty Senate's inclusivity. She further shared her confidence in the incoming NISG administration.

Comments from Senate Chair Burnight [time stamp 0:18:00]

Chair Burnight reminded Senators that we will elect a Vice-Chair of the Senate during our last Faculty Senate meeting and issued a call for interested Senators to contact him or Vice-Chair Cowley regarding nominations, including self-nominations.

Minutes for Approval [time stamp 0:18:31]

March 22, 2021

MOTION: Cowley/Mattingly (17-0-2) *Senator Hesse noted an error in reporting Department Head vote statistics in Associate Provost for Faculty John Vallentine's announcement. Minutes were corrected and approved as amended.*

Calendar Items [timestamp 0:20:03]

All of the items of the calendar were included in a consent agenda to move them to the docket for the next meeting, which is the last meeting of the year. Brief descriptions were provided for the last two calendar items, which were late additions to the agenda.

MOTION: Dobosh/Kirmani (18-0-1) *All items were approved for the docket.*

1555 [Emeritus request for David Hakes](#)

1556 [Senate DEI Committee update](#)

1557 [Free speech syllabus statement](#)

1558 [Ad Hoc Governance Committee recommendations](#)

1559 [Policy 10.08 change proposal](#)

1560 [Emeritus request for Kenneth Basom \(Political Science\)](#)

1561 [Emeritus request for Laura Praglin \(Social Work\)](#)

1562 [New Policy on the Faculty Handbook](#)

1563 [Emeritus request for Michael Prah](#)

Docket Items

1428 [Emeritus request for Deborah Tidwell \(Curriculum & Instruction\)](#) [timestamp 0:24:36]

MOTION: Cowley/Balong (16-0-3) *Chair Burnight provided details from their support letter, then the Emeritus request was approved.*

1430 [Emeritus request for Lea Shaddox \(Kinesiology\)](#) [timestamp 0:27:24]

MOTION: Elgersma/Kirmani (18-0-1) *Chair Burnight provided details from their support letter, then the Emeritus request was approved.*

1431 [GERC: vote on proposed name and program philosophy](#) [timestamp 0:29:28]

MOTION: Holcombe/Elgersma (17-0-2) *Co-Chairs Ana Kogl and Brenda Bass provided an update regarding provisions for course and certificate proposals, as well as summer institutes to help faculty prepare proposals for courses and certificates. Then the Co-Chairs provided their comments regarding the proposed name and program philosophy. The senate split the program name and philosophy into separate proposals, moved by Senators Kirmani & Balong (by a vote of 17-0-2) to approve the program philosophy today and to provide the committee additional time to consult with University marketing and enrollment management regarding recruitment considerations pertaining to the program name.*

1429 [Regents Award for Faculty Excellence](#) [timestamp 1:13:09]

Senators Degrin & Kirmani moved to place this item at the end of the day's agenda, so it could be handled in executive session with minimal disruption to our guests, which passed with a vote of 17-0-2. Senators Holcombe & Degrin moved to enter executive session, which passed by a vote of 15-0-4. As is the case annually, in executive session the Faculty Chair described the committee's nomination process and introduced the nominee(s) to receive this year's Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. After the senate rose from executive session, the senate voted to accept the committee's recommendations regarding award nominees, moved by Senators Degrin & Alam, by a vote of 16-0-3. The name(s) of the award recipient(s) will be announced at a later date during the current academic year.

Other New Business

There was no other new business discussed.

Adjournment at 5:00 PM [time stamp 1:14:45]

MOTION: Elgersma/Gould *The Faculty Senate was adjourned.*

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

Please note that support letters for Emeritus requests handled during this meeting are appended to these minutes.

September 8, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great pleasure and honor to write this letter in support of Dr. Deborah Tidwell's application for emeritus status. The qualification for emeritus status at UNI is a minimum of twenty years of service in higher education, with at least ten of those years in service to UNI. Dr. Tidwell has met and surpassed those benchmarks. She began her work as an Assistant Professor at UNI in 1990, thirty years ago, and her career is marked by excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. In the space to follow, I will share some highlights of her work, as well as her impact on my own career at UNI.

Dr. Tidwell received the Outstanding Teaching Award by the College of Education in 2010, marking, at that time, 20 years of exemplary teaching in the Literacy Education division of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Thousands of UNI students, including literacy minors and education majors, have benefitted from her instruction in literacy assessment and instruction. At the graduate level, Dr. Tidwell has been an active contributor to the College of Education's graduate programs, teaching courses specific to her content area (literacy) as well as research and seminar courses in the doctoral program. Her knowledge, deeply informed and current, is conveyed to her students with great passion and enthusiasm.

With regard to scholarship, Dr. Tidwell has been highly productive throughout her career. She has co-edited four books, contributed 15 book chapters, and had seven refereed articles published. In addition, she has co-edited multiple proceedings of the International Conference on the Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices, and contributed to state and local publications. She has more than 80 conference presentations at respected professional meetings, including those held by the American Education Research Association, the National Reading Conference, the International Reading Association, and the International Conference on the Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices. Her research is respected globally. Dr. Tidwell has received local, state, federal, and foundation monies totaling nearly 2 million dollars. Some of these grants have focused on research, while others have provided resources to students in the form of literacy materials. In addition to the funding she has obtained in support of her work, Dr. Tidwell was also a collaborator in the visioning and procurement of \$11,000,000 from the Jacobsen Foundation to support the creation of the Jacobsen Comprehensive Literacy Center.

Dr. Tidwell's commitment to the profession and to UNI has been evidenced by the service she has provided. She has mentored undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty. Regardless of the individual's status, Dr. Tidwell is tireless in her willingness to encourage and support the work of others. In addition to her work with individuals, Dr. Tidwell has been active in committee work at the department, college, and university level. Additionally, she has provided leadership, directing the reading clinic, coordinating the Literacy

Education division of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and coordinating the Ed.D. program. Most recently, she served as Interim Department Head of Curriculum and Instruction, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Education, and Interim Director of the Jacobsen Comprehensive Literacy Center. In all these efforts, Dr. Tidwell has worked collaboratively with other faculty and staff to move important work and initiatives forward, leaving things better than she found them.

It's clear from these few highlights that I have shared that Dr. Tidwell has been a tremendous asset to the University of Northern Iowa during her 30 years here. I'd like to close by telling you how much I, personally, have benefitted from having her as a colleague. I invited Deb to work with me on two state contracts and a federal grant I co-led with colleagues from the College of Education and College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences. With all the other work she was doing, she found time to conduct literacy assessments of students with significant disabilities, provide professional development in literacy and self-study to educators across the state, and collect research data regarding an early literacy practice. Having a highly knowledgeable and skilled colleague to rely on made the work possible, exciting, and fun. As we've spent time analyzing research data in recent years, preparing multiple manuscripts and planning a book, I see someone as curious and thoughtful as she likely was when she came to UNI at the start of her higher education career. Deb has inspired me to continue my own work and improve my own teaching. Her mentoring of me has likely been unintentional, but it has been quite profound.

Dr. Tidwell's retirement will be a loss to UNI. She has given greatly. Emeritus status suggests someone is interested in continuing their scholarship and service, despite retirement. We would all benefit from her continued work, so I urge those reviewing her application for Emeritus status to approve it without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Staples', written in a cursive style.

Amy Staples, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Special Education

March 17, 2021

Dear John Burnight,

I am writing this letter in strong support of the Emeritus Request application submitted by Dr. Lea Ann Shaddox. Dr. Shaddox has been with University of Northern Iowa (UNI) for 36 years. She started at UNI as a head women's track and cross-country coach. After 12 years coaching, she moved to the Department of Kinesiology. She has been instructing for the Department of Kinesiology for 24 years. Dr. Shaddox is well-liked by students and has had exceptional student evaluations across the years. Students often commented on how caring, engaging, friendly, and knowledgeable Dr. Shaddox is.

Besides being a great teacher, Dr. Shaddox was also an exceptional coordinator to the Dimensions of Wellbeing (DWB) liberal arts core program. She led curricular changes and DWB courses scheduling. She also masterfully trained all the graduate students leading DWB lab courses. Because of the rotation of students completing their graduate programs, Dr. Shaddox has trained new graduate students to teach DWB courses virtually every year for the past 15+ years.

Dr. Shaddox has provided numerous contributions to the Department of Kinesiology, COE, and the University of Northern Iowa. Perhaps the most valuable contribution was her ability and willingness to help the department during difficult times. For example, Dr. Shaddox has picked-up last minute new preparations in the department due to last minute faculty shortage in a number of occasions.

Dr. Shaddox will be greatly missed by the students and faculty in the Department of Kinesiology. Her constant willingness to help students is difficult to replicate. Dr. Shaddox is a great ambassador for kinesiology related professions and the University of Northern Iowa.

Sincerely,



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