

## **University Faculty Senate Minutes**

September 14, 2020

Online Zoom meeting

**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, Rob Hitlan, Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, William Koch, Matthew Makarios, Nicole Skaar, Andrew Stollenwerk, (Fifty percent quorum met, with 19 of 20 voting senators present; the Faculty Chair does not vote and the Senate Chair votes only in case of a tie).

***Please note that Emeritus letters for petitions discussed during this meeting are appended to these minutes.***

**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 to press neither yes nor no, if they wish 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 (United Faculty President), Elle Boeding (NISG President).

Other guests: Brenda Bass, Ana Kogl, Jennifer McNabb

### **Courtesy Announcements**

Comments from President Nook [time stamp [0:00:54](#) ]

*President Nook discussed local efforts to enact mask mandates in the local community, especially at the city and county levels. He announces an effort to secure a mask mandate in Black Hawk County. Senators' questions were answered, especially pertaining to COVID-related prevention efforts on campus, especially related to testing.*

Comments from Provost Wohlpart [time stamp [0:09:10](#)]

*Recognizes our significant response to COVID-related challenges, and asks for vigilance and participation in our efforts to secure a mask mandate for Black Hawk County. Working with faculty leaders on a means to collect regular feedback from faculty (hopefully, every 2 weeks) regarding how faculty are doing amid challenges we face.*

Comments from Faculty Chair Petersen [time stamp [0:14:10](#)]

*Chair Petersen is impressed and thankful for faculty flexibility and resilience in the face of our new realities. She warned faculty to remain vigilant to maintain our successful containment of*

COVID cases on campus, and announced that faculty leaders would work this week with our Government Affairs Officer and Black Hawk County to secure a county-wide mask mandate to support those efforts. Finally, Chair Petersen announced that the Fall Faculty Meeting is on the calendar for October 19, NOT October 5 as was previously announced.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp [0:17:35](#)]  
*Still thanking faculty (and students) for remaining vigilant about our collective health as a community. UF will continue to be vigilant to protect your health and safety. October 13 through 27 will be the election of United Faculty as your bargaining representative. She reminded us that a non-vote is a vote against UF's recertification, and asked that we all participate in voting during the recertification election.*

Comments from NISG President Elle Boeding [time stamp [0:20:35](#)]  
*President Boeding again thanked faculty for everything we are doing to engage students this semester. She is hearing that instructors are doing everything they can to ensure students' safety in the classroom, and are often also compassionate to care for students' mental health. She noted, however, that there are exceptional cases in which instructors do not follow or enforce safety protocols, explaining that NISG is working on a communication to students, instructing them how to report these safety violations.*

Comments from Senate Chair Burnight  
*No comments from Chair Burnight today.*

**Minutes for Approval** [time stamp [0:25:39](#)]

August 24, 2020 Motion: Koch/Elgersma (Vote: 16-0-3) *Minutes approved without revisions.*

**Calendar Items to be Docketed for the September 28 Meeting:**

**1519** [UCC and GCCC Program Changes](#) [time stamp [0:27:00](#)]

Motion: Holcombe/Makarios (Vote: 18-0-1) *Proposal docketed for the next meeting.*

**Docket Items**

**1388** [Dennis Clayson emeritus request \(Marketing\)](#) [time stamp [0:28:17](#)]

Motion: Kirmani/Stollenwerk (Vote: 17-0-2) *Emeritus request approved; Syed Kirmani provided comments.*

**1389** [Mary Stichter emeritus request \(Teaching\)](#) [time stamp [0:29:38](#)]

Motion: Skaar/Balong (Vote: 16-0-2) *Emeritus request approved; Megan Balong provided comments.*

**1390** [Kenneth McCormick emeritus request \(Economics\)](#) [time stamp [0:31:20](#)]

Motion: Alam/Mattingly (Vote: 16-0-2) *Emeritus request approved; John Burnight provided comments, reading from his letter of support.*

**1391** [Charles Adelman emeritus request \(Art\)](#) [time stamp [0:32:52](#)]

Motion: Hall/Elgersma (Vote: 18-0-1) *Emeritus request approved; Kenneth Hall provided comments.*

**1392** [Budget consultation with Vice President Michael Hager](#) [time stamp [0:34:42](#)]

*Consultation completed with Executive Vice-President Hager. Details from his presentation can be found at the link above, attached to the senate petition.*

**1393** [Petition to discharge the Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Summer Advisory Council](#) [time stamp [0:47:49](#)]

Motion: Cowley/Mattingly (Vote: 18-0-1) *Faculty Senate Summer Advisory Council was discharged.*

**1394** [Proposed constitutional changes related to term/temporary faculty voting eligibility](#) [time stamp [0:49:41](#)]

Motion: Hecimovich/Hesse (Vote: 16-0-3) *This item was tabled for the next meeting.*

**1395** [Charge for the next phase of the General Education Re-envisioning Committee](#) [time stamp [0:51:16](#)]

Motion: Degrin/Kirmani (Vote: 17-0-2) *The draft charge for the General Education committee and its membership were approved. A significant discussion ensued regarding the intended functions of the new General Education committee. Especially, much discussion highlighted the opportunity to include significant elements of diversity and justice in the new General Education curriculum. Co-chairs Brenda Bass and Ana Kogl answered questions from senators and other meeting participants.*

#### **Other New Business**

*No additional new business*

**Adjournment at 4:38 PM** [time stamp [1:08:30](#)]

Motion for adjournment: Kirmani/Elgersma

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



May 11, 2020

Dear Faculty Senate,

I have the honor of recommending Dennis Clayson, a professor of UNI since 1982 (38 years) for emeritus status upon his retirement in 2020. Dennis is well known for the rigor he brought into the classroom, thus maintaining the reputation of UNI as a university with high standards required of its students.

In addition to his classroom work, Dennis was a very productive scholar while at UNI. He has published 38 journal articles, 3 books (with 1 book forthcoming), 1 book chapter, and presented his research findings in more than 60 peer reviewed conference proceedings. Much of his work explored student assessment of teaching, which fits along nicely with the mission of the University of Northern Iowa.

Dennis has been a great team member of the marketing department, and his presence and willingness to help will be missed. He has more than earned the right to be considered an emeritus professor of marketing at the University of Northern Iowa.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [matthew.bunker@uni.edu](mailto:matthew.bunker@uni.edu) or call me at 319-273-6947.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bunker, Ph.D.  
Professor and Previous Head of the Marketing Department.



August 3, 2020  
Faculty Senate  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614

Re: Mary Stichter  
Emeritus Status

Dear Dr. John Burnight:

This recommendation letter summarizes Ms. Mary Stichter's professional contributions to the University of Northern Iowa and informs a recommendation for emeritus status. Mary Stichter began her career at the former Price Laboratory School of the University of Northern Iowa as an elementary teacher in 1991. While teaching for 21 years at Price Lab she was actively involved in curriculum development for primary students and mentoring UNI preservice teachers.

In 2012 she joined the UNI faculty as a tenured instructor in the Office of Student Field Experience. During her time on faculty she developed partnerships with local educators across the Cedar Valley and supervised UNI students in their Level 1 and Level 2 field experiences. Her interactions with UNI students are notable for being supportive, caring and respectful.

UNI benefitted from Mary's commitment to service in several ways. For many years she provided leadership for the Elementary Literacy Conference, bringing well known authors to campus for students to work with and for local teachers to engage in professional development. For the last three years she represented the Department of Teaching on the College of Education Senate. She was instrumental in the design and facilitation of Teaching Connections, a two-day workshop on working with English Language Learners in the classroom, attended by UNI faculty, preservice teachers and local educators.

The Department of Teaching and the College of Education have benefitted from the contributions of Mary Stichter in the educator preparation program. I support her request for the honor of emeritus status.

Respectfully,

Mary Donegan-Ritter, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Former Interim Department Head, Department of Teaching  
Coordinator, Early Childhood Education Program

8/2/2020

Letter in support of Emeritus status for Ken McCormick.

Ken joined the Department of Economics at UNI in 1982. Ken was and will continue to be one of the most respected faculty members in the Economics Department and the College of Business Administration at UNI.

I met Ken when I joined the Economics Department as the Head of the Department in 2017. Ken's reputation as an amazing teacher and scholar preceded him. He was also known to be a straight talker and unafraid to express his opinions. Given that I would be someone coming in from the outside as a department head, I was a little intimidated at the prospect of having someone like Ken as a faculty member in my department. I was nervous about his acceptance of me. However, it so happened that Ken was one of the members of the search committee when I was hired. He went out of his way to make me feel welcome and bring me up-to-speed with things I needed to know to be able to do my job better. He never made me feel like I was struggling to hop onboard a ship, instead he extended a helping hand and pulled me onboard. He was also one of those people who told me that he would be willing to teach any classes that I needed to offer. In other words, Ken was the kind of faculty member every department head wishes for. I will always remain grateful for his support and friendship.

Ken exemplified the teacher-scholar model. He received several teaching awards over the years including the prestigious Regents Award for Faculty Excellence in 1993. As a teacher, Ken was one of the most highly-regarded teachers in the College of Business Administration. In 2001, Ken's teaching was recognized with the Class of 1943 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. Ken taught 12 different courses in his 37 years at UNI. His work on ancillaries for the introductory textbooks authored by N. Gregory Mankiw has influenced millions of students across the globe, as the Mankiw textbook is the top-selling introductory textbook in economics, with total sales estimated at above 2 million.

Ken received three National Endowment for the Humanities grants for "The Works of Adam Smith" as a part of summer seminars for schoolteachers. Ken's influence on UNI economics majors will continue after his retirement in the creation of "Major Themes in Economics," a collection of the top student research papers written in his Directed Research course each year. Ken valued clear and concise writing and shared this passion with his students.

It is hard to say whether the countless hours Ken spent in preparation to teach that made him such a good teacher or whether the time and effort he put into preparing for his classes were an outcome of him being such a fabulous teacher. Ken was a fanatic about preparation and organization. He would finish writing his lecture notes for the entire semester prior to the first day of class, for all his classes, new or old. He would do this to ensure that he would never have to throw together a lecture at the last minute and guarantee that he would give each presentation the careful preparation that he believed it deserved.

Ken co-authored research papers with most members of the Department of Economics over the years. This is a testament to his collegiality, clear writing, and clear thinking. Ken authored four book chapters,

almost 30 peer-reviewed journal articles, and many other scholarly writings. His book *Veblen in Plain English: A Complete Introduction to Thorstein Veblen's Economics* received excellent reviews and led to an appearance on the Bob Edwards Show (XM Satellite Radio, July 30, 2007). The book was translated into Korean and published there in 2020 by Chungram Publishing Company.

Over the years Ken provided numerous hours of dedicated service to the Economics department, the College of Business Administration, and University of Northern Iowa. In recent years he made a major contribution by serving on the General Education Revision Committee.

Here are a few words about Ken from a colleague.

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From Lisa Jepsen:

I will be forever grateful to my former department head, Fred Abraham, who assigned Ken McCormick to be my mentor. Were it not for this formal role, I would have been intimidated to reach out to Ken. Ken was a great teacher and a deep thinker with a passion for Thorstein Veblen and the band Sabaton. I asked for his feedback on a chapter of my dissertation. Ken was gracious with his time and direct with his suggestions -- he took scissors and tape to my paper. I am not kidding. I still have the hard copy. His substantive edits were instrumental in my publishing that paper in a highly-respected journal, and that paper has more citations than anything else I've published.

Ken quickly became a close friend. He was and still is my go-to resource for teaching tips, research questions, and general help with life. I will miss seeing him in the hallways, as will my colleagues and our students. I wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

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I would like to end by saying that Ken loved his job and he was excellent at it. In Ken's own words, "Being a tenured professor at UNI is better than winning the state lottery." But I think we were the lucky ones in getting someone like Ken to work with us and touch all our lives in very special ways.

The department and students will certainly feel Ken's absence. I will miss seeing Ken, his insight, his quirky and dry humor, and his loud laughter in the hallways.

Ken McCormick has my highest support for his well-earned Emeritus status.

Thanks and regards,



Shar Self  
Professor and Head of the Department of Economics  
Head of the Department of Finance

June 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Charles Adelman. Dr. Adelman 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 1983, Dr. Adelman has admirably served as a teacher and scholar. He has taught a wide range of courses in art history mainly focusing on the art of the ancient world. His knowledge, humor and genuine care for students are frequently mentioned in the student assessments for his classes. Dr. Adelman holds a unique distinction within our Department. He has been the sole instructor of one of our first-year major courses, Survey of Art History I, which is required for all Art and Graphic Design majors. In that role, Dr. Adelman has taught nearly every student who has graduated from the Department of Art in the past 37 years!

As the longtime Chair of the Department's Exhibitions & Permanent Collection Committee, Dr. Adelman has worked tirelessly to promote and support the work of the UNI Gallery of Art. In 2010, he published a book of essays on a selection of objects from the Collection. In recent years, he played a key role in the formation of the Friends of the Gallery and Permanent Collection group that has been enormously successful in raising funds to support Gallery projects and programming.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support granting Emeritus status to Dr. Charles Adelman. He has been an asset to UNI and he will be greatly missed!

Sincerely,



Jeffery Byrd

Professor & Department Head