

University Faculty Senate Minutes
February 22, 2020 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, ~~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]

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: Scott Peters, Kristin Moser, Brenda Bass, Ana Kogl, Heather Asmus, Ryan McGeough, Cara Burnidge, Doug Mupasiri, Yasemin Sari, Jennifer McNabb, Laura Roman Jiminez, Ethan Vance, Leila Masinovic, Alisanne Struck.

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 0:00:10]

President Nook discussed the Provost search and legislative bills that the leadership is monitoring and on which they are responding. Discussion ensued.

Comments from Provost Wohlpart [time stamp 0:07:48]

Provost Wohlpart elaborated on some of the legislative bills that they are currently monitoring. He also described some of the exceptions that are being raised to our current weather-related shutdown practices, especially pertaining to lab-based courses. There were no questions.

Comments from Faculty Chair Petersen [time stamp 0:13:08]

Chair Petersen provided an update on the progress of the search committee for a new Provost, and announced an email communication that will be provided to campus tomorrow, providing links to the search committee's webpage, which the campus community can use to monitor search activities.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp 0:14:39]

President Hawbaker announced a tentative bargaining agreement with the Board of Regents and advised members of United Faculty to look for further information in coming days, including contract ratification.

Comments from NISG President Boeding [time stamp 0:16:24]

President Boeding yielded her time to Muslim Student Association President Leila Masinovic, who described some examples of specific religious observances that many students follow, and voiced her support for proposed changes to Policy 3.06, providing mandatory excused absence for religious observance.

Comments from Senate Chair Burnight [time stamp 0:19:39]

Chair Burnight reminded senators that he sent each of us a listing of open committee seats and that the call for nominations closes this Friday, and urged us to contact him with nominations before Friday.

Minutes for Approval [time stamp 0:20:00]

February 08, 2021

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

Calendar Items

1548 [Proposed changes to Student Academic Ethics Policy \(Policy 3.01\)](#) [time stamp: 0:21:56]

Balong/Mattingly (16-0-2) *The item was docketed for the next meeting.*

Docket Items

1420 [Consultation: HLC visit \(Scott Peters and Kristin Moser\)](#) [time stamp: 0:22:55]

Scott Peters and Kristin Moser reminded us that the HLC visit is scheduled for March 29 & 30, and asked that we keep those dates open for potential conversations with the HLC team, which will happen virtually (via Zoom). They described activities and meetings that will occur during the meeting and the composition of the HLC team. They also provided some updates regarding the assurance argument. Note that all materials discussed are available at the HLC visit webpage. Questions and comments ensued.

1421 [Emeritus request for Lynn Dykstra \(Teaching\)](#) [time stamp: 0:36:01]

MOTION: Balong/Koch (17-0-1) *The Emeritus request for Lynn Dykstra was approved.*

Megan Balong spoke on behalf of Lynn Dykstra's Emeritus application. A letter of support is appended to these minutes.

1422 [Emeritus request for Aricia Beckman \(Special Education\)](#) [time stamp: 0:38:12]

MOTION: Cowley/Gabriele (16-0-2) *The Emeritus request for Aricia Beckman was approved.*

Danielle Cowley and Amy Petersen spoke on behalf of Aricia Beckman's Emeritus application.

1423 [GERC: vote on Course & Certificate Proposal Guidelines \(Brenda Bass and Ana Kogl\)](#) [time stamp: 0:40:50]

MOTION: Degnin/Kirmani (16-0-2) *The General Education course and certificate proposal guidelines were approved. Co-chairs Brenda Bass and Ana Kogl presented the completed guidelines, and questions ensued. They also provided context regarding the job description of a Director of General Education, and asked that we provide feedback. Conversation ensued.*

Previously Tabled

1412 [Proposed change to Policy 3.06 regarding religious observance](#) [time stamp: 1:08:58]

MOTION: Mattingly/Cowley (14-0-4) *The proposed policy change was approved without amendment.*

Past-Chair Mattingly provided a description and context for this policy change proposal, and much discussion ensued. The policy change proposal requires instructors to excuse student absences for religious observance, whereas the policy previously provided that excusing such absences was at the instructor's discretion. Student guest Leila Masinovic, President of the Muslim Students' Association, provided additional context and argument in support of the policy change proposal (statement appended). Danielle Cowley and Cara Burnidge, who participated in the subcommittee of the Educational Policies Commission that deliberated this policy change, provided insight into the subcommittee's deliberations.

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

1414 [Proposed change to Policy 0.0](#)

Other New Business

There was no other new business discussed.

Adjournment at 5:10 PM [time stamp: 1:40:39]

MOTION: Gabriele/Hall *The meeting adjourned.*

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

Please note that support letters for two Emeritus requests discussed during the meeting are appended.

Department of Teaching

January 19, 2021

To: University Faculty Senate
RE: Lynn Dykstra Emeritus Status

Lynn Dykstra came to UNI in 1984 in the educational media at Malcolm Price Laboratory School (MPLS) in the Department of Teaching. She served as the Director of the Audio-Visual and Print Center for sixteen years. She taught technology classes for 8 more years at MPLS.

For the past ten years she has mentored field experiences in Level I, Level II, and as a student teaching coordinator. She has served the Department of Teaching and the university on committees. She has also contributed high quality publications for 36 years for the Department of Teaching and to enhance the student experience at UNI.

I fully support her emeritus status.

Respectfully,



Lyn Le Countryman
Head – Department of Teaching

January 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Aricia Beckman has applied for emeritus status following 38 years of service to the University of Northern Iowa. I am writing in support of her application.

Prior to joining the Department of Special Education at UNI, Ms. Beckman taught special education students at Malcolm Price Laboratory School for 24 years. In that position, she served as a Support Services Educator, teaching students entitled to special education services and students identified as at-risk in grades 7-12. She also served as a third and fourth grade general education teacher, as well as the Student Development/At-Risk Coordinator from 2005 -2007.

She was hired by the Department of Special Education with grant funding to coordinate the UNI Strategist Network in 2007 to assist teachers holding provisional special education certification to acquire the endorsement. Since that time, Ms. Beckman has served in our Department to prepare preservice teachers through her course instruction and supervision of field-based practica. While teaching several courses for the Department, her dedication to the SPED 4171/5171 methods courses over the last several years has been impressive. Ms. Beckman's extensive teaching experience and her content familiarity have enabled her to develop this course to prepare our preservice teachers to address the social and emotional needs of students with mild, moderate, and significant disabilities. She facilitates a learning environment where students have the freedom to engage in critical thought and diverse ideas. Ms. Beckman's teaching reflects a personalization of instructional design and delivery based on students' backgrounds, experiences, interests, and dispositions.

Concurrent with her teaching assignments within the Department, Ms. Beckman supervises our preservice teachers in their field-based practica. In that role, she leads weekly seminars, participates in team meetings, observes students in practicum placements, and provides post-conference feedback. Her extensive teaching experience enables Ms. Beckman to provide valuable coaching and guidance to our preservice teachers.

Ms. Aricia Beckman has also demonstrated a commitment to service activities at the Departmental, College, and University levels, as well as to local and state professional initiatives. She has enthusiastically participated in search committees, awards committees, diversity committees, curriculum committees, and conference committees. Ms. Beckman's contributions to these service activities are noteworthy.

Ms. Beckman's participation in our Special Education program has been significant and has provided important benefits for students, colleagues, and staff. Her credentials, professional experiences, and content expertise have provided valuable contributions to our teacher preparation program. Her long and distinguished teaching and service record at the University of Northern Iowa supports her application for emeritus status.



Susan Larson Etscheidt, Ph.D.
Professor
Department Head, Special Education

Assalamu Alaykum, peace be upon you all. My name is Leila Masinovic, I am the President of Muslim Students Association here at UNI. Thank you Elle for giving me your time to speak on this important issue. In order to make things go a little quicker, I will have a detailed paper shared with you all explaining these practices and holidays, but will quickly give a little summary of why I support changing Policy 3.06 regarding religious observance.

First and foremost, the most important practice for a Muslim is their prayers. We pray 5 times a day and being both a student and Muslim, I can speak on how hard it is to make sure I have time inbetween classes to pray my prayers and take the classes that I need for my education as well. Imagine if a Muslim professor penalized her Christian or Catholic students for them trying to fulfill their religious duties. How would the faculty of The University of Northern Iowa see and approach this issue then?

The second thing is The Holy Month of Ramadan. This is when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, no food, no water. Muslims have been silently dealing with this throughout the years, but now is time for a change in inclusion, especially since Ramadan will be throughout the school year for many upcoming years - until about year 2045 - including this year.

The last few things are the two yearly celebrations, Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha; and Jummah - a weekly congregation. It is currently extremely difficult and practically impossible for a Muslim to attend this required religious congregation.

I recommend that this campus recognize Islamic prayers and recognize Ramadan, Eid Al-Fitr, Eid Al-Adha, and Jummah as a religious observance on campus for Muslims, therefore giving them the accommodation of not doing school work these specific days. This is not an excuse for a student to not do their obligated assignments, exams, and finals, but rather an understanding and recognition on the behalf of UNI and faculty of Islamic holidays and practices that would therefore allow alternative options and times for practicing students to be able to complete these things without penalty.

Just like no one should tell and limit you on your religious practices, I ask that you do the same and not limit and not avoid recognition of Muslim religious practices and holidays on campus. This is not an argument based on the demand of religious acceptance and integration, but a plea for understanding that if ignored, will follow this campus negatively for years to come. Let's do what we promised our students, give an inclusive, respecting campus to all, and not just for the majority.

Thank you.