

University Faculty Senate Minutes

October 26, 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, Jerry Soneson (for Francis Degnin), Melissa Dobosh, Kenneth Elgersma, Gretchen Gould, Kenneth Hall, Mark Hecimovich, Thomas Hesse, Rob Hitlan, Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, Robert Earle (for William Koch), ~~Matthew Makarios~~, Nicole Skaar, 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).

Called 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 wished 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: Elaine Eshbaugh, David Harris

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 0:04:01]

President Nook provided some description of his decision to approve the appeal of the new student organization, "Students for Life", after NISG had declined to approve their initial request.

Comments from Provost Wohlpart [time stamp 0:01:00]

He explained that our increased COVID positive testing rate was due to a shortage of tests on our campus. He also described that the Spring classroom organization has been changed again, to further reduce touch points in classrooms and to ensure at least 6 ft of distance between students. Senator Elgersma hoped that we will improve our testing capability for the Spring semester.

Comments from Faculty Chair Petersen [time stamp 0:10:05]

She thanked faculty for attending the fall faculty meeting, indicating that over 220 participated.

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [time stamp 0:11:25]

She highlighted the positivity rate for COVID testing and hoped that we could have a Test Iowa site on our campus. Faculty Handbook Committee will send update regarding faculty evaluation procedures. Remember to vote in the United Faculty Recertification election.

Comments from NISG President Boeding [time stamp 0:15:04]

Updated the faculty senate on NISG efforts to get out the vote, supported by the Political Science department and the American Democracy Project on campus.

Comments from Senate Chair Burnight [time stamp 0:20:55]

Informed senators that the proposal to change the Faculty Constitution to move the faculty senate representation formula from the Faculty Constitution to the Senate Bylaws passed by a overwhelming majority, so we will be working to include that language in the Senate Bylaws very soon. Also asked for a faculty senate representative to the Regents' Award Committee.

Minutes for Approval (October 12, 2020) [time stamp 0:22:45]

MOTION: Elgersma/Skaar (14-0-4) *Minutes were approved without amendment.*

Calendar Items [timestamp 0:23:56]

1526 [Emeritus request for Donna \(Dolly\) Maier \(History\)](#)

MOTION: Holcombe/Elgersma (14-0-4) *Docketed for the next meeting*

1527 [GERC update](#)

MOTION: Holcombe/Cowley (14-0-4) *Docketed for the next meeting*

1528 [CHAS-HFA curriculum proposals](#)

1529 [CHAS-Sciences curriculum proposals](#)

MOTION: Dobosh/Hall (15-0-3) *Docketed for the next meeting*

1530 [Additional curriculum proposals](#)

MOTION: Hecimovich/Skaar (15-0-3) *Docketed for the next meeting*

1531 [Consultation: Student Affairs](#)

MOTION: Kirmani/Dobosh (16-0-2) *The Dean of Students and staff from Student Affairs will be with us during the next meeting of the Faculty Senate to discuss matters of pandemic-related student attendance.*

Docket Items

1400 [Consultation: UNI Athletics update \(David Harris and Elaine Eshbaugh\)](#) [time stamp 0:29:22]

Director Harris and Faculty Athletics Representative Eshbaugh explained safety procedures for limiting COVID exposure among student athletes, and discussed a recent unity walk organized by student athletes, to advocate for diversity and inclusion-related social justice. President Nook described that COVID-related extensions of student-athlete scholarships by one year will be with us for the next few years.

1401 [CSBS curriculum proposals](#) [time stamp 0:55:47]

MOTION: Skaar/Cowley (14-0-4) *Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Pease described the CSBS curriculum package and opened the floor for questions. Chair Burnight raised a question regarding how LAC course are counted in majors, and discussion ensued. The CSBS curriculum package was approved.*

1402 [COE curriculum proposals](#) [time stamp 1:03:12]

MOTION: Hall/Balong (12-0-6) *Associate Provost Pease described that this package was a very straightforward set of proposals, involving no controversial matters. There were no questions. The COE curriculum package was approved.*

Other New Business

Adjournment by 5:00 PM [time stamp 1:05:31]

MOTION: Skaar/Balong *The Faculty Senate was adjourned at 4:35:47 PM*

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