

## MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

April 27, 2020  
Online ZOOM meeting

**Senators in attendance:** James Mattingly (Chair), John Burnight (Vice-Chair), Amy Petersen (Past Chair, ex officio), Barbara Cutter (Chair of the Faculty, ex officio), Imam Alam, Megan Balong, Danielle Cowley, Francis Degnin, Gretchen Gould, Kenneth Hall, Thomas Hesse, Donna Hoffman, Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, William Koch, Amanda McCandless, Nicole Skaar, Andrew Stollenwerk, Shahram Varzavand. (Fifty percent quorum met; 17 of 20 voting senators were present. The Chair of the Senate is included in that count, but votes only in case of a tie.)

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

**Call to Order** at 3:30 PM [[Time stamp 0:00:30](#)]

*To maintain order in this Zoom virtual meeting, in which there were very many attendees, Chair Mattingly closed the microphone for all attendees and asked that they open their microphone to speak only if recognized by the Chair. Senators were instructed to use the yes and no buttons to vote accordingly, when appropriate, and to press neither yes nor no, if they wish to abstain from voting.*

### **Call for Press Identification**

*There were no members of the press attending this meeting.*

### **Introduction of Guests**

Regular Guests: Becky Hawbaker (President of United Faculty), Mark Nook (President), Jim Wohlpart (Provost), John Vallentine (Associate Provost for Faculty), Patrick Pease (Associate Provost for Academic Affairs).

Special Guests: Heather Asmus, Brenda Bass, Jonathan Chenoweth, Angie Cox, John Fritch, Damond Jones, Ryan McGeough, Steve O'Kane, Jeremy Schraffenberger, Doug Shaw, John Ophus, Susan Roberts-Dobie (Members of the GERC), Eric Lange (Faculty Handbook Committee), and Scott Peters (HLC Co-liaison).

Others Present: Mary Donegan-Ritter, Susan Hill, Jennifer McNabb, Elle Boeding (student), Rachel Greene (student).

### **Courtesy Announcements**

Comments from President Nook [[Time Stamp 0:03:12](#)]

*President Nook explains the impending budget situation and shares budget principles which have been established in conversation with the University Budget Committee.*

Comments from Provost Wohlpart

*Provost Wohlpart declined to comment today, given the extensive agenda.*

Comments from Faculty Chair Cutter [[Time Stamp 0:16:20](#)]

*Chair Cutter announced that Amy Petersen had been elected as the next Chair of the Faculty, and invited faculty to contact their elected faculty leaders over the summer, as necessary.*

Comments from United Faculty President Hawbaker [[Time Stamp 0:17:55](#)]

*United Faculty President Hawbaker thanked President Nook for his thorough explanation of the budget situation and budget principles, recalling that these principles haven't been the norm in past administrations.*

Comments from Senate Chair Mattingly [[Time Stamp 0:20:35](#)]

*Chair Mattingly reminded senators of motion and voting protocols in the Zoom environment, and announced that Past-Chair Amy Petersen would be interacting in the chat window. A transcript of the chat conversation is included in the appendix.*

**Minutes for Approval** [[Time Stamp 0:22:00](#)]

MOTION: Hesse/Stollenwerk (Passed 13-0; 3 abstentions)

*Minutes for the April 13, 2020 meeting were approved without changes.*

**Calendar Items**

MOTION to docket consent agenda

Skaar/Kirmani (Passed 16-0; 0 abstentions) [[time stamp 00:27:10](#)]

1507 [Thomas Stancliffe Emeritus request \(Art\)](#)

1508 [Reinhold Bubser Emeritus request \(Languages & Literatures\)](#)

*These calendar items were bundled for a single vote on a consent agenda. Both were docketed for immediate handling during the current meeting, since it is the final senate meeting of the year.*

**Docketed Items**

Motion to approve both of these Emeritus requests.

MOTION: Skaar/Kirmani (Passed 16-0; 0 abstentions) [[time stamp 00:29:30](#)]

1384 [Thomas Stancliffe Emeritus request \(Art\)](#)

1385 [Reinhold Bubser Emeritus request \(Languages & Literatures\)](#)

*Senators Hall and Kirmani, as well as Associate Provost Vallentine, spoke in support of the Emeritus requests for these faculty members. Support letters from colleagues can be found in the appendix.*

1381 [Consultation: Faculty Handbook Committee](#) [[time stamp 00:34:30](#)]

*John Vallentine and several members of the Faculty Handbook Committee discussed proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook, which will be effective July 1, 2020, pending approval by the Provost. A few senators expressed concern regarding specific proposed changes. Danielle Cowley was especially concerned with the first item, providing that the Provost can make changes to the handbook involving temporary deviations from handbook provisions.*

1382 [General Education Revision Committee Proposed Structure](#) [[time stamp 0:48:30](#)]

MOTION: Skaar/Kirmani (Passed 16-0; 0 abstentions)

*Discussion ensued regarding the two-year process of developing learning outcomes and a structure for the new General Education Program. There were also questions discussed in the chat (see appendix). Doug Shaw, faculty co-chair of the General Education Revisioning Committee, provided comments regarding his two-year experience on the committee.*

Discharge the GERC upon approving the proposed structure

MOTION: Degnin/Skaar (Passed 16-0; no abstentions)

*After discussing and voting on the GERC's structure proposal, a motion was made to discharge the GERC, as a new committee will be convened to implement the new structure, toward ensuring the learning outcomes approved last year.*

1383 [Proposal to Change Faculty Senate Membership](#) [time stamp 1:05:30]

*Amy Petersen, the author of this petition, proposed that this item be tabled until the first meeting of next year, as a current conversation regarding senate committee reform may have a significant impact on this matter.*

(Passed 14-0; 2 abstentions)

### **Other New Business**

[Elements of a charge for the next General Education Program \(GEP\) Committee](#) [time stamp 1:11:30]

*Chair Mattingly described elements of a charge for the next General Education Program committee, which will be tasked with implementing the structure of the new General Education Program approved during today's meeting. The full senate discussed the elements, and wished for a more definitive timeline. The senate anticipates charging the next GEP committee early during the fall semester.*

[Annual Report of the Committee on Committees for the 2019-2020 Academic Year](#) [time stamp 1:21:20]

*Vice-Chair John Burnight presented the Annual Report of the Committee on Committees, explaining that it is now linked to the Committees page on the senate website.*

MOTION to extend meeting: Degnin/Hesse (Passed 15-0; 1 abstention)

*Because the time was nearing 5:00 PM, a motion was made to extend the meeting time by 20 minutes, until 5:20 PM.*

MOTION to enter executive session: Varzavand/Koch (Passed 12-0; 4 abstentions). [time stamp 1:23:50] *A motion was made to enter executive session for the purpose of electing a Vice-Chair for next year. All but elected senators and senate officers were asked to leave the Zoom meeting.*

MOTION to elect Danielle Cowley: Degnin/Burnight (Passed 13-0; 3 abstentions)[time stamp 1:25:15] *Senator Cowley was the sole nominee for Vice-Chair during executive session.*

**Adjournment** at 4:57 PM [time stamp 1:27:15]

MOTION: Kirmani/Skaar (Passed 14-0; 2 abstaining)

Submitted by,  
James Mattingly, Chair of the University Faculty Senate

## APPENDIX

### Transcript of Zoom Chat messages during the meeting

00:34:28 Nicole Skaar: Is there a timeline for making decisions about the Fall? I know this is hard given we learn new things about the virus every day.

00:35:40 Jim Wohlpart: We are putting together a committee to more intentionally discuss how we would reopen in safe ways, focusing on everyone's health. We will be discussing this with Faculty Leadership on Wednesday. We would like faculty on the Academic Affairs (or Teaching and Learning) subcommittee.

00:36:08 Jim Wohlpart: Timeline will be part of this work.

00:41:47 Jim Wohlpart: Thank you for your service, Barb! Congratulations Amy!

00:48:39 Scott Peters: Verbatim minutes started around 2012.

00:48:40 Becky Hawbaker: I've heard from colleagues that Zoom does a great job of transcribing, within an hour after the end of a meeting.

00:49:10 Scott Peters: New admin asst. who was assigned to Senate was a trained transcriptionist and wasn't comfortable summarizing people's views.

00:49:35 Danielle Cowley: Yes, Zoom transcription is pretty good you just have to make sure folks try to speak very clearly.

00:50:12 Jim Wohlpart: I will ask Amy to look into this.

00:51:56 Jim Wohlpart: Amy Kliegl, that is.

01:07:06 Amy Petersen: Yes, thank you, I think he did mention my name.

01:08:17 Danielle Cowley: Can someone share the discussions about item #1? In this recent instance, the temporary changes were very positive, but I could see things going not so positive as well.

01:11:18 Danielle Cowley: Thanks John and Becky!

01:11:52 John Vallentine: On behalf of the committee, Thank You!

01:13:09 Francis Degnin: I have been unable to find, from the goals chart, the meaning of a number of terms. For example, Engage, Skills, Toolbox...

01:13:30 Francis Degnin: Not seeing it in the other documents either

01:17:18 Amy Petersen: It is my understanding, please correct me if I am wrong, is that the "labels" indicate a need for a conceptual framework to be developed.

01:17:33 Jim Wohlpart: My understanding is that all three terms would not go together. It would be: Engage, Discover, Connect. OR Skills, Knowledge, Breadth. OR Toolbox, Sandbox, Soapbox. These are just suggestions, nothing definitive.

01:18:13 Brenda Bass: Amy and Jim, you are both correct from the GER Committee's perspective

01:20:16 Bill Koch: I feel that the overall structure has much coherence and depth. I like the connections between Tier 1 and Tier 2 with regards to 1, 2 and 3.

01:20:55 Bill Koch: I've been telling students that these Gen Ed courses are classes they need to get into their system of thought, not out of the way

01:23:34 Susan Hill: The structure includes--is based on (?)--learning outcomes/goals/objectives (whatever one wants to call them). Does the next committee get to adjust/clarify these outcomes? Come up with a conceptual framework? Figure out how to implement? Does anyone have any clarity on this?

01:23:45 Amy Petersen: Thank you, Doug and all committee members! Your work is acknowledged and deeply appreciated!

01:24:31 Francis Degrin: Yes to Susan, that's in the charge for the next committee.

01:24:57 Douglas Shaw: It is my understanding that the outcomes have already been voted on, so it would probably take a senate action to change them.

01:25:48 Francis Degrin: Yes, clarify, but not necessarily change

01:27:09 Amy Petersen: Susan, we have drafted a charge for the next committee that John Burnight plans to share here shortly.

01:27:54 Douglas Shaw: LET ME PEOPLE GO

01:28:11 Susan Hill: Thanks to the GERC for all of its hard work!

01:28:30 Scott Peters: Thank you to all members of GERC. Great work!

01:28:51 Francis Degrin: Thank you!

01:29:05 Brenda Bass: Thank you, Senators!

01:41:46 Francis Degrin: This is a great charge. I'm wondering how long it would take to do this work

01:42:25 Amy Petersen: The first two items in this charge are carry over items from the first committee's charge.

01:43:55 Jeremy Schraffenberger: "willing" rather than "interested" :)

01:59:55 Bill Koch: Congrats and thanks to Jim for his leadership this year!

02:00:09 Francis Degrin: yes, kudos!

02:00:22 John Burnight: Thanks, Jim, for your leadership!

02:00:35 Nicole Skaar: Congratulation, Danielle! Thank you, Jim for your leadership. Looking forward to next year!

4/15/2020

University of Northern Iowa Mail - Support letter for Thomas Stancliffe



James Mattingly <jim.mattingly@uni.edu>

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## Support letter for Thomas Stancliffe

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Jeffery Byrd <jeffery.byrd@uni.edu>

Wed, Apr 15, 2020 at 1:39 PM

To: James Mattingly <jim.mattingly@uni.edu>

Tom Stancliffe has taught sculpture at UNI since 1988. In that time, he has built a successful career as a public artist completing many large sculptural works across the midwest. As a teacher, he has played a significant role in mentoring many young artists as they have launched their own careers. Professor Stancliffe has worked with communities across Eastern Iowa as they started public art programs. He founded UNI's Public Art Incubator, a unique program that creates a bridge between our campus and the professional art world and provides students with invaluable experience in the development and fabrication of artwork for the public sphere. Professor Stancliffe's creativity and passion for excellence has earned the respect of his colleagues in the Department of Art.

[Quoted text hidden]

Department of Languages & Literatures

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20 April 2020

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate:

It is an honor to write in support of Reinhold Bubser's request for emeritus status at the University of Northern Iowa as the culmination of an almost 50 year career in higher education. Reinhold Bubser began his career at UNI in 1982 after previous positions at Texas A&M and Syracuse University. He served as the Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts from 2005-09 after having been Associate Dean of the College from 1996-2005. He is the author or co-author of several books and numerous articles on German culture and language including *Deutsch im Sprachgebrauch. Advanced German Grammar and Anthology. An Integrated Approach* and a special issue of *European Studies Journal* entitled *United Germany and Europe Towards 1990 and Beyond*.

As a classroom instructor, he brought a wealth of knowledge to a wide range of classes, and his erudition was deployed in recent years in Humanities classes. As a leader, he was known for his integrity, insisting on high standards both from those who reported to him and from those to whom he reported. For many years, former Department head Jeffrey Copeland worked closely with Reinhold, and he wrote the following:

"The word that might best describe Reinhold Bubser's tenure as both Associate Dean and Dean would be this: approachable. That is, whenever an important issue or crisis came up, we always knew Reinhold's door would be open for us to visit about potential response and action. Reinhold was always open-minded, a *great listener*, and a staunch supporter of the department heads and directors with whom he worked. We knew he always had our backs, and we could count on him for excellent guidance and recommendations."

A generation of UNI faculty benefitted from Reinhold's steady and consistent leadership. Two generations of UNI students have been fortunate enough to have had such a knowledgeable instructor. Though the retirement of a valued colleague is always a bittersweet moment—we are equally congratulatory and sorry to see him go—few people can boast of such a long and productive career, and Reinhold Bubser is well deserving of the title of Emeritus Professor.

Sincerely,



Interim Department Head