Minutes of the University Faculty Senate
27 January 2020

Senators in attendance: James Mattingly (Chair), John Burnight (Vice-Chair), Amy Petersen (Past-Chair), Barbara Cutter (Chair of the Faculty), Imam Alam, Danielle Cowley, Francis Degnin, Kenneth Hall, Thomas Hesse, Donna Hoffman, Charles Holcombe, William Koch, Amanda McCandless, Matthew Makarios, Kenneth Elgersma, Nicole Skaar, Shahram Varzavand.

Guests in attendance: Mark Nook (President), Jim Wohlpart (Provost), John Vallentine (Associate Provost for Faculty), Patrick Pease (Associate Provost for Academic Affairs), Becky Hawbaker (United Faculty President), Jacob Levang (NISG President), Joyce Morrow (Registrar).

NOTE: Letters of support pertaining to Emeritus requests discussed during this meeting are appended to these minutes.

James Mattingly: [00:01:09.56] Good afternoon. I'll go ahead and get started. It is 3:30. So are there any press with us today? Hearing none we'll move on to the next item. I do see one guest. Okay, thank you, Joyce. No other guests. Right? Okay, good. Then we'll move on to courtesy announcements. President Nook, do you have any comments?

Mark Nook: [00:01:44.0] Just a couple of things. One, just update on what's happened recently at the legislature. Since we last were together, at least I was able to be here. The governor's budget came out. She has $3 million in there for U&A. A 3 million increase, 102 million zero based budgeting ..... zero and all that.. We are now a private institution that we might want to edit that part ... can be done. There is a $3 million increase to our budget, a little over three million. What she did was to put 15 million into the budget and split it as it as appropriations are currently split amongst the three regent universities. What the regents had asked for was $18, 4 million for us and 7 for each of the other two institutions. Of course, this is the first proposal. Her proposal last year was changed greatly. I've spoken with legislative leaders. They don't think that's the way it's gonna go. But I don't know. Most of--almost all the legislative leaders I've looked at are in favor of funding the university increase, the regent increase as a lump sum to the regents and then letting the regents split it up as opposed to them doing it. I think that's probably the way the legislature will go. It's the best reading at the moment.

I've had a chance to talk now to the speaker of both the House and the Senate, the majority leader in the House and the Senate, the minority leader in the House and the Senate, and the leaders of all of the appropriations committees. And they are all saying we'd like to do it as a lump if we can. That is, hand a chunk of the new money to the regents, let them decide how to split it out and then use those as the budget. I think that would be in our favor if it goes that way. We're continuing to push for the 4 million total. The other thing that was in there that's good news is full funding for the Industrial Technology Center for the out years. So we've got a million dollars. It was appropriated a year ago for FY 21 not this current year, but next year. That would be our planning design money. And then she's put in exactly what we requested for the two out years in the legislature. So we'll continue to track that and continue to work with legislators that have an impact on what this fight, these final bills look like and push that. The other one, that sort of pieces of legislation that, not legislation, but rules that came out and we're working on, is the Board of Educational Examiners have put out a new administrative code that would cut back on teacher development, the size of especially the disciplinary areas in science teaching, social science teaching, and I think math teaching. And now I'm going to forget one. But those four areas and we--the Board of Regents is opposed to that change, we're opposed to that change. We'll havehave a group down at the hearing on this. And again, this isn't legislation. It's an administrative rule. But nobody no higher ed institution was engaged in coming up with these new rules. So our big request is just send it back and at least give us a chance to work with the BOEE on what those are. The, Rachael Boone, who is the vice president, CIO for the Board of Regents, will be testifying then. So will Katie Mulholland, our interim dean. I think there's a faculty member that's going down to testify as well. That's coming up February 7th, I believe. So it's fairly soon. But what we really want to do is oppose it completely, but at a minimum, send it back and say you've at least got to talk to the people that prepare these students. The issue that's going on is, especially in rural districts, are having trouble getting people to certain that are certified in these areas and they aren't necessarily looking to certify people off the street, but to extend people's certification that are currently teaching and make them teach things they aren't, we would say, prepared to teach there. It's a way for them to close the gap without having to hire people. And, you know, we all want people to be adequately prepared, at a minimum, adequately prepared to go into those classrooms and be able to teach those courses and teach them well.