

Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting
April 20, 2004, 3:00 p.m.
Business Administration Building, Room 165

Submitted by Bobby L. Eason, Secretary, June 24, 2004

Chancellor Timothy P. Ryan presided at the April 20, 2004 Faculty Council meeting. The minutes from the September 10, 2003 Faculty Council meeting were approved as circulated electronically. Remarks from administration followed.

Budget issues were discussed. The issue of the \$5.1M budget deficit was addressed, and steps were determined to eliminate it. It was resolved that the anticipated cuts are not likely to seriously affect UNO's academic mission. Control of the newly approved Academic Excellence Fee has been given to the academic deans. Enrollment is up 3.1% from the spring semester a year ago. Federal funding, while being down a small amount from previous years, is still considered healthy.

The Chancellor spoke of the state of facilities and capital outlays. He indicated that a high priority is to be given to the cleaning and maintenance of UNO buildings and grounds, and that despite progress, more remains to be done. Renovation will be facilitated by \$8M plus in newly issued bonds. While several projects were mentioned, one setback is the freezing of Priority S Projects not in construction phase, implemented by the State of Louisiana Division of Administration.

Dr. Ryan mention that one of his main goals is efficient communication. Dr. Brett Landry of the College of Business, Department of Management, is to assist with a revamped management information system. Also, Mr. Jim Burgard has been named Assistant Vice Chancellor for University Computing and Communications, with a challenge to upgrade the UNO network.

Remarks were directed to UNO's Academic Excellence Plan, informing how UNO conducts fund raising and relates to the business community. At present, departments are being identified that show the greatest potential for "moving UNO forward" and new resources are being budgeted for academic excellence. Dr. Ryan pointed out that while Louisiana is not facing the magnitude of budget cuts of many states, the Governor has announced a standstill budget, which will result in approximately 3 million in legislated costs passed to UNO. Though the 3% tuition increase will recover much of the loss - \$1.5M up to the net loss of \$3M, the forthcoming higher admission standards may result in lost tuition revenue. Recruitment of students that meet the BOR guidelines is high priority.

Elections to the Hearings Pool Committee

The UNO Committee on Committees within the Policy Committee conducted elections of three members-at-large to the Hearings Pool Committee, which resulted in the election of John Altazan, Carl Malmgren, and Jocelyn Thomas.

Financial Report

Ms. Linda Robison, Vice Chancellor for Financial Services, Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer, provided a financial report. Ms. Robison indicated that the \$5.1M budget deficit has been eliminated, and identified sources of the financial recovery. She attributed the balanced budget to a number of initiatives, including a decrease in the number of non-academic personnel, freeze on hiring, fee increase, utility surcharge of \$2.50 per student, increase in the utility and maintenance fee from \$25 to \$75, and the refinancing of two old bond issues. Ms. Robison further reminded the faculty that it is not university practice to carry over surplus funds from one budget year to the next and that expenditures at fiscal year end cannot exceed revenues. However, Auxiliary Services are allowed to carry over funds. Also, Ms. Robison complimented the auxiliary units for their diligence and willingness to assist with the general budget of the university. She indicated that after several years of declining reserves, the auxiliary funds are climbing again, and added, with some relief, that UNO was solvent.

Dr. Bobby Dupont, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Budget, and Chairman of the Academic Planning Committee, provided the Academic Planning Committee's report. The main goal of the committee, comprised of two faculty members, two deans, two students, and two vice chancellors, is to align UNO's budget with university goals.

Policy Committee Report

The Policy Committee (PC) chair, Dr. Gary Gundersen, provided a report. One PC goal was to evaluate the ten standing Faculty Council Committees. After requesting and receiving self-evaluation reports from the ten committees, the PC recommended revisions of the Committees on Academic Computing, Freshman Affairs and Remediation, University Honors and Awards, Library, Student Affairs, Student Publications Board, and University Admissions, as well as the elimination of the Faculty Honors Committee and the Committee on Artists, Lecturers, Speakers, and Commencement. The PC recommended that no changes be made to the Courses and Curricula Committee charge. For the full recommendations of the PC, see the report, "Evaluation of the Faculty Council Committees," at <http://www2.uno.edu/PolicyCommittee/fcreport.pdf>. Dr. Gundersen suggested that all issues related to the restructuring of the Faculty Council Committees should be integrated into the change processes in Faculty Governance being considered by the University Senate. It is expected that action will be taken at a Faculty Council meeting in 2004-2005.

Also, Dr. Gundersen noted that two curriculum issues that were previously approved by the Faculty Council on April 22, 2002, have not been fully implemented – the elimination of the requirement to take a biology course to satisfy UNO's general degree requirement (it appears that this has not been implemented) and the addition of a diversity component to each student's general degree portfolio of experiences (this has been partially implemented). Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Fredrick Barton provided a response: Concerning the Biology requirement, the Louisiana Board of Regents has mandated that all Louisiana baccalaureate graduates of public colleges and universities must take a biology sequence, such as currently required by UNO. However, the Provost stated that he is aware that it is not required of LSU-BR students to satisfy the biology requirement. LSU System Vice President for Academic Affairs Carolyn Hargrave is currently investigating the issue for UNO. Concerning the diversity issue, Vice Chancellor Barton remarked that implementation is on a program-by-program basis. He

stated that after all units have identified specific mechanisms to satisfy the requirement, then the requirement will be included in the catalog.

Diversity Cabinet Report

Mr. Robert Brown, Vice Chancellor for Governmental, Community and Diversity Affairs, provided results from a Diversity Cabinet meeting. The Diversity Cabinet has adopted the following goals: 1) hiring more minority faculty, 2) creation of formal mentorships for new and existing minority faculty who request them, 3) strengthening and expansion of the Chachere Fellowship program, 4) soliciting more grants and funding to provide support for minority studies, minority students, and minority faculty.

Faculty Governance Report

Dr. Greg Seab, Chair of the University Senate, introduced a faculty governance restructuring plan. The plan, originated by Committee C of the University Senate, has been electronically circulated. Dr. John Stewart-Savage, Secretary of the University Senate, moderated the discussion. After brief discussion, the faculty understood that much of the discussion was going to continue on the Senate floor, and that all were invited to attend the May 2004 University Senate meeting.

Old Business/New Business

A question was asked about UNO's admission standards and whether they differed from the Board of Regents mandated admission standards for UNO. The answer was that UNO has adopted the BOR standards for admission to UNO.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Please note: All available annual Faculty Council committee reports are attached as a separate file located at these links: http://www.uno.edu/facgov/docs/2003_2004CommitteeReports.pdf
http://www.uno.edu/facgov/docs/2003_2004CommitteeReports.doc