

Minutes  
UNO Faculty Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 12, 2005, 3:00 p.m.  
Chemistry-Sciences Building, Chemistry Auditorium

1. The meeting was called to order by Chancellor Tim Ryan.
2. Minutes from April 20, 2004 were approved as circulated.
3. The Chancellor introduced newly appointed members of the administrative staff and included Joel Chatelain, Vice Chancellor for Campus Services; Ronald Maggiore, Ph.D, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions; Lucy Gallese, Dean of Student Affairs; Phillip Coulter, PhD, Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs.
4. The Chancellor addressed several issues of immediate relevancy to the campus. The budget outlook is much less onerous than what was reported earlier in the fiscal year. The Governor's cut to higher education in January which resulted in a \$1M cut for UNO has been given back to the System. Thus our base budget should be the same. Reallocation by the System is not expected to negatively affect UNO.

UNO continues to enhance its position with SREB comparable universities. We moved from SREB II, 4<sup>th</sup> quartile to the middle 50% as a result of our PhD awardees from last year (81 completers in 03/04). UNO is now alone as the highest ranking SREB public university in the state after LSUBR. As the state inches toward formula funding, this newly elevated position will represent an even larger budgetary discrepancy between UNO's level of funding and our SREB comparable universities. UNO is currently funded at 62.3% of the formula, second lowest in the state. By comparison, LSU is funded at 78%. In another comparison, if UNO was funded at the state average for formula funding, UNO would receive \$21.5 million more in state funding.

There was discussion about new threats to the budget including state of Louisiana mandated costs. There will be significant increases in the cost of health benefits and retirement benefits, UNO must pay its share without promise that the state will cover these costs. The costs will be \$2.5 million. However, the legislature has appropriated enough funding to cover the cost increase from last year.

Another factor in the projected budget is a Board of Regents (BOR) approved 3% increase in tuition. Relatedly, the Legislature is considering a plan that will allow tuition increases to be removed as an item that requires legislative approval. The current plan will limit tuition increases to 5% a year.

There is some evidence that Governor Blanco will include university faculty in a projected 3% pay increase for Louisiana K-12 teachers. The Chancellor indicated his support for an internal salary plan as a supplement to the infrequent state mandated salary increases.

Another related concern is the modest drop expected in student enrollment as a result of the new BOR admission requirements. The university's new scholarship program and other recruitment strategies, should offset the projected

loss of enrollment. Still, the 05-06 year is the first implementation year of the new requirements and a net enrollment drop is expected.

5. The Council elected members of the Hearings Pool Committee-At Large members. Chair of the Policy Committee, Professor Oscar Varela conducted the voting process. Sybil Boudreaux, Librarian, Earl K. Long Library and Enrique La Motta, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering were elected from a field of four candidates to serve the three year term.
6. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Rick Barton announced a newly approved program in Transportation Studies, a multi-disciplinary program, including work in the College of Business and Engineering, but housed in the College of Urban and Public Affairs. Senator Francis Heitmeyer supported this initiative in finding the new financial resources for this program.

The Provost also announced that program reviews for specific academic programs are being conducted. The selected programs are ones that do not receive accreditation reviews by their national learned societies. Reviews of Arts Administration, Philosophy and Anthropology have now been completed. Other reviews are underway.

The Provost then announced that UNO has created a one-time-only summer bridge program, ACORe. The program is for entering freshmen who meet current admissions standards, but not the new ones for Fall 2005.

He then complimented the Institutional Effectiveness Committee, headed by Research Professor Bruce King, and the Quality Enhancement Plan Committee headed by co-chairs Dean Susan Krantz and Professor Ed Johnson. He also expressed appreciation for Associate Provost Dennis McSeveney for his overall coordination of the SACS report and subsequent visitation by the SACS review team. Others mentioned for their leadership role included Vice Chancellor Bobby Dupont and Associate Vice Chancellor Scott Whittenburg. Concerning the site visit results, the SACS team asked for 12 “responses”, a typical requirement at this stage of the review process. UNO’s response is due August 31, 2005 and will detail the ways that UNO assesses our general education and student learning objectives.

7. Vice Chancellor for Campus Services Joel Chatelain announced a new program for tracking work orders. He called attention to a new three phase signage program that has started. The program provides signs for building names, you-are-here directory, and arrow “way finders.” He announced that construction of the long awaited perimeter road was due to begin shortly or as soon as Facility Planning and Control bids the project and will take nine months to complete. The project will also result in the repaving or paving of several parking lots around the Homer Hitt Alumni Center. The lot that services the College of Liberal Arts will be paved during the summer of 2005. He then emphasized his commitment to the University Police and their efforts to provide “a visible deterrent to crime on campus including presence at every parking lot at night.” The Vice Chancellor is working with the various directors to allow the purchase of parking decals on-line. This will assist with the elimination of one of UNO’s longest registration bottle necks, the on-site purchase of parking decals. High appreciation was

- expressed for the operation of UNO's Auxiliary Services including the Cove, Housing, Bookstore, and the Lakefront Arena. Finally, he indicated that UNO will begin construction on a new dormitory to be located just west of the Human Performance Center and east of Ben Franklin High School, fronting Leon C. Simon Blvd.
8. Vice Chancellor for Governmental, Community and Diversity Affairs Robert C. Brown provided a brief overview of UNO's legislative strategic plan. He indicated that UNO's diversity profile is being enhanced by the quality and quantity of African American PhD scholars. He noted that the diversity of UNO's faculty was positive, but indicates faculty diversity as a continuing goal. He pledged to work with Deans, Chairs, and PIs to gain additional funding for minority grants and scholarships, especially in science and engineering.
  9. Vice Chancellor for Advancement Sharon Gruber announced the addition of two new staff members to the University Advancement department, Paulette Curson as Director of Marketing and Angela Hines-Porter and Director of Public Relations. WWNO Radio Director John Batson, after a long and distinguished career is retiring. She announced that an active search for John's replacement is being conducted. A new manager will be named by June 15. As co-chair of the Convocation Committee, she provided highlights and encouraged attendance at the April 21, 2005 meeting. Renowned humorist/speaker/author Roy Blunt, Jr. will give the keynote address.
  10. Policy Committee Chair, Professor Oscar Varela provided an overview of the accomplishments of the 04/05 Policy Committee. One of the Committee's goals was to work with the administration for a faculty salary plan. They have worked with the University Senate on the on-going faculty governance reorganization plan. Asked by the administration, they have agreed to conduct evaluations of the vice chancellors and deans. Other issues receiving work time included the standardization of course evaluations, tuition waiver policies, PeopleSoft issues, Web-Star, Blackboard, Campus Police, Parking, traffic congestion, security, and budget cuts.
  11. Old business was the continuance of discussion and call for change of the plan for faculty governance. For more than a year, the Faculty Council under the auspices of the University Senate, has been working on a revised plan for faculty governance. The plan (see attachment) was presented by a motion from University Senate Faculty Chair and Professor Greg Seab and received a second. After a brief discussion, the motion passed with but one nay. Two highlights are that senators will be elected for three year terms rather than two year terms, and that standing Faculty Council Committees will now be called University Committees and answer directly to the University Senate. The one exception is the University Committee on Courses and Curriculum which will continue to answer directly to the Faculty Council.
  12. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 and all enjoyed a wine and cheese reception in the lovely garden between the Science Building and the Chemical Science Building.

Submitted by Bobby Eason, Secretary  
May 24, 2005

