
Single Meeting Proxy: Todd Robinson for Emmanuel Ayim; Eugene Moehring for Andrew Bell.

Absent: James Crawford, Peter Jakubowski.

Excused: Denise Tillery

Meeting Minutes

I. Chair Rhonda Montgomery called the Faculty Senate Meeting to order at 12:15PM.

II. Minutes from the Special Senate Meeting of November 14, 2014 were approved 29-0.

III. Guest Speaker Provost John White. Provost John White discussed with the Faculty Senate the following general areas of faculty concern:

   A. Faculty Promotion and Tenure Process - on schedule;
   B. Legislative Session will have the following NSHE priorities - 1) restoration of furloughs in NSHE budget; 2) merit request in NSHE budget; 3) UNLV medical school proposal in NSHE budget; 4) Hotel building capital project in NSHE budget; 5) Law School Funding in NSHE budget

IV. Announcements and Information

   A. Chairs Report – Chair Ronda Montgomery updated the Senate on the Executive Committee schedule with President Jessup who will be officially on campus January 5, 2015
   B. Senator Opfer volunteered to serve on the Council for Centers, Museums, and Labs
   C. Faculty Senate Committee Reports
a. Promotion & Tenure Committee Report was prepared and presented by Committee Chair Paul Werth
b. Academic Freedom & Ethics Report was prepared and presented by Committee Chair Peter Bayer
c. University Bylaws Committee Report was not available
d. Fiscal Affairs Committee Report was prepared by Committee Chair Mike Wilde
e. General Education Committee Report was prepared by Committee Chair Daniel Benyshek
f. Sabbatical Leave Committee Report was prepared by Committee Chair Tommy Moores
g. Faculty Development Leave Committee Report was prepared by Committee Chair Yingtao Jiang
h. Campus Affairs Committee Report was prepared by Committee Chair Michael Hammer

V. Action Items

A. Faculty Senate Bylaw Amendment: Amendment to Chapter I, Section 5.0, Article 5 – Administrative Faculty Committee Restructuring
   a. Senator Culbreth raised an issue of the definitions of faculty. This issue was clarified by Secretary Spangelo by citing the Faculty Senate Constitution (Section 2. Membership).
   b. The Faculty Senate approved the amendment unanimously.

B. UNLV Bylaw Amendment: Amendment to Chapter I, Section 4.6 – Senate Committees Authorized
   a. Senator Bryan Spangelo, Chair of the University Bylaws Committee, referenced the following section from the Board of Regents Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 1 (General Policy Statements), Section 8 (Policy of the Board of Regents):

   “4. In preparing and codifying Board policy, the secretary of the board is authorized to make the following non-substantive changes to all titles of the Handbook:

   a.) Correcting changes to names of organizations, departments, units, committees, and position titles;
   b.) Correcting grammatical errors; and
   c.) Correcting obvious typographical errors.

   The secretary of the board shall maintain a record of any non-substantive changes that are completed.”

   b. It was recommended by Senator Spangelo that similar “non-substantive changes” to the UNLV Bylaws or Faculty Senate Bylaws should follow this
standard Board of Regents practice. In this case, the University Bylaws Committee should be authorized to complete these “non-substantive changes” to the UNLV Bylaws or Faculty Senate Bylaws. The bylaw amendment was therefore withdrawn.

VI. New Business

A. Senator Rosser raised the issue of student debt. Specifically, students need “financial literacy” during their undergraduate careers. It was moved that the Vice President of Student Life, or her designee, attend a future Faculty Senate meeting to discuss this issue. The motion passed unanimously 32-0-0.

B. Senator Culbreth raised two policy issues: 1) access to the College of Engineering building is too limited during the Winter Break; and 2) Science and Engineering Building access has changed. The Senior Advisor to the President agreed to investigate the shutdown of buildings during winter break.

VII. Future Action Item

A. Amendment of the UNLV Bylaws, Chapter I, Section 2.2 Interpretation of Bylaws

VIII. Public Comment

A. Dr. Kathy Lauckner is the coordinator of Cooperate Challenge and informed the Senate of its 30th anniversary. For more information and involvement contact Dr. Lauckner at kd.lauckner@unlv.edu

IX. Adjournment

A. Senator Moehring moved the Senate to adjourn

BRYAN L. SPANGELO, Secretary