

Minutes of the University Council Meeting

May 2, 2018

Nancy Vogeltanz-Holm, Chair of the University Senate, called the meeting of the University Council to order at 3:03 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.

Quorum for a business meeting was not established.

Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm thanked a large number of people who assisted her this year.

Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm reviewed the major University Senate accomplishments for 2017-18:

- Establishment of a new UND Mission Statement
- Transforming the Faculty Handbook
- Transforming the Senate Budget Committee
- Transformed policies that assist students
- Transforming Shared Governance

Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm talked about shared governance, our mission, and using the strategic plan to transform in this unprecedented time in higher education.

Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm introduced President Kennedy. President Kennedy thanked Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm for her service.

President Kennedy shared his recent experience interacting with UND Alumni.

President Kennedy called attention to the next biennial budget. He stated it will be a long road to the new budget, with many steps that will need to take place before a final budget is drafted next April. The State Board of Higher Education must weigh in on the budget situation before the Governor's final recommendation in December.

President Kennedy announced that Peter Johnson will remain as the interim Vice President of University Relations for an additional year. Another search for the permanent position will launch at the end of the year.

President Kennedy demonstrated that we are the University least dependent on the state of North Dakota. UND has the largest online population in North Dakota, and is also the largest online provider in an eight-state region.

President Kennedy shared a study revealing that more jobs will require baccalaureate and advanced degrees by 2030.

President Kennedy announced that we are the only NDUS institution to have an incentive-based budget model, which promotes excellence that is immediately rewarded back to the department.

President Kennedy discussed our campus space utilization as well as the need for growth to be economically stable given unstable state funding.

President Kennedy discussed reasons for declining enrollments, including the size of the 2012 entering class, brand confusion, lack of marketing, and a non-mobile friendly website; however, UND is taking steps to reverse these situations such as adopting a new mascot, acquiring an Adidas athletic clothing deal, increased marketing funding, rolling out a mobile friendly website, making our campus more beautiful, innovating new degrees, and becoming an online leader in education.

A question was asked about the application website and whether it will be revamped as it is not user friendly. President Kennedy responded that we are making the website more attractive and mobile friendly.

It was asked if we were going to double our online enrollment in just a few years, will we have the resources to handle it. President Kennedy talked about high growth opportunities, and that we would potentially be able to partner with other NDUS faculty.

It was asked why students would choose UND over the other online institutions. President Kennedy shared that we are only pursuing high growth, high demand programs.

Mr. Petros shared that the Psychology department has been online for quite some time, however, he is concerned about issues arising from Blackboard being shared among campuses. President Kennedy stated he is asking to remove UND from the shared system so we have our own LMS.

A student asked about how MIRA would affect small programs and interdisciplinary learning. President Kennedy stated that research projects in the hard sciences, engineering, and aerospace should include other complementary programs when possible.

Ms. Kubatova asked about how the Chemistry department Ph.D. program could run effectively if they did not have the required number of students. President Kennedy stated that we are moving more money from Master's programs to doctoral programs.

Additional questions were asked by several members of the Council concerning the fine arts, humanities, and social sciences. There were also concerns about finding research funding if the research is not revolutionary.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Scott Correll, Secretary
University Council