

Senate Executive Committee Meeting
November 17, 2015

1.

Members present: Sharley Kurtz, Cheryl Hunter, Dana Harsell, Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, Thomas DiLorenzo, Melissa Gjellstad, Daba Gedafa, Matt Kopp and Marci Mack

Also present: Lori Hofland

2.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower called the regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee to order at 10:00 a.m.

3.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower welcomed Marci Mack, Interim Co-Registrar, to the committee. At this time, introductions of the committee members were done. Provost DiLorenzo asked if he could comment regarding the Diversity Dialogue that will take place on Thursday, November 19 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wilkerson Commons. This was driven by the National Dialogue that has been taking place on campuses across the states in response to the University of Missouri incident. He stated that everyone was welcome to attend to provide their thoughts on free speech and healthy dialogue on campus.

4.

The minutes for the October 19 meeting were discussed. Mr. Harsell made a motion to accept the minutes with the following corrections: #6 – correcting the name and #7 – to capitalize MIRA. There was a second by Ms. Kurtz. The motion was approved.

5.

SEC reviewed an application for early graduation for Andrew Huovinen. Ms. Mack provided background information on the reasons for the early application. Mr. Harsell made a motion to accept the early graduation application. There was a second by Mr. Gedafa, and the motion was approved.

6.

The charge for the Ad Hoc Committee for the Study of Evaluation of Administration Practices was discussed. It was decided that the President should be added to the list for being studied. Ms. Hunter recommended that they check to see if anyone has an interest in doing a research study on this topic. Possibly a staff or graduate student might take on this study as part of their education. One of the responsibilities under Function and Responsibilities was to investigate any requirement for administrative evaluation mandated as part of the accreditation process. It was suggested that deans could possibly be surveyed to find out how many different evaluation processes they are part of. Ms. Gjellstad made a motion to revisit the charge and bring it back to the next SEC meeting. There was a second by Ms. Kurtz and the motion was approved.

7.

The charge for the Ad Hoc Committee for Qualified Faculty Requirements was discussed. The purpose of the committee is to create a policy stating the minimal qualifications for faculty, with a timeline for fall 2017 for implementation of the policy. Provost DiLorenzo asked a question

regarding the membership and how it was established. It was suggested that there should be a representative from each college on the committee. The requirements for the committee are to follow HLC best practices. Ms. Gjellstad suggested that input from those who have HLC knowledge, such as Ken Ruit and Margi Healy, would be helpful prior to bringing a revised charge back to the SEC. Ms. Gjellstad made a motion to make revisions to the committee charge and bring it back to SEC. There was second by Mr. Harsell and the motion was approved.

8.

The updates to the draft of the Online and Distance Education Committee charge were discussed. Ms. Kurtz made a motion to accept the revisions and to add it to the agenda for the next Senate meeting. There was a second by Mr. Gedafa and the motion was approved.

9.

The latest drafts of the Faculty Senate documents were discussed. The Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Committee meets November 18 to go over the final drafts. Ms. Weaver-Hightower has placed a call to Heather Wages, UND General Counsel, to make sure that the electronic vote will be legal. She has reached out to all involved to make sure they have had a chance to view the documents and to add any comments or suggestions prior to the vote. It was suggested that University Senators ask their constituents to do a straw poll to see where the vote may go. It will need 51% of the vote to pass. Ms. Hunter made a motion that SEC endorse the work of the ad hoc committee and take the documents, with final recommendations, to the Senate. There was a second by Mr. Gedafa and the motion was approved.

10.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower gave an update on the Employee Engagement Survey. Discussion ensued. Meetings have been held with more meetings planned. Two possible national vendors are being considered to facilitate the survey. More information will be presented in January of 2016.

11.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower reported on the proposed changes to the Senate Compensation Committee and the Senate Library Committee. She met with both committees and gave background on the changes they are proposing. Each committee will submit their proposed changes in the near future.

12.

The Senate priorities from the last meeting were reviewed. Under "Climate," bullying was discussed, including bullying of staff members by supervisors and faculty-to-staff bullying. Ms. Kurtz stated that Staff Senate is working with HR on workshops on bullying to be presented across campus. They are recruiting a national speaker to come to UND and present on this topic. She will keep SEC updated on the staff Senate efforts. It was suggested to contact Grant McGimpsey to see if anyone on campus has submitted a proposal to do research on campus on bullying.

13.

Ms. Gjellstad reported on changes to the Senate webpage. The redesign will include an accordion format so that the page is not text heavy. The SEC endorsed the changes and will move forward with the updates.

14.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower reported on the Flexible Workplace Policy. The group is working on the policy and at time is waiting for feedback from three different Senate committees. This policy could affect faculty who are doing research off-site. It will go before the President's Cabinet in December for final approval. The policy originated with HR, and was developed for people who work for UND but live elsewhere. The committee has requested SEC feedback on the policy.

15.

The question of whether to have a January Senate meeting was brought before the committee. Ms. Kurtz made a motion to have a January 14, 2016 meeting. There was a second by Ms. Gjellstad and the motion was approved.

16.

There was discussion on future Thursday fora invitations and how to prioritize them. It was decided that they would follow this order:

1. Grant McGimpsey
2. Deans' Council
3. Sandra Mitchell
4. Stephanie Walker

The committee also decided to invite Governor Schaefer to welcome him as Interim President.

17.

SEC discussed the progress of MIRA. The campus is moving in the right direction on the new budget model. Presentations have been done by Odella Fuqua and Cindy Fetsch to various groups on campus to keep everyone updated on how the new budget model will affect their department. Questions on the new tuition model and how it will affect colleges was discussed. This question will have to be answered by the deans.

18.

SEC discussed the budget gap remedy process. Due to the Provost having to leave early, there was no one present to address this issue. SEC will invite Alice Brekke to the next Senate meeting for an update on this process.

19.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower gave an update on the search for the Graduate Dean, University Registrar, and Honors Program Director.

20.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower reported that the call for honorary degrees has gone out.

21.

Ms. Gjellstad gave an update on SETIC. They have had ten focus groups. Andrew Quinn sent out a campus update and will be working on further updates. He will give a presentation on SETIC at the next Senate meeting.

22.

Mr. Kopp made a motion to approve the December 3 Senate agenda with the additions. There was a second by Ms. Gjellstad and the motion was approved.

23.

Under matters arising, Mr. Kopp reported that the Academic Policies and Admissions Committee met and discussed the change to the policy regarding the requirement of 125 vs. 120 credits needed for graduation. A resolution from Student Senate regarding this change will be submitted to the January/February Senate meeting.

Mr. Kopp also reported that the Student Senate adopted a Freedom of Expression Statement. He and Ms. Gjellstad, Ms. Kurtz and Ms. Weaver-Hightower will be meeting to discuss this. Mr. Kopp stated that Student Senate is trying to get UBER to come to Grand Forks and urged people to download the application so that interest in UBER can be gauged.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower reported that Mr. Kopp, Student Senate, and Mr. Kurtz, Staff Senate, will give their respective updates at the next Senate meeting.

24.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Marci Mack, Secretary
Senate Executive Committee