

Minutes of the University Council Meeting
May 3, 2017

Dana Harsell, Chair of the University Senate, called the meeting of the University Council to order. He welcomed all in attendance and explained the format for this meeting with updates from the leaders of three senates as well as remarks by President Kennedy.

President Kennedy was introduced and addressed the council members. He discussed where we have been and where we are going. He stated that the legislative session just ended. The guidance for the future of UND is the ONE UND Strategic Planning committee. We benefit the students and the state by being the Chief Economic Engine as the Premier Flagship of the Northern Plains.

The process of the strategic plan began with a SWOT analysis and the many threats to higher education including Ivy League schools offering MOOCs, micro-degrees, discounted degrees, reduced state funding, and escalating student debt. The President cited several examples of other universities doing very well and succeeding with online degrees; additionally, he detailed the number of colleges closing and the number needing to close in the future.

President Kennedy stated that he believed many opportunities are present. We have affordability. We have high-quality online degrees. UND helps the state diversify its economy. The research institution will continue to educate and to innovate. The goals of the strategic plan attempt to capitalize on these opportunities. The strategic plan goals are:

- Goal 1: Provide a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation.
- Goal 2: Increase undergraduate, graduate, and professional retention and graduation rates.
- Goal 3: Deliver more educational opportunity online and on-campus.
- Goal 4: Enhance discovery at a level consistent with similar research-intensive universities (R1).
- Goal 5: Foster a welcoming, safe, and inclusive campus climate.
- Goal 6: Meet educational needs of active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their families.
- Goal 7: Attract support for the university by actively engaging alumni and donors.

President Kennedy detailed several plans for campus beautification including demolishing buildings, refurbishing several buildings, and reallocating our resources. Each plan captain will provide monthly updates to the President's cabinet.

The President stated that change will be needed to adapt to this ever changing environment in higher education. He stated that UND will need to be connected and to communicate well to achieve these goals.

Mr. Harsell, as chair of the University Senate, gave a definition of what University Council is, its membership, and how the University Senate is a representative body for conducting business on behalf of the University Council. He indicated that the University Senate is comprised of 54 elected faculty from the Council; 18 ex-officio members; 3 Staff Senate representatives; and 14 Student Government representatives. There are 23 standing committees of the University Senate and over 300 faculty members engaged in University Senate and governance.

The 2016-17 academic year has been productive for both the Senate and Senate Committees.

Since the last University Council meeting, highlights include:

- The Academic Policies and Procedures Committee has examined several policies including, but not limited to, double counting of majors and minors, grade changes, dual degrees, and the number of credits required to graduate.

- The Intercollegiate Athletics Committee engaged in an intensive review of athletics, budgets, Title IX, facilities, revenue generation, academic integrity, athlete well-being, governance and compliance, fiscal integrity, and equality/diversity.
- The Senate Budget Committee began weekly meetings to coincide with the university-wide budget reduction process, sought to increase communications, crafted recommendations for requests to recruit tenure track faculty, and made recommendations to the libraries.
- The Essential Studies (ES) Committee met sixteen times, reviewed and validated new ES courses, processed 24 student petitions, approved a handbook of ES policies, updated ES goal language, and instituted a new revalidation process for breath of knowledge courses.
- The University Senate has been involved in larger campus initiatives including, but not limited to, space management, promotion, evaluation, tenure, strategic planning, open educational resources, NDUS blackboard initiative, strategic enrollment management, and mediation services.
- The University Senate collaborated with the VPAA to provide regular updates/fora on budgets, strategic enrollment management, student success with blackboard, online degree and certificate programs, master planning, a branding survey, and strategic planning.

Pam Shea, President of the Staff Senate, was introduced. Ms. Shea explained that Staff Senate is comprised of 50 elected representatives, 7 main committees, and 3 ad hoc committees. Their purpose is to support and advocate for staff. Staff members are involved with 15 University Senate Committees and take an active role in the ND State Staff Senate.

- Amber Flynn and Tyler Clausen will be incoming president and vice president.
- A change to membership will be by division versus broadbanding.
- The Denim and Diamonds \$500 grants program was successful.
- The recently held Spring Fling was successful.

Brandon Beyer, Student Body President, shared what are seen as issues by students, and what Student Government is working on:

- \$100,000 in grant funding has been made available for faculty to switch to Open Educational Resources.
- Cole Bachmeier and Erik Hanson are the incoming president and vice president, respectively.
- Uber has been brought to Grand Forks.
- Student ID cards can be used on city buses.

Mr. Harsell opened the meeting for questions.

Mr. Sheridan asked the President his thoughts about the faculty and their role as we move to the future. The President stated that the faculty are the heart of the university.

The University Council meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Scott Correll, Secretary
University Council