

Minutes of the University Council Meeting  
November 18, 2014

Melissa Gjellstad, Chair of the University Senate, called the meeting of the University Council to order. She welcomed all in attendance and explained the different format being used for the meeting with updates from the leaders of the three senates and then remarks by President Kelley. The President's State of the University address will be in the spring semester.

Ms. Gjellstad, as chair of University Senate, gave a definition of what University Council is, its membership, and how the University Senate is the representative body for conducting business on behalf of the University Council. She 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 2014-15 year has been a robust year for the University Senate. There have been initiatives to make the work of the Senate more visible. There is increased communication flow both within the Senate and from the senators to their constituents. Ms. Gjellstad has reached out to the Senate committees for feedback as well.

Since the last University Council meeting, the following has occurred:

- Some of the work of a selection of standing committees includes the following: Legislative Affairs has addressed a new admissions index; Budget, Restructuring and Reallocation has worked to understand the role of shared governance in the new budget model and increase financial literacy; Academic Policies and Admissions has reviewed the definition of class, developed an application priority deadline and a tuition deposit, and made co-op policy changes; Conflict of Interest has reviewed their policy and made updates; Faculty Handbook has split the Faculty Handbook into two documents--the UND Organization and Services Guide and the Faculty Handbook; Senate Executive Committee has addressed many policies and functional processes. There are many other committees that have completed much important/critical/significant work as well, such as the regular meetings of the University Senate Curriculum Committee, the University Assessment Committee, the Essential Studies Committee, and the Online and Distance Education Committee.
- The Ad-hoc Committee on Shared Governance held a faculty forum in the spring and fall 2014. They conducted a survey regarding the creation of a Faculty Senate. Their work continues.
- The University Student Assessment of Teaching (USAT) Committee is reviewing the assessment instrument and the expectation is that there will be a recommendation for a new assessment tool.

Some of the issues arising in the work of the University Senate and Senate Executive Committee include the following:

- The faculty oath was discussed and several actions were taken.
- The Senate committee structure was strengthened and three committees were disbanded.
- The University Senate website migration was discussed and reviewed.

- The closing of the Twamley Snack Bar was investigated.
- Perspectives were solicited and provided by Senate leadership for the NDUS strategic plan.
- There was also review and action as appropriate on matters such as the Ombuds position, the Affordable Care Act, Student Engagement, and SOAR – program prioritization.
- To meet the goal of increased communication, Senate leadership held a new senator coffee, and the University Senate website was redesigned, launched and is now kept updated.

Ms. Gjellstad thanked all who have made this work possible, specifically mentioning the committee chairs and administrative offices that support committee work, with added recognition for Suzanne Anderson and Lori Hofland from the Registrar's Office, the Administration, especially the Provost and President, and the Senate Executive Committee and their collaboration.

Sharley Kurtz, President of Staff Senate, was introduced. Ms. Kurtz 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.

Ms. Kurtz highlighted the recent Denim and Diamond celebration which brings together University employees to celebrate Exceptional UND. There is a silent auction where the proceeds go to support the Seeds for Staff Success program. Since 2012, just under \$20,000 has been awarded to staff. Another important initiative is the 31 Days of Glory raffle which raises funds for scholarships for dependents of UND employees. They have awarded twenty scholarships that have matching dollars. Ms. Kurtz mentioned Denim Days which provided more than \$11,000 to non-profit organizations and Tubs of Love that has provided support to CVIC and the Santa Claus Girls.

Staff Senate knows their role is enhancing the student experience at UND. They work to establish a foundation of trust with both students and faculty.

Tanner Franklin, Student Body President, shared what are seen as issues by students and what Student Government is working on. He highlighted academic advising, course enrollment and more opportunities for social involvement. He described the areas:

- Academic Advising and course concerns have areas which need improvement, e.g., the Academic Catalog shows the term a course is offered, but many times that is not the term the course is actually offered. Student Senate passed a four-year guarantee where the student signs on to complete in a four-year track, and if the student does not graduate, the University would pay for the student's completion. He indicated that advising needs to be more holistic. There is a need to improve academic resources and advising.
- Regarding social involvement, the institution must find activities to offer students at night and on weekends. Most facilities on campus are closed and that limits options. There is a need to make the campus livelier by having more late-night options. There is a need to consider the change in students' study habits and the need for study space. A survey of students indicated the need for more study space, including 24-hour study space. The library is outdated, e.g., it lacks adequate power sources for all the student technology needs. Students use more electronic resources and

UND needs to catch up. Student Government has funded a new study space in the lower level of the Union and it is filled with students. This needs to become the new standard. Student Government is working on a bill to fund the Union to be open 24 hours. All spaces need to be more student-friendly and the library needs to be remodeled.

- There needs to be better branding for UND and more school spirit. This is noticed when walking across campus. There is a lack of UND pride. There needs to be more ways to communicate with the new mobile app. Parking services needs review, including weekend enforcement.
- Community involvement has included a community non-violence group called “It’s on Us.”
- There is collaboration with the City of Grand Forks. Student Government is reviewing legislative topics for government affairs which include flat rate student loans, no tuition increases in the biennium and expanding STEM loan forgiveness.

President Kelley addressed the Council members. He expressed appreciation for the collaboration and shared governance among the three senates and all the progress that has been made. He complimented their work to make UND a vigorous and lively institution. He encouraged attendees to think about all the things done in the semester and all that has been accomplished. There is a great degree of positive education done and many people have made this possible.

President Kelley then reported on where UND is at this point:

- The student initiative for new study space in the Union and expanded hours was praised. He indicated work is being done to find a way to be open 24/7.
- Conversations are underway regarding increasing technology and modernizing the library.
- The One Stop Shop opened in the Memorial Union.

Looking ahead, the President mentioned:

- Groundwork is being laid for preparation for the coming legislative session.
- Changes to the campus regarding facilities were reported. UND asked for \$40 million for strategic investment in facilities and UND will ask for help in strategic capital investments. The Medical School received half the funding for the new medical school and UND will look for the second half. The Law School renovation and addition will be a tremendous addition to the campus. The High Performance Athletic Practice facility is totally supported by philanthropic donations. Athletic training for all student athletes will be in the new facility. Another facility that is supported by philanthropic funds is the new Robin Hall for UAS and vehicle testing. The Wilkerson Hall update to enhance programs and student life is supported by bonds.
- Additional requests to the legislature regarding a health initiative, funding for a new apron at the airport and equipment to amplify the donations for the new College of Engineering & Mines building.

The President then complimented the many students who have achieved awards this year and stated that this exemplifies their hard work and high levels of achievement.

The President then took questions.

Ms. Mikulak asked about zoning for the UND area to support restaurants, etc. Her comment was that UND is somewhat isolated. The President indicated that that is something that can be looked into. To the north of campus, UND is acquiring properties. There is a conversation started with the city about the area to the south, across the railroad tracks. UND is also committed to the downtown area for gathering and art space. A comment was made that there is a greater need for transportation on campus on weekends and that will include conversations and work with the city. Mr. Sheridan commented that, historically, Presidents Clifford, Baker and Kupchella didn't want UND involved with commercialization.

Mr. Sheridan also reported that five programs in the College of Arts & Sciences don't have graduate programs. He asked the President to seek funds to make them possible. The President responded that we need to reallocate resources within the colleges instead of asking the legislature. The questions are, how to find the resources to do that and what programs do we want for the future? Discussion can happen now. The President stated that much money is donated, but it is restricted for designated areas.

Mr. Poochigian commented on the NDUS Strategic Plan brochure and the lack of coverage on the Arts & Sciences and Humanities. The President responded that focusing on other areas was an attempt by the System office to appeal to practical-based constituents, i.e., it is a political issue.

It was noted by a student in the audience that a new Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion was recently hired. He asked what UND is doing to educate students on diversity. The President introduced Sandra Mitchell, VP for Diversity and Inclusion, and asked her to respond. Ms. Mitchell stated that the University is connected globally and that we need to change our thinking to look beyond race and ethnicity. We need to recruit with diversity in mind and integrate diversity into the curriculum. She reported that a number of activities are happening outside the classroom regarding diversity, including working with Student Government, the Orientation program, and the Study Abroad program.

The President concluded by saying that there is so much for UND to be proud of at present. He stated that this is the most vibrant, positive institution he has seen in his career. It is very exceptional.

Ms. Gjellstad asked if there were any matters arising; hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Suzanne Anderson, Secretary  
University Council