

## University Senate

### April 3, 2014 Post-Meeting Email

Compiled by Ryan Zerr

Dear Members of the University Senate,

I'm writing to do a quick follow-up to last week's University Senate meeting, and to provide some sense of what is likely to occur at the May meeting. It appears there will be many interesting matters to discuss then.

As for last week's meeting, we heard an excellent update on the Pathways to Student Success initiative from Vice Presidents Brekke, DiLorenzo, and Reesor. Highlights included discussion about the merits of moving to 15 credits as the baseline for a full-time credit load and different tuition rate models. There were many questions that, I believe, resulted in a productive dialogue.

Results of the Senate committee elections were also announced, and all newly-elected individuals and Senate committee chairs have been notified of these results. An ad hoc Student Evaluation of Teaching Committee will soon be commencing work related to nearly all aspects of the student evaluation of teaching process, and the Senate can expect to hear recommendations from this committee over the course of the next academic year. Mention was also made of two upcoming events: The spring University Council meeting, which will occur on April 30 at 3:00 in Education Room 7; and a NDUS all-faculty conference organized by the CCF that is tentatively scheduled for October 2014, with more information about this forthcoming in the near future.

Two matters of business were taken up at the meeting. The first was a recommendation from the Senate's Conflict of Interest/Scientific Misconduct Committee regarding changes to the Conflict of Interest Policy. You received a copy of these recommendations in my email from last week, and I can report that the Senate approved the policy contained in that document.

The other matter concerned a request from the CCF to endorse the following statement on open resource materials:

The CCF recognizes technological advances may influence how we traditionally view the educational process, and asks the legislature to proactively support open resource initiatives with funding. The CCF affirms that faculty should be sensitive to the rising costs of textbooks whenever possible. However, the CCF affirms that the choice of textbooks and any other course-related materials must be faculty-based and at the faculty member's discretion for provision of the best course possible; the CCF requests the legislature and the SBHE affirm this statement.

The Senate agreed to endorse this after a bit of debate, and that input will pass to the CCF, via our CCF representatives (Professors Munski, Murphy, and Petros), and thence onto the State Board.

Foreshadowing the May 1 Senate meeting, there will, of course, be the Spring 2014 graduation list that will need our approval. It also appears likely that a proposal will be presented for the creation of a faculty senate – not to be voted on in May, but as a starting point for a discussion leading to a possible vote in the fall. Many have expressed an interest in having this discussion, so I hope everyone can make the room in their schedule necessary to attend the May 1 meeting – our last of this academic year.

With anticipation that I'll see you on May 1,

Ryan