

University Senate

March 6, 2014 Post-Meeting Email

Compiled by Ryan Zerr

Dear Members of the University Senate,

Although ostensibly this email is meant as a follow-up to the March 6 University Senate meeting, there were other happenings last week that also relate to shared governance issues. Perhaps this is an opportune time to do a broader recap. I think you'll agree that it was a particularly busy week.

The first Campus Conversation on Shared Governance & Leadership was held last week, featuring a conversation between Dean Denny Elbert and Professor Deborah Worley. I'd like to thank Dean Elbert for sharing his insights with us, and Dr. Worley for starting and sustaining the conversation. This event was a direct result of a Senate initiative that began in September 2012 with the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Shared Governance. That committee has done, and continues to do, a significant amount of work, and at this point it's reasonable to estimate that over 100 people have been engaged at some time during the last year in conversations that are strengthening the shared governance culture at UND. I anticipate additional campus conversations related to shared governance & leadership, as well as other outgrowths of the ad hoc committee's work – be on the lookout for more information in the near future.

Another of last week's events was the beginning of the program and support services prioritization process that we've been hearing much about lately. Although there seem to be mixed feelings about this process, what can't be denied is that it will engage approximately 40 faculty and 20 staff members in a very detailed discussion about the future of UND. It therefore represents one more of last week's events that is directly tied to how faculty and staff are involved in the governance decisions of our institution.

A third example was the distribution of the nominating ballots for 2014-15 University Council positions on the University Senate, the Special Review Committee Pool, the Standing Committee on Faculty Rights, and the NDUS Council of College Faculties. I hope everyone who is a member of the University Council takes advantage of their opportunity to nominate representatives to serve on these bodies. One of the most important ways to further the culture of shared governance at UND is to elect colleagues who we know will take their positions seriously, and who we can be confident will have the best interests of the University in mind. The deadline for submission of your nominating ballot is this Friday, March 14, with the election ballot for positions on these same bodies to follow in approximately one week. Be looking out for that important voting opportunity as well.

As for the March 6 Senate meeting itself, elections were held for 2014-15 positions on University Senate standing committees (results will be announced at the April 3 Senate meeting), and with Vice President

Brekke's very helpful information about the master planning process and the current fiscal year budget situation, it was a very productive meeting.

As always, if questions or concerns arise, please feel free to contact me. I'll be back in touch in advance of our April Senate meeting. Have a relaxing/productive/enjoyable (your choice) spring break week.

Ryan