

**Minutes of the University Senate Meeting
October 8, 2015**

1.

A special October meeting of the University Senate was held at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2015 in Room 113, Education. Chair Rebecca Weaver-Hightower presided.

2.

The following members of the Senate were present:

Basile, Eric	Kitzes, Adam	Quinn, Andrew
Beck, Pamela	Kopp, Matthew	Rakow, Lana
Burgess, Gaye	Kurtz, Sharley	Ray, Linda
Christopherson, Anne	Laguette, Soizik	Reissig, Brad
Fazel-Rezai, Reza	Lawrence, David	Richards, Thomas
Flynn, Amber	Lawrence, Wesley	Sage, Melanie
Gedafa, Daba	Lim, Howe	Schindler, Gary
Harsell, Dana	Lindseth, Glenda	Semke, William
Henderson, Pam	Martin, Will	Sheridan, William
Hunter, Cheryl	McGinniss, Mike	Stofferahn, Curt
Jendrysik, Mark	Milavetz, Barry	Takahashi, Shuzo
Jorgenson, Terra	Mosher, Sarah	VanLooy, Jeffrey
Keengwe, Jared	Nelson, Taylor	Weaver-Hightower, Rebecca
Kenville, Kim	Pupino, Kaaren	Wood, Robert

3.

The following members of the Senate were absent:

Anderson, Suzanne	Ho, I-Hsuan	Schroeder, Nate
Blanchard, Paige	Johnson, Chase	Sens, Donald
Bradley, April	Kelley, Robert	Sens, Mary Ann
Brekke, Alice	Lang, Jacob	Smith, Bruce
Bridewell, John	Lerma, Sam	Staples, Cliff
Brown, Ryan	Liang, Lewis	Stone, Lucian
Campbell, Katherine	McGimpsey, Grant	Storrs, Debbie
DiCristina, Bruce	Munski, Doug	Sutton, James
DiLorenzo, Thomas	Murphy, Eric	Swisher, Wayne
Dockter, Sally	Noghanian, Sima	Tanaka, Tomohiro
Doze, Van	Peshut, Conner	Urlacher, Brian
El-Rewini, Hesham	Pettinato, Tammy	Walton, Susan
Ferraro, Richard	Porter, Kimberly	Williams, Margaret
Flint, Jamie	Rand, Kathryn	Wynne, Joshua
Halgren, Cara	Reesor, Lori	
Hanson, Collin	Ring, Tanner	
Hill, Robert	Roux, Gayle	

4.

Ms. Weaver-Hightower welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the protocol for this Open Conversation on the draft documents of the new UND Constitution, Faculty Senate Constitution, and Faculty Senate Bylaws. Each agenda item would have 20 minutes allotted, and a pair of ad-hoc committee members facilitated each conversation. There was not a quorum of Senators at the meeting, so no official business was conducted, but Ms. Weaver-Hightower chose to adhere to best practice and follow parliamentary procedure with all those present. Notes were kept to aid the ad-hoc committees in gathering feedback. Mr. Jendrysik made a motion to suspend the rules of the University Senate in order to allow non-Senators to speak for 2-minute increments, and to begin the conversation with a general discussion of the purpose of a constitution. There was a second by Ms. Henderson and the motion was approved.

5.

Constitutions. Facilitated by Ms. Weaver-Hightower. Mr. Jendrysik stated that a constitution should not answer all questions of governance, but should provide a broad context for the general needs of the University while remaining amendable and flexible in order to adapt to situations. Mr. Grijalva stated that a constitution ought not anticipate every dispute, but construct a structure and forum for hearing opinions. The following concerns, comments, and questions were raised by those present:

- Faculty and members of the administration will be discouraged from meeting and collaborating if we eliminate the current University Senate & University Council structure.
- Faculty turn to governing documents when the need arises; most do not read them.
- The committee should
 - contact NDSU Faculty Senate leadership to inquire about their satisfaction for their governing documents.
 - drop the UND Constitution, if we intend to parallel NDSU, and keep only two documents: the Faculty Senate Constitution & the Faculty Senate Bylaws.
 - identify where items struck from the current UND Constitution now reside.
- The UND Constitution should
 - articulate clearly the separation of powers within shared governance between the faculty and the President.
 - clarify how the powers of legislation in the existing University Council function under the new UND Constitution, and the relationship between the new Faculty Council, the Faculty Senate, and the Administration.
 - include a definition of powers for each Senate mentioned in the UND Constitution.
 - preserve protections for groups with less power.
 - retain language of SBHE accountability, as faculty have no control over SBHE policy, and redundancies can prevent removal of policy at other levels.

Coordinating Committee. Facilitated by Mr. Stofferahn and Ms. Henderson. Mr. Stofferahn stated the value in retaining a committee where the four constituency groups can meet and discuss for purposes of collaboration and communication, similar to the current University Senate Executive Committee but without that authority. He gave examples from recent University Senate history of collaboration between faculty, staff, and students on issues of common concern (e.g., 2011—logo, 2012—ombuds). The following concerns, comments, and questions were raised by those present:

- Faculty should trust in the leadership of those designees we elect, who are charged to forward the Senate and not their own individual agendas. Model two-way communication, stay positive, and defend a powerful senate for the good of the university.
- The committee should
 - clarify why the Coordinating Committee stands in this document at all.
 - distance the current iteration of Coordinating Committee from previous ad-hoc committee’s Faculty Senate proposals (e.g., drafts from May, September, and December 2014).
 - reject changes to current model that dilute the power of the faculty.
- The UND Constitution should
 - ensure that a Coordinating Committee not become an intervening step or filter between the Senates and the President or his/her Administration, and that the Senates (faculty) convey concerns directly to the President/Administration.
 - include the word “advisory” to clarify the role of the Coordinating Committee.
 - keep the Coordinating Committee for a possible future when the leaders of the three Senates do not have seats at the President’s Cabinet.
 - relocate Coordinating Council language into UND Constitution, Article I, D. “Standing & Other Committees” section.
 - retain professional librarians as members of the Faculty Senate in order to ensure engagement with faculty and a seat at the table.
 - retain the Coordinating Committee for adversarial times when three Senates do not agree; constitutional requirement will force them to meet and converse.
 - state the authority of the Coordinating Committee in university governance now that the University Council will be abolished.
 - stress that the President and Administration must consult with the faculty on all matters of teaching and scholarship, for these primary roles are the domain of the faculty.
 - strike mention of Coordinating Committee in UND Constitution and relocate it in appropriate Faculty Senate documents with other Standing Committees.
 - strike professional librarians from Faculty Senate as they are members of Staff Senate already; privileging one group with terminal degrees becomes a difficult argument to sustain when considering all staff with terminal degrees in their fields.

7.

Three Senates. Facilitated by Mr. Grijalva and Mr. Kopp. Mr. Grijalva stated that all three Senates have direct lines to the President, but each speak in specific spheres conveying their constituents' concerns. Faculty has historically outnumbered all other constituent groups in the University Senate because faculty did not have their own venue, but now that can change. All three groups are critical parts of the institution, as we already recognize in practice on campus. Mr. Kopp stated the importance of allowing individual senates to define their domain, as it is impossible to prevent a Senate from taking a stance on an issue of interest. The following concerns, comments, and questions were raised by those present:

- Faculty should change the culture. Enable faculty to realize their empowerment. Odd that faculty do not assume they have that voice; be prepared, informed, and willing to stand up. The faculty voice is stronger than it has been, regardless of which constitution we follow.
- The committee should
 - eliminate the Coordinating Committee and the administrative language and instead seat students, staff, administrators, and faculty on Faculty Senate committees.
 - keep faculty majority on committees with all groups to preserve majority voice.
- The UND Constitution should
 - define faculty purview in all documents in order to convince faculty that they should give up authority
 - ensure that the President must communicate with the Senate in the case of disagreement between the Senate and the President; re-insert the language of expected communication, particularly with the SBHE/Bismarck.
 - preserve the Coordinating Committee for intra-Senate communication, but do not allow it to interfere with Senate decisions and immediate reporting lines.
 - prevent the Coordinating Committee from becoming a Trojan Horse that complicates overlapping interests and becomes the all-powerful sounding board for the new President
 - strike Coordinating Committee text in UND Constitution Preface, Section 3, paragraph 3.

8.

Faculty Authority & Matters Arising. Facilitated by Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm. Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm stated that the Faculty Senate authority, as written in the Faculty Senate Constitution, is a copied from the NDSU Faculty Senate with two exceptions. They are 1) conduct of student life, and 2) library matters. Ms. Weaver-Hightower stated that the current University Senate Standing Committee list was used as the map for articulating areas of authority and domain for the new Faculty Senate. The following concerns, comments, and questions were raised by those present:

- The committee should
 - be sensitive to definitions based solely on administrative labels given changing titles and positions (e.g., Faculty Fellow in Arts & Sciences).

- capture the voices of those campus citizens not present at today's meeting.
- decide where to draw the line in defining those excluded from Faculty Senate membership.
- find a single location for campus citizens to find documents and drafts.
- The Faculty Senate Constitution should
 - insert the evaluation of administrators to the governing documents.
 - keep the articulation of faculty authority over research, scholarly & creative activity as well as faculty employment issues are great additions. The former is not mentioned in the current UND Constitution, and the original ad-hoc committee identified this as a huge gap in existing governance documents.
 - relocate authority for the library (Faculty Senate Constitution, Article 2, Section 1, #10) down to Article 2, Section 2. Librarians feel they cannot be trusted to make policy and this singling out of one unit usurps their authority and gives it to the Faculty Senate.
 - retain faculty authority to recommend policy changes to the library, but allow the library to initiate and develop their own policy.
 - strike Article 3 "Aims & Actions" in the Faculty Senate Constitution. This aspirational language is covered in other places.

9.

Mr. Harsell made a motion to unsuspend the rules. Mr. Jendrysik seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Melissa Gjellstad, recorder
University Senate, Past Chair