

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

I. Call to Order. - Meeting called to order by President Salajan at 3:02pm.

II. Attendance.

Faculty Senate Members		Substitutions	Present
Molly Secor-Turner, Past President			x
Florin Salajan, President			x
Ali Amiri, Parliamentarian			x
Christopher Byrd	AFSNR		x
Tom DeSutter	AFSNR		
Andrew Green	AFSNR		x
Jeremy Jackson	AFSNR		x
Ryan Limb	AFSNR		x
Birgit Pruess	AFSNR		x
David Ripplinger	AFSNR		x
Guiping Yan	AFSNR		x
Eric Berg	AFSNR		x
Qi Zhang	AFSNR		x
Bakr Aly Ahmed	AHHS		x
Anastassiya Andrianova, Acting President Elect	AHHS		x
Lisa Arnold	AHHS		x
Sean Burt	AHHS		x
John Creese	AHHS	Ellen Rubenstein	x
Pam Emanuelson	AHHS		x
Kristen Fellows	AHHS		x
Holly Hassel	AHHS		x
Dan Pemstein	AHHS		x
Onnolee Nordstrom	BUS		x
Fred Riggins	BUS		x

Ruilin Tian	BUS		x
Eric Asa	ENG		
Long Jiang	ENG		x
Zhibin Lin	ENG		x
Majura Selekwa	ENG	Robert Pieri	x
Changhui Yan	ENG		x
Shannon Harriger	HP	Karla Haug	x
Mary Larson	HP		x
Sharon Nelson	HP		x
Stephen O'Rourke	HP		x
Sara Thompson	HP		x
Amelia Asperin	HSE		x
Katie Lyman	HSE		x
Kimberly Overton	HSE		x
Tom Carlson	HSE		x
Laura Aldrich-Wolfe	SM		x
Josef Dorfmeister	SM		x
John Hershberger	SM	Warren Christensen	x
Ken Lepper	SM		x
Mark McCourt	SM		x
Kent Rodgers	SM		x
Abraham Ungar	SM		x
Pinjing Zhao	SM		x

III. Adoption of the Agenda. - Motion to approve by Senator Christensen, seconded by Senator Asperin. Senator Aly Ahmed motion to add new grading scale proposal to the New Business section of the agenda, seconded by Senator Limb. Vote by voice acclamation; motion to approve passed unanimously. Motion by Senator Christensen to add the Resolution in support of Dr. Secor-Turner to New Business, seconded by Senator Andrianova. Vote by acclamation; motion passed unanimously. Vote to adopt revised agenda by voice acclamation; agenda approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2021. - Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Senator Christensen, seconded by Senator Pieri. Vote by acclamation, motion approved unanimously.

V. Announcements.

- a. Dean Bresciani, President - *It has been a long couple of weeks at the legislature. Largely, very positive things to report from Bismarck. Higher education funding formula will get a boost this session and not looking at a cut, including a 1.5% and 2% cost of living increase to state employees. The Agricultural Products Development Center was approved with \$50 million coming from bonding, \$20 million from appropriations and have raised \$5 million totaling \$75 million; also received authorization to go up to \$85 million. Recognized strong support from legislators throughout the state to enable NDSU to get 3 capital construction projects. Research proposal still being moved through the legislature at \$43 million for the biennium. Has strong support and indications suggest the proposal may get on the books and funded at at least a modest level. Reports that SB2030 will come right down to the wire - a minority of legislators are righteously indignant and judging research, an insult to academic freedom; more realize the research is coming to a close, but now expanded to other programs (DCE); another group responding to their constituents, but are not in support of infringement on academic freedom; the third group is openly against. Passed in House, now will move to the Senate for a vote, but it hasn't been moved yet. Senate could approve what the House has proposed, but likely will not and the bill will go to conference committee. Questions remain if the governor will approve it or not. Senator Pieri asked how many days are left to keep 10 days remaining. President Bresciani stated that early or middle of next week is the target date. Question in the chat from CCF President Hellevang about the role of the CCF. Bresciani stated he is pleased this has been presented as a system-wide issue and not just an NDSU problem. Encouraged continuing with collective action and reaching out to Senate and House leadership.*
- b. Margaret Fitzgerald, Provost - *not in attendance.*
- c. Florin Salajan, Faculty Senate President - *thanked Executive team, Senators, and other faculty for action in response to SB2030. Thanked President Bresciani and Provost Fitzgerald for taking an uncompromising stance to defend academic freedom. Reminder that there is an electronic ballot for CCF Representative positions due by April 19th. Moving into the next term for Faculty Senate membership and now collecting nominations for Faculty Senate President Elect. Election will take place at the May Faculty Senate meeting. Requested information regarding meeting format (e.g., in-person, hybrid) for Faculty Senate meetings in fall semester. Senator Aly Ahmed expressed a concern about being able to submit multiple votes via Qualtrics for the CCF election. Senator Christensen asked for*

clarification about the current presidency/succession of leadership; President Salajan responded that he will serve as President next year.

- d. Molly Secor-Turner, Faculty Senate Past-President - *Offered thanks to faculty and President Salajan for work on SB2030.*
- e. Anastassiya Andrianova, Faculty Senate Acting President-Elect - *no announcements.*
- f. Maggie Latterell, Staff Senate President - *Gunkelman Award Celebration on May 7th at 3pm via Zoom. Staff Recognition Awards will be celebrated in Staff Senate on June 2 at 9:30am. This is the last meeting for President Latterell, who thanked President Salajan and Faculty Senate for their collaboration and commitment to protecting academic freedom on campus.*
- g. Matthew Friedmann, Student Body President - *Announced this is his last meeting with Faculty Senate as Student Body President and thanked Faculty Senate for their collaboration. Expressed appreciation for the activism of students in response to challenges to academic freedom. Reminded Senators that the vaccination clinic will take place on Wednesday and spots for vaccination remain open. Asked faculty to remind students that vaccines are available.*
- h. Philip Hunt, Registrar - *no announcements.*
- i. Lisa Arnold, AHSS Senator - *provided an update on the English Placement mechanism we will be using at NDSU. Standardized test scores for admission were suspended during the pandemic which resulted in needing a new way to place students into English courses. Students will complete an English Placement Survey via Blackboard to assess students' background and experience with writing to better place students. Survey takes 10-20 minutes. Students will receive an email with the results and recommended English course to select. Students with transfer credits for English 110 or 120 can just register for the next level course and do not need to take the English Placement Survey. While this is a temporary solution to the waiver of standardized test requirements, they are hopeful this placement approach will continue.*
- j. Alicia Laferriere, NDSU Bookstore - *Provided an overview of course textbook savings to students. Reported \$1.9 million cost savings. Now taking course textbook adoption for Summer and Fall Semesters; up to 56% of sections have so far been submitted. Can provide support for textbook adoption and open resource adoption.*

VI. Committee and Other Reports.

- a. Budget Committee report - *Dr. Miller reported that the committee met with Huron Consulting and learned about their methodology. Met with Provost last week to plan for moving forward. Reported that Huron has submitted their findings to Deans. Suggested that Faculty should connect with their Deans to access findings and that action will take place at the College level. Huron will be presenting opportunities for growth and efficiencies in addition to suggested cuts. The Provost will share university level cuts with the faculty. Huron's recommendations are only recommendations, and faculty will have an opportunity for input. One finding is our cost to educate graduate students is very high. Question from Senator McCourt, is there a role for the Budget Committee to directly provide information to the faculty? Dr. Miller suggested they would like to see open forums and that they will hold Provost Fitzgerald to that. Senator Pieri asked about the inclusion of research in the estimates of Huron. Dr. Miller responded that they are really focused on the cost of educating the graduate students but not on research benefit so the data should be taken in light of departmental specifics.*
- b. Legislative Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee report - *Senator Lyman provided thanks to the administration for being proactive in the communication with faculty regarding legislation that impacts campus. No formal report, but opened floor to questions. Senator Andrianova asked for any updates on HB1503 (campus free speech bill). President Salajan reported he believes the bill was passed. President Bresciani agreed he believes the bill was passed. Senator Lyman added the bill was passed in both the House and Senate.*

VII. Consent Agenda.

- a. *UCC Report - Senator Pieri motion to approve, Senator Christensen seconded. Vote by electronic poll; 38 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain. Motion passed to approve the UCC Report.*

VIII. General Order

- a. *Policy 158.1 - Motion to approve by Senator Pieri, seconded by Senator Burt. Senator Pieri inquired if this policy implies that all communication with administrators will now be done via email. President Salajan responded he did not know the answer. Senator Lepper responded that email is already considered the official means of communication and this policy protects what already exists but prevents email being forwarded in ways that are not approved. Vote by electronic poll; 35 yea, 0 nay, 5 abstain. Motion passed to approve Policy 158.1.*

IX. Unfinished Business. - none

X. New Business.

- a. *Grading System Proposal to add plus/minus.* - Senator Aly Ahmed presented an overview of the proposed revision to the grading scale. Motion for approval by Senator Zhao, seconded by Senator Emanuelson. Senator Asperin expressed concern that there hasn't been time to collect feedback from other faculty and students. Senator Jackson reported support of the concept but wants to ensure academic freedom in setting the percentages and weights for the grade levels. Senator Pieri motion to postpone, seconded by Senator Aperia. Senator Zhao added that other schools in MN, MT, and WI use similar plus/minus scales around similar point values. ND, SD, and WY do not use the plus/minus scale. Senator McCourt suggested a finer grading scale is beneficial and offered support for the grading scale change. Vote by electronic poll to postpone grading scale change until next meeting; 37 yea, 2 nay, 0 abstain. Motion to postpone approved.

- b. *Resolution in support of Dr. Secor-Turner* - Senator Pieri motion to approve, seconded by Senator Pruess. Senator Christensen provided an overview of support for Dr. Secor-Turner and the intent of the resolution is to provide support for Dr. Secor-Turner and her research, rather than provide criticism to the process. Senator Lepper suggests that the resolution has the potential to draw attention to NDSU and draws personal attention to a single faculty member. Senator Pieri adds that to avoid what was pointed out before would make sense to approve this resolution after the legislative meeting. Senator Pieri motion to postpone, Senator Lepper seconded. Senator Lyman expressed concern about waiting that would result in being a day late and a dollar short. Senator Andrianova supported the idea of the need to send the message to the legislators and waiting will be too late. Senator Carlson also agreed that voting should happen now and not be postponed. This issue has a long history and it is time to make a statement now. Senator Christensen also supports proceeding with the vote. Vote to postpone the resolution by electronic poll; 7 yea, 33 nay, 0 abstain. Motion to postpone failed.
Return to main motion to approve. Motion by Senator Pieri to amend the resolution to read "in support of **academic freedom and** Dr. Secor-Turner," seconded by Senator Lepper. Senator Christensen states that the issue of academic freedom has

already been addressed in other ways. Senator Hassel agrees that we have already addressed academic freedom and this resolution is to support Dr. Secor-Turner, opposes amending language. Senator Pieri suggests this is making it a personal issue and “slapping the legislature in the face.” Senator Lepper agreed that this is potentially hurtful to NDSU. Senator Jackson encouraged thinking about the outcome as this might be perceived as combative. Senator Aldrich-Wolfe commented that the issue was already very personal and this is an attempt to stand in support of our colleague. Senator Christensen reiterated this is a statement of support and was significantly revised to avoid being combative. This is an attempt to stand in solidarity with a colleague. Electronic vote to amend the resolution; 12 yea, 25 nay, 2 abstain. Motion to amend failed.

Electronic vote to approve main motion to approve the resolution as written; 33 yea, 3 nay, 3 abstain. Motion to adopt the resolution passed.

- XI. *Adjournment. - Senator Pieri motion to adjourn, seconded by Senator Aly Ahmed. Vote by acclamation; passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.*