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4-5-2007

April 5, 2007

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# **Recommended Citation**

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#### Minutes of the University Senate Meeting April 5, 2007

The April meeting of the University Senate was held at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2007 in Room 7, Gamble Hall. Tom Petros, chair-elect, presided.

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2.

The following members of the Senate were present:

Anderson, Cindy Haskins, James Owens, Sarah Anderson, Suzanne

Heitkamp, Thomasine Perry, David Baker, Mary Hume, Wendelin Petros, Thomas Benoit, Joseph Iiams, Michele Potvin, Martha Berne, Jane Iverson, Joneen Rakow, Lana Boyd, Robert Jackson, Jon Rex, Janet Bradley, April Jeno, Sue Rice, Daniel Dewar, Graeme Jerath, Sukhvarsh Rieke, Judy Elbert, Dennis Kelsch, Steven Rosenberger, Thad Elsinga, Lillian Lane, Jason Stofferahn, Curtis Erickson, Daniel Light, Steven Stolt, Wilbur Faruque, SalehMahar, PatriciaWatson, JohnFerraro, RichardMarasinghe, KanishkaWeisenstein, Greg Fisher, Jay Mayzer, Roni

discourse research at the constant 3. and the same meneral education

## The following members of the Senate were absent:

Bass, Gail Kitzes, Adam Perkins, Dexter Behrmann, William Koeser, Brandon Picklo, Matthew Buhr, Jordan Kupchella, Charles Poochigian, Donald Campbell, Katherine LaVenture, Andrew Rendahl, Stephen Covington, ChandiceLawrence, DavidRobertson, CharlesCripe, HayleeLeBel, PaulSchnellert, Gary Drewes, Mary Little, Michael Seddoh, Samuel Flom-Meland, Cynthia Lothspeich, Jason Smart, Kathy Folkestad, Sara Mamaghani, Iraj Smith, Bruce Gallager, RobertMartindale, NathanStreibel, KentGosnold, WillMoen, JanVenhuizen, BrettHilliard, NathanielMunski, DouglasWilliams, JimJackson, MargaretMurphy, EricWilson, H. DavidJacobson, RachelleMyers, BradleyWittgraf, Michael Johnson, Gary Nowacki, Michael Yurkovich, Eleanor

Johnson, Stefan Olsen, Glenn

4.

## The following announcements were made:

a. Mr. Petros announced that the Smoke Free UND campus will go into effect October 5, 2007. Will Gosnold is the Senate representative to establish the policy. Questions can be directed to co-chairs Jane Croeker, Laurie Betting, and Nate Martindale.

- b. Mr. Stofferahn reported that he was just notified that Senator Svedjan has proposed cutting \$16M from UND's budget and proportional amounts from other institutions. He encouraged the senators to contact Mr. Svedjan to voice opposition to the cut for UND. Mr. Stofferahn will let Senators know when he has more information. He also reported that the letter which was sent to the legislature regarding the salary and health benefits contained 99 total signatures. UND was the only institution that was able to organize in this way and have its voice heard.
- c. Jay Fisher, UND's new Student Body President, announced the Big Event on April 14. Applications to participate were due on April 5, but would be accepted until the end of the week. The various groups go into the community for projects and to promote good relations.
- d. Tom Steen and Anne Kelsch presented the report from the General Education Task Force. Mr. Steen first presented background on the 28-member Task Force. The Task Force has worked two years reviewing how well general education is working and how it might be improved. This study was precipitated by three issues: 1) faculty being unaware or lacking knowledge on what it means to contribute to a student's general education; 2) students indicating that general education is something to get through rather than to grow from; and 3) the North Central Association visit where they approved UND but thought there was a need to better assess student learning in general education.

Anne Kelsch described the process by which the Task Force approached their work: readings and study; review of best practices; bringing experts to campus; research at UND on general education and general education courses; and discussion and debate on a new direction of general education at UND. They encouraged the Senators to read the document before the May meeting and contact Task Force members with questions, or if they wished a department visit. They indicted that they believe the proposed document is balanced and asked for thoughtful consideration.

e. Matt Cavalli announced that the General Education Requirement Committee decided to modify the General Education portion of the catalog. The approved courses will now be housed on the General Education website rather than being listed in the academic catalog. The catalog will have general information and will reference the url for the general education courses. Mr. Cavalli showed a prototype of what the site will look like.

5.

The question period was opened at 4:35 p.m.

Mr. Petros asked Mr. Weisenstein to give an update on the legislative process. Mr. Weisenstein commented that the Grand Forks Herald reports quite accurately. The Senate passed the 5/5 salary increases but the House passed the 4/4. He described the process where this difference is worked out in conference committee. He also described two hurdles: the Agriculture Research at NDSU being a separate state agency and, therefore, approved for 4/4 salary increase; and the Governor's proposed budget regarding benefits. The Agriculture research issue has been worked out but the Governor's proposed budget on benefits has not. He indicated that the tuition cap should remain. He also commented that Senator Holmberg has worked hard for education.

The question period closed at 4:43 p.m.

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Suzanne Anderson Secretary to the Senate

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