

Minutes of the University Council Meeting

October 26, 2020

Liz Legerski, Chair of the University Senate, called the meeting of the University Council to order. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda to include the State of the University.

Quorum for a business meeting was not established.

Ms. Legerski presented her University Senate Goals for the upcoming year:

1. Reignite an understanding of, and commitment to, shared governance at UND
2. Support individual and institution commitment to diversity, inclusion, justice
3. Survive the global pandemic and position ourselves to thrive into the future

She stated that she feels UND leadership has helped to make a difference in how the Pandemic has been handled. The nomination process for the new Task Force on the Future of Education at UND was also discussed.

For the Council meeting today, four deans were selected to provide a short update on their college. We will be hearing from the other four deans in the Spring 2021 term University Council meeting. The following deans presented today:

1. John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences Dean Paul Lindseth
2. College of Arts & Sciences Dean Brad Rundquist
3. College of Engineering & Mines Dean Brian Tande
4. School of Law Dean Michael McGinniss

After the Deans' presentations, Ms. Legerski introduced President Armacost.

The President thanked everyone for all of their hard work. He talked about the Pandemic Working Group daily meetings and the leadership of the group and the decisions that have been made regarding keeping UND safe and healthy. The group is responsible for bringing in large amounts of money for the university to be used towards fighting the pandemic and keeping people safe.

The President stated that he wrote a letter to the mayor and the city council regarding the importance of wearing face coverings and asking them to make this a requirement. He said that he and Matt Ternus, Student Body President, will be meeting with the city council at their next meeting regarding the face covering resolutions/mandate.

The President spoke on the budget discussions. The enrollment numbers at UND are above what was anticipated for fall 2020, so that is a positive for the institution. UND is launching an outreach effort to students to see if we can assist in any way regarding the continued studies and UND or a possible return to UND to complete their degree.

He discussed the State Budget and how the State Board of Higher Education and Governor have differing ideas on their budget requests. In the end, the Legislature will be the ones that will decide on the budget for the upcoming biennium.

The President talked about the future of UND and how we are using the Strategic Plan to guide us. He talked about the goals of the Strategic Plan:

Goals 1 – Liberal Arts

Goal 2 – Graduation Rates

Goal 3 – Enrollment. He discussed the Task Force on the future of education at UND and how Jeff VanLooy and John Schabb are co-chairs for this group and how the group will examine the delivery and student success for the future.

Goal 4 – research opportunities available to all at UND.

Goal 5 – inclusive UND community – diversity, equity and inclusivity –co chairs Cara Halgren and Tamba-Kuui Bailey

Goal 6 – serving Veterans Committee co-captain of this goal. Many ways to support our veterans/military

Goal 7 – Engaging Alumni support. Our Alumni support has never been higher than it is now. More than 80 million dollars this past year.

The President also talked about some of the great things that are happening on campus now such as the Writer's conference, the School of Law convocation, the upcoming searches for the Provost and the John D. Odegard Dean. He feels so privileged to be a part of this outstanding institution and the challenging happenings at this time. He feels that we now have greater involvement from faculty, staff and students.

Ms. Legerski opened a question period and announced the upcoming town hall meetings--November 4 at Noon for faculty and staff and November 4 at 6 p.m. for students and family.

It was announced that the city council meeting was being held at 5:30 p.m. tonight at City Hall.

It was asked whether UND plans to test students prior to spring 2021 semester like we did in the fall. UND will be doing testing events and are now in the process of pinning down the schedules for upcoming events. It was also stated that UND will be encouraging students to get testing prior to going home for Thanksgiving break.

The University System has made a collective decision regarding the start of spring 2021 term and spring break. We will be starting at the original date and there will be spring break 2021.

A question was asked regarding the book reading and asking the reading groups to submit their recommendations about inclusivity and inclusion to the President.

It was asked whether we have numbers regarding faculty moving classes online after Thanksgiving. The President wants to thank faculty for their decisions to continue on with their on campus mode of instruction. He also asked Provost Storrs to answer the question of the % of on campus and off campus courses. She replied with 30% online and 70% on campus.

It was asked if we are expecting a 10% budget cut request. The Governor has proposed a 10% cut but the SBHE has asked for a needs-based budget for higher ed. Now it is up to the legislature to approve the budget during their upcoming session. The budget is usually approved very late in the legislative session.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Marci Mack, Acting Secretary
University Council