

Minutes of the University Council Meeting/State of the University Address

September 23, 2019

Jeffrey VanLooy, Chair of the University Senate, called the meeting of the University Council to order at 3:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained what constitutes the University Council. He listed many of the improvements that have happened at UND over the past year including: pay increases, physical improvements, and higher graduation rates. He stated that in order to do even better, we need to keep improving our communication. Mr. VanLooy also reported that a Wake Up UND event will be held at the Alerus the following morning and that this meeting is a prelude to that.

Quorum for a business meeting was not established.

Mr. VanLooy introduced President Wynne, who stated that the meeting was to serve two purposes: 1) as a prelude to the Wake Up UND event; and 2) as a report to UND's stakeholders.

President Wynne stated that during his first months as UND's Interim President he has learned that UND is in pretty good shape. He stated that the single most important thing he has learned is that change is afoot in education regarding methods of delivery and that we need to be adaptive and responsive in our efforts to move forward and to strive for excellence.

Gracie Lian, Student Body President, gave a presentation on the Intern GF Program.

Debbie Storrs, Senior Vice Provost, gave an academic affairs update on improvements, stating that this fall we admitted the best academically qualified class of freshman ever; transfer and graduate student enrollment is up; Law School enrollment is up 33%; the Honors Program had a 48% increase in honor students; Career Services is providing hands-on internships; and graduation rates have increased by 10%, largely attributed to the use of Degree Map.

Total enrollment has declined, which calls for a need to focus on retention; in fact, this year is being called "the Year of Retention." Ms. Storrs stated that using Starfish to improve advising and increasing online program offerings are ways being used to increase retention. She recognized Stephanie Walker, Dean of Libraries & Information Resources, and reported that the Open Educational Resources project has resulted in big savings for students. The libraries are also supporting research by having a Celebration of Publications event. Ms. Storrs thanked the staff and faculty for their ongoing support of students. She then introduced Meloney Linder, Vice President for Marketing & Communications.

Ms. Linder reported that an ongoing goal to raise the prestige of UND has been underway. Updating faculty bios has increased media coverage in major publications;

the tone of media coverage is more positive; and the overall brand of UND is being raised.

John Mihelich, Interim Vice President for Research & Economic Development, reported on the Enhance Discovery initiative. He stated that UND received \$72M in external funding this past year. There has been an enhanced effort to collaborate and partner in research, especially between UND and NDSU.

DeAnna Carlson Zink, CEO of the UND Alumni Association & Foundation, reported that 9,016 “hero donors” contributed \$67.7M this past year. FY20’s goal is \$55M for capital projects such as the new College of Business & Public Administration; the High Performance Center – Phase II; the Babcock Hall renovation, which will house the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; and the UND Flight Operations expansion.

Jed Shivers, Vice President for Finance & Operations, reported that we received many good comments from credit raters when requesting bonds. He stated that it costs \$457M to operate UND. We will be investing \$350M in the campus for projects such as the new steam plant; the new College of Business & Public Administration; the University Avenue project; the Gershman Engagement Center; the Chester Fritz Library improvements; the O’Kelly project; parking lots; various demolition; deferred maintenance; renovations to Babcock and Gustafson Halls; and the Ray Richards golf course. Mr. Shivers stated that all of these projects will result in a highly connected campus.

Mr. VanLooy introduced a question and answer period. There were no questions and the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Lori Hofland for Scott Correll, Secretary
University Council