

## Proceedings of the University Council Meeting

August 29, 2017

Dana Harsell, Past Chair of the University Senate, called the meeting of the University Council to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.

Mr. Harsell gave a definition of what University Council is, its membership, and how the University Senate is the representative body for conducting business on behalf of the University Council. He indicated that the University Senate is comprised of 54 elected faculty from the Council; 18 ex-officio members; 3 Staff Senate representatives; and 14 Student Government representatives. There are 23 standing committees of the University Senate and over 300 faculty members engaged in University Senate and governance.

The 2016-17 year has been a robust year for the University Senate.

Since the last University Council meeting, the following has occurred:

- The University Senate published a budget resolution.
- The University Senate defined qualified faculty criteria for the HLC quality assurance report.
- Informational fora were developed to increase communication.
- The Academic Policies and Admissions Committee developed policy changes to eliminate barriers towards student persistence and graduation.
- The strategic plan is being executed.
- Open Educational Resources were introduced and funded.
- The Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation Working Group had developed a series of recommendations currently open for feedback and review.

Mr. Harsell thanked all who have made this work possible, specifically mentioning the committee chairs and administrative offices that support committee work, with added recognition for Scott Correll and Lori Hofland from the Registrar's Office, the Administration, especially Provost DiLorenzo and President Kennedy, and the Senate Executive Committee for their collaboration. Mr. Harsell introduced the incoming University Senate Chair, Nancy Vogeltanz-Holm.

Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm discussed the dissolution of positions that resulted from the budget cuts. There is a net loss of faculty, instructors, and staff. The largest losses are among staff.

She spoke about goals for addressing several important areas within the University Senate during the 2017-18 academic year.

- Faculty Handbook
- UND Constitution
- Senate Bylaws and Standing Rules
- MIRA Budget and Tuition Models
- Strategic Plan
- SBHE/NDUS Policies
- Student, Staff, and Faculty Advocacy

A question was asked regarding when the budget numbers will be available. Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm stated the Budget Committee has been reviewing overall budget numbers but that colleges should be able to discuss specific budgets. Mr. DiLorenzo stated that the budget numbers are available and that faculty should talk to their Deans.

President Kennedy addressed the Council members. He expressed appreciation for the collaboration and shared governance among the three senates and all the progress that has been made. He complimented their work to make UND a vigorous and lively institution.

President Kennedy then reported on a series of successes of the past year and plans for the future, using the seven goals of the new One UND Strategic Plan as a framework.

Liberal Arts - Provide a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation

Early in April, Mark Trahant received an email from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, announcing that he had just been elected as a new member of the Academy—one of the country's oldest and most prestigious societies of leaders from academia, the arts, business and public affairs.

Marcus Weaver-Hightower, Educational Foundations & Research, and Sheila Liming, English – were presented with a North Dakota University System award for incorporating technology in the classroom.

The revamped and newly named Columbia Hall, formerly the School of Medicine & Health Sciences, located on campus on North Columbia Road, includes a new headquarters for Communication and a DigiComm Lab to, in part, help develop even better public speakers; expanded space for Honors; and new synergies in the Department of Psychology.

Investments in O'Kelly Hall, in the heart of campus, has allowed for the creation of a Math Active Learning Lab (MALL) providing student-centered curriculum and learning space to meet a growing challenge for undergrads.

High-Impact Practices – Five representatives of the UND College of Arts & Sciences went to Boston in June to attend the 2017 Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success, hosted by the Association of American Colleges & Universities. The focus of the competitive national program is helping campuses infuse high-impact practices into their curriculums. Some reverberations of that visit already are being felt at UND with increased internships with the City of Grand Forks; the formation of a Big Ideas Gymnasium at the College of Engineering & Mines, where undergrads are collaborating on real-world problems; and UND Theatre Arts' debut of Shakespeare on the Red, in which young thespians work alongside seasoned veterans of the theatrical arts.

Graduation rates - Increase undergraduate, graduate and professional retention and graduation rates

Participation in Starfish – UND is making progress in increasing the number of students participating in an online analytics program that helps faculty monitor students' progress and looks for warning signs in students who might need intervention. UND had set a goal for 65 percent participation, but according to recent data, the University surpassed that mark by six points.

Revamped Office of Institutional Effectiveness – The office has made a comeback under Kennedy’s guidance and leadership, providing the kinds of analytically-based decision making that is helping the University drive up graduation rates.

Eliminating barriers – UND Registrar’s Office has knocked down barriers to timely graduation by establishing the opportunity to graduate with 120 credits and allowing “double counts” so students can pursue multiple degrees in a way that promotes cross-pollination in different areas of study.

More opportunity - Deliver more educational opportunities online and on campus

Online rankings – UND College of Business & Public Administration online courses continue to rank among the best in the nation, signaling the quality of UND’s distance curricula.

Online training – Lynette Krenelka, director of UND’s Office of Extended Learning, and Anne Kelsch, program director for Instructional Development, held a seminar last spring that walked faculty through the process of offering online courses.

High-growth programs – UND will continue to invest in and nurture high-growth programs such as those related to unmanned and autonomous systems, computer sciences, cyber security and analytics management and analysis.

Research - Enhance discovery at a level consistent with most research-intensive universities (Carnegie R1)

Nick Wilson, assistant professor of aviation and Kouhyar Tavakolian, assistant professor of electrical engineering, with the help of colleagues, students and private industry partner Rockwell Collins, invented “Smartsealz,” a patent-pending cockpit integration technology designed to alert pilots to dangerous situations by gauging an aircraft’s spatial orientation or the pilot’s physiological state or both.

Parasitologist Vasyl Tkach was recently recognized by his peers as a top researcher in his field, not only for his groundbreaking work but also for his outstanding mentoring of students. The American Society of Parasitologists bestowed the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal on Tkach at its annual meeting in July.

Ph.D. alumnus Stephen Greiman received the American Society of Parasitologists’ 2016 Ashton Cuckler New Investigator Award, given to the most outstanding North American early career parasitologist of the year.

Midwest Big Data Hub – UND, in partnership with Iowa State University, Kansas State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is leading a multi-institution Digital Agriculture Spoke grant of about \$1 million from the National Science Foundation.

RIAS – This past year, UND formed its new Research Institute for Autonomous Systems (RIAS, pronounced “Rise”), a highly collaborative initiative with the potential to further diversify North Dakota’s economy. RIAS was created to take UND to the next level to become a global leader in unmanned and autonomous research application and policy development.

Rural health and opioids – Thomasine Heitkamp, professor in the UND College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines, recently was awarded a five-year grant totaling \$3.8 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant solidifies the

University's role as a regional focal point for the nationwide effort to combat abuse of opioids such as fentanyl, carfentanyl and others.

Diversity - Foster a welcoming, safe and inclusive campus climate

The UND American Indian Science and Engineering Society Chapter is used to doing things big, earning honors for national Distinguished Chapter of the Year and the national Professional Chapter Development Award. UND AISES members also were recognized with the national Recruitment & Retention Chapter Award in 2015.

Building attendance at diversity events – Similar to ways UND has used Nodak Nation to increase student fan attendance at Fighting Hawks sporting events, a campus group is strategizing how to encourage more participation at campus cultural and diversity events such as the Wacipi Powwow and Culture Nights at the Memorial Union.

Military - Meet educational needs of active-duty military personnel, veterans and their families

Online degree opportunities – UND is exploring online learning opportunities that would appeal to active-duty service men and women and veterans. A number of promising areas include aviation, criminal justice, engineering and business degrees.

Alumni - Attract support for the University by actively engaging alumni and donors

State of the Foundation – The UND Alumni Association & Foundation's recent State of the Foundation address reported \$40 million in donations from alumni and friends of UND – up from the low \$30-million range last year.

Fundraising for buildings – Emphases for private fundraising currently moving forward include the replacement of Gamble Hall, the headquarters for the College of Business & Public Administration, and renovation of the Chester Fritz Library.

Other items from the President's address:

Moratorium on faculty hires – Provost Tom DiLorenzo has been working with the Budget Subcommittee of the University Senate on criteria that could lift the moratorium on new faculty hires.

New VP for University Relations – This search is expected to be finalized in October.

New Dean of College of Business & Public Administration – Dean of the College of Education & Human Development Cindy Juntunen is heading up this search.

VP for Finance and Operations – School of Medicine & Health Sciences' Dr. Josh Wynne has agreed to lead the search committee that will help find a successor for current Vice President, Alice Brekke.

Center for Innovation Director – Former UND Interim President and North Dakota Gov. Ed Schafer will lead discussions on next steps to fill the position of director of the Center for Innovation.

OER – Open Educational Resources have been embraced by UND. OER, often in the form of online educational resources versus expensive textbooks, is expected to save as much for students as recently approved tuition increases will cost them.

New website rollout – A new, more interactive and platform-aware UND website is still in the works. The revamped web presence is set to be rolled out in April. It will be UND's new face to the world and should significantly enhance the school's ability to communicate with and recruit new students.

Steam plant – UND is making progress in deciding the fate of the school's steam plant — which sits prominently near the heart of campus – and how UND might contract out for such services.

Master planning – A big effort will be made in the coming months to get a campus master plan to the State Board of Higher Education by February. A consultant has been hired to help with that process.

Athletics – The Fighting Hawks had a big year academically and athletically. UND was the inaugural winner of the Big Sky Presidents Cup, an award based on combined successes on the field and in the classroom. For the fifth year in row, UND also had the highest collective academic scores of any other Big Sky Conference program. UND also won four major conference championships and appeared in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, playing to a television audience of 1.4 million.

The President concluded by saying thank you and congratulations on your accomplishments.

The President then took questions.

Ms. Vogeltanz-Holm asked how the deferred maintenance fund and the master plan tie together. UND has been the only school to carve out money for deferred maintenance as well as take down old buildings. The SBHE agrees that we have enough space, but it is not the correct space for today's learning environment.

Mr. Petros asked if more budget cuts were impending. Mr. Kennedy replied with the state revenue forecast is above target.

The President concluded by encouraging attendees to “get excited. We are moving forward and there will be much more to get excited about in the next year.”

Mr. Harsell adjourned the University Council meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Scott Correll, Secretary  
University Council