

Minutes of the University Council Meeting
May 11, 2005

The spring, 2005 University Council meeting was convened at 4:05 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 in the Memorial Union Ballroom. President Charles Kupchella and Jim Grijalva presided.

President Kupchella called the meeting to order and welcomed the Council members and all others in attendance. He briefly explained the organization and duties of the Council.

President Kupchella reviewed challenges for the coming year, which include the fact that public funding remains flat and could decline; the number of North Dakota elementary and secondary school students is declining; and tuition will once again increase by 9.5% next year. President Kupchella urged faculty and staff to connect more with students to increase retention and to help them succeed. He also stressed the importance of internationalizing higher education to increase the number of students studying abroad.

The President reported that, despite the continued increases, relatively low tuition and generally high satisfaction with UND are excellent reasons for attending UND. Satisfaction with student services and programs exceeds the national average with 93% of alumni being satisfied with their UND experience. An area for improvement is satisfaction with faculty and advising engagement. This area needs to improve in order to avoid declining enrollment.

President Kupchella discussed the increased admission standards for next fall and the provisions in place for admitting students who fail to meet those standards. He also explained how the new provisional admit policy is effective for students who are not quite academically prepared for studies at UND. President Kupchella then answered questions from the floor.

The President introduced Jim Grijalva, Chair of the 2004-05 University Senate, and turned the meeting over to him. Mr. Grijalva began an end-of-the-year activities report by thanking Vice Chair Sue Jenö, the members of the Senate, and the Office of the Registrar staff for their hard work and support of University Senate. He gave a brief summary of Senate duties as defined in the UND Constitution.

Mr. Grijalva highlighted the major policy changes adopted by University Senate during 2004-05, including: revisions to the Intellectual Property and Copyright policies; a new Provisional Admission Policy and a Non-Degree Admission Policy; the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, the Faculty Sick Leave Policy; and the Faculty Grievance Policy regarding Employment Controversies. Mr. Grijalva reported that the University Senate was also involved, through UNDs representative to the Council of College Faculties, with decisions regarding State Board of Higher Education policies such as the ACT writing requirement exemption. Senators were also involved in the Strategic Planning Process, Part II, and the Provost Search Committee process.

Mr. Grijalva called for questions from the floor or items to be addressed. President Kupchella addressed a question about the possibility of the University Childrens Center closing. Due to low enrollment, the Center is being increasingly subsidized by the University. There were many comments regarding the need for the Center and the role it plays as not only a child care center, but as a training center for teachers and a valuable recruiting tool for the University. The President assured the audience that the matter will be studied thoroughly before a decision is made regarding the future of the Center.

The spring, 2005 meeting of the University Council was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Krogh, Council Secretary