

Minutes of the University Council Meeting

May 8, 2006

The spring, 2006 University Council meeting was convened at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2006 in the Memorial Union Ballroom. President Charles Kupchella and Sue Jenó, University Senate Chair, presided.

President Kupchella called the meeting to order and welcomed the Council members and all others in attendance. He explained that his presentation would include a brief snapshot of what has happened this past year and what is projected for the upcoming year. He reported that there has been a 25% decline in the number of high school seniors in the past decade. He also noted that, even though there has been a tuition rate increase, we continue to offer reasonably priced tuition and remain slightly below national averages. The President stated that we continue to gauge and assess student and alumni satisfaction and make changes accordingly.

President Kupchella gave a progress report for this past year. The new admission standards were implemented; we did see a slight drop as projected. We also began the provisional admit status and have appeared to do quite well with retention of these new students. The area of research and patents has increased for the seventh year in a row with the same number of faculty and staff. The President also noted many Facilities projects in the past year, including: the Wellness Center; the parking ramp; the Nursing research center; and the hydrogen technology building. President Kupchella announced that there has been record success with the first round of proposals for Centers of Excellence, e.g., Biosciences facility, the unmanned aerial vehicle project, the National Hydrogen Technology facility. He reported that, of the \$15 million in proposals submitted, we received \$7 million in funding. He also reported that there has been increased private fund raising with a more proactive approach toward raising private funds.

Looking ahead, the President reported on the MGT Equity Study, the upcoming legislative session and the NCA accreditation visit. He also reported on the NCAA logo/nickname issue: There are ongoing meetings and discussions with the tribes in which all facets of the issue are being looked at, including improving our already respectful treatment of the nickname and logo. We are currently waiting for the basis of action NCAA took to deny our second appeal. There is a possibility of litigation against them. We currently have three options: 1) litigation; 2) accept NCAA's decision and keep the nickname with the conditions they propose; or 3) change the nickname. President Kupchella also reported that a group has been studying the reclassification issue and looking at all angles surrounding it. He will take their report under consideration and decide what course of action to take.

The President called for questions from the floor. A statement was made regarding the fact that the NCA site visit report also made mention of the logo issue. President Kupchella then turned the meeting over to Dr. Jenó.

Dr. Jenó gave a University Senate status report, reviewing major policy changes adopted by the Senate during the 2005-06 year, including: Guidelines for Faculty Engaged in Employment Controversies with the University; removal of IRB from Senate oversight; change in

qualifications for the President's Honor Roll; Conflict of Interest Policy; General Honors Policy; Provisional Admission Policy; Double Major and Double Degree Provisions; and S/U grading policy. Senate actions pending approval include: a change to the University Attendance Policy; the University Assessment Plan; a Student Relations Committee structure change; and changes to the Intellectual Property policy.

Dr. Jenó reported that a charge was made to all University Senate Committees to review their functions and responsibilities. This resulted in many Senate committees now being updated. Welcome and information letters from the University Senate were implemented for all new faculty members to highlight faculty governance and information resources. Dr. Jenó stated that, as policies are approved and updated, the Faculty Handbook is updated. She also reported that the University Senate discussed relevant topics, such as the nickname/logo issue and adopted a resolution regarding the issue.

Dr. Jenó thanked everyone who volunteers their time and talents to serve on the University Senate and its committees. She then asked for other matters arising and, hearing none, thanked the Council members for their attendance. The spring, 2006 meeting of the University Council was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmen Williams, Council Secretary