

Minutes of the University Council Meeting  
April 21, 2009

Wendelin Hume, Vice Chair of University Senate, called the meeting of the University Council to order at 3:00 pm in the Lecture Bowl in the Memorial Union.

Ms. Hume indicated that this University Council meeting was being webcast for the first time. She also indicated that she was filling in for Mr. Jackson, Chair of University Senate, since he was not able to attend.

Ms. Hume introduced President Kelly for his remarks regarding the state of the University of North Dakota. The following is a synopsis of President Kelly's remarks as reported by Jan Orvik from University Relations.

- University of North Dakota President Robert O. Kelley addressed the University Council April 21, focusing on issues, priorities, and contributions of the University Community. He said that he and Marcia have enjoyed the last 10 months and are looking forward to the next academic year.
- Kelley remarked on how impressed he was with students during the flood fight around the state. "All we had to do was say 'yes' and provide some resources, and the students organized, communicated, and helped fight the flood," he said, thanking them.
- Regarding the Legislative session, Kelley said UND is watching the higher education funding bill, which is now in conference committee. The System's top priority, he said, is to reinstate equity dollars for new academic programs. He hopes to cap tuition at a 4 percent increase, and that the affordability portion of the bill will supplement that goal. He said he is cautiously optimistic that the College of Education and Human Development building will be funded, probably with federal stimulus dollars. He hopes it's still possible to receive funding for an IT building on campus, which is a System priority. The UND campus provides many IT services to the System, and he said that the new building would help grow IT and computational science on the UND campus.
- Kelley said they're also watching UPMIFA, (Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act), which regulates the use of endowments and other funds. He said that if passed, it could allow the University to use a portion of its endowment principal to support students.
- Since his State of the University address last fall, Kelley said he has focused on five main issues: (1) the economic downturn; (2) enrollment, recruitment, and retention of students, including international students; (3) leadership; (4) academic priorities and synergies; and (5) athletics.
- Kelley said he's also examining how to position UND. "The North Dakota University System supports 11 institutions," he said. "Two of them are nearly identical in size, mission, and resources." He's examining ways to differentiate UND in ways that matter. He said he would like to emphasize two or three areas in which the University could distinguish itself in the region and nation, but that UND's core mission would remain the liberal arts: teaching, learning, research, and scholarship. He said that UND has developed tremendous expertise in interdisciplinary applied sciences and advanced technology, and that this distinguishes the University.

- Kelley said UND could develop even more distinctive missions in energy and environmental studies to benefit agriculture and the environment, and that a second mission could be in biology, chemistry, physics, and medicine. He cited Avianix and Laserlith, companies which have moved to Grand Forks to be close to UND research, as well as the Center of Excellence in Life Sciences and Advanced Technology. And research into infectious diseases could combine the sciences, technology, math, and engineering. “There are synergies. We must connect the many dots of strength across the campus,” he said.
- Two new initiatives may be built into sustainable centers, Kelley said, citing one project that focuses on digital and new media (involving the departments of computer science, art, English, history, music and the Chester Fritz Library), and another initiative that will look at the needs of active-duty and veteran military personnel and their families (involving counseling psychology and community services, educational foundations and research, enrollment management, social work and the University Counseling Center).
- In his State of the University Address in November, Kelley had called for identifying "existing multidisciplinary groups that have potential, with added resources, to attain national prominence" and had charged John La Duke, associate dean of Arts and Sciences and Associate Vice President for Research, with managing the process. The White Paper initiative, as it was called, resulted in nearly 40 submissions seeking a total of more than \$8 million.
- There is a small problem with UND, Kelley said: we have become too “siloed,” too vertical in our thinking. “We need to think more horizontally across the university, to engage students and bridge the moats around the silos,” he said. Silos may be acceptable for businesses, he said, but not for education.
- About UND leadership, Kelley said that searches are taking place: vice president for finance and operations, vice president for research and economic development, and for dean of nursing. He said that the search for a medical dean will begin this summer, and joked that the provost search to fill the position now held by Paul LeBel may wait until 2017 or 2018.
- Kelley said he’s examining resource allocations and wants to empower deans and department heads, as well as operations and facilities, to plan and implement projects. He also said that the University System is looking hard at IT and possible efficiencies, and that he is looking for better ways to manage IT on campus. He said that a new building would help address some of those efficiency issues.
- The University has signed a Campus Climate Commitment, Kelley said, and all new buildings will meet “Silver Standards” in construction and sustainability. “When you scratch the campus, it should bleed green,” he said.
- Kelley said he likes meeting with faculty and staff, but sometimes those visiting him are seeking funding. He asked that people instead work through directors, chairs, deans, vice presidents, and the governance structure, including the three senate bodies on campus.
- Athletics has been in the news, especially regarding the nickname, and Kelley said the University will continue to support the State Board of Higher Education process in resolving the issue. He expects resolution by November 2010 or earlier.

He then took questions from the audience, the answers to which are summarized below.

- Kelley said he's been impressed with the dedication of the Legislature, especially members dealing with flooding in their home districts while continuing to deal with legislative issues.
- Teaching and research complement each other, Kelley said, and it is important for faculty to seek grants as a way to pursue their research interests. The University survives on multiple funding sources, including Legislative appropriations, tuition and fees, grants and contracts, auxiliary businesses, and the UND Foundation. He said that he hopes royalties and patents will eventually bring in more dollars. "If you get the idea that your president worries all the time about money, you're right."
- He thanked an audience member for bringing attention to Counseling Center initiatives to work with Army ROTC members, athletes, and others on stress management. Kelley emphasized that UND student athletes are remarkable students as well as athletes, citing four Academic All Americans in football, the women's basketball team GPA of 3.4, and the hockey team bringing home the McNaughton Cup while continuing to achieve in the classroom.
- Kelley concluded his talk by thanking the University community for their support for Marcia and himself, and said he's pleased to be here. "We will work together to move from great to exceptional."

Ms. Hume reported on the 2008- 2009 year for the University Senate. Ms. Hume indicated that she would summarize the year and for further information members should go to the University Senate web page for agenda and minutes. She encouraged all University Council members to get involved in governance.

The University Senate is comprised of members from the faculty, administration and Student and Staff Senates. The accomplishments this year improved the University and moved the campus forward. There were discussions on parking. Committees worked on a wide variety of issues. Graduates were approved for summer, fall and soon for spring. Honorary degrees were approved. The essential elements document provided for departmental guidelines for evaluation of faculty for promotion and tenure. A resolution recommended that procedures for emergency notification be reviewed. Student issues addressed included the Higher One card and how student senators are selected to serve on University Senate. There were policy discussions and approvals for honors and grade change limits. It was a busy year with spirited discussions. Ms. Hume thanked all for their involvement in a productive year.

Ms. Hume asked if there were any questions or other matters arising. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Anderson, Council Secretary