

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2023

- I. Call to Order: 3:02pm.
- II. Attendance: See Appendix 1.
- III. Adoption of the Agenda.
 1. Motion to approve: Smith/Huseynov
 - i. Approved unanimously.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2023.
 1. Approved by unanimous consent.
- V. Announcements.
 1. David Cook, President
 - i. Would like to have a conversation and receive feedback from faculty. There's a conversation tomorrow.
 - ii. General update with the legislature. From a legislative perception, budget perspective pretty positive, but from policy perspective there are still discussion being held. On budget, there's good movement; feeling good about it, there's still a lot of work to be done. We have two major budget bills to go through, but Ag has its own bill to go through a different committee. On the university side, some of the positives are the salary forecasts. In the first biennium we are getting \$4 million, and in the next biennium another \$4 million. We have some dollars for mental health, for research ideas. We have an engineering building for which we have a good chance of getting funding, it helped to add precision Ag; it's at \$84 million. There are some dollars for challenge grants. Will be testifying Thursday morning along with UND President Armacost, and Minot President Shirley on the value of research and the legacy fund. We wanted operational funding, but if the session ended today, we would be in good shape. At the moment we have the one-time \$7.6 million from the Legislature and we have to figure out how to spend it. On the Ag side, a lot of that money goes out to the State. The Waldron building is scrutinized because it doesn't have a match, so there are discussions now on where the match will come from. The facilities are there, the "hold harmless" is still there.

- a. Question from Sen. Travers: Baffled about the dissolution of the Geosciences, how that is consistent with maintaining our R1 status. A faculty member with NSF funding was let go, there's a lot of concern about retention and recruitment. Are you worried about these matters? Answer Pres. Cook: Yes, he is worried about all these things; but his hope is that we can do better in retention by making it a priority and creating new programs; also, paying attention to diversity and first-generation college students could help us turn things around. Trying to change the across-the-board cuts, and we need to change that around. Sen. Travers: why was cutting a department a choice? Prov. Bertolini: we looked carefully at the programs, and this was not an easy decision. Projection from the fall was 11%, so based on that assessment, we did what we could to minimize the impact. Sen. Travers: will faculty from those programs be moved to other departments? Prov. Bertolini: not decided yet.
- b. Question from Proxy Peters: You noted that the NDSU degree is undervalued. Pres. Cook: We have to figure out how to make ourselves more equal with other universities on the tuition model. My position is that we should try to keep tuition as low as possible.
- c. Question from Sen. Smith: The concern is that you opened up for feedback, but when the proposal came out it seemed like a done deal. Faculty are concerned these decisions are made between deans and upper admin, and lot of them feel like it's not a shared governance process. They feel as though they are not in the loop and are a bit disgruntled. Pres. Cook: From his first day as president, he met with the cabinet, then with the deans and shared ideas publicly. Then came back with the proposal in January, after which more feedback informed the revised proposal in February.
- d. Question from Sen. Kryjevskaja: I understand some programs may no longer be desirable, and with the budget you said you have to reinvest, letting the faculty lines go will impact us and will be hard to recruit faculty. Did you consider reassigning dismissed faculty to other programs/departments? Pres. Cook: None of this was done lightly. We did not dismiss that this was hard to do. Once

you draw the line and it's time to make decisions, but these were decisions that had to be made five years ago. We have some challenges, similar to other institutions, but to set us up for success, we had to take these decisions.

- e. Question from Sen. Huseynov: Are we sticking with the current enrollment model? Pres. Cook: We're going to try to be strategic in moving forward. Sen. Huseynov: How can you address the perception of a void of shared governance when the faculty are asked to provide input, but it seems that decisions are made at the deans' level. Pres. Cook: There are tangible changes in the decision process and these were incorporated. He meets with the Senate executive leadership and he's open to any ideas from the faculty.
- f. Question from Sen. Arnold: As these cuts play out, as we shrink, there's a situation by which we're asked to act at the R1 level, but we're too small for that. She's wondering how you are thinking about that. Prov. Bertolini: We are thinking about all these matters, and the new incentive model is part of that. It is a big issue, but we're all in a tough spot, so the question is how do we balance this. Speaking about shared governance, we have been as transparent as possible and believe in this. Ultimately a decision has to be made, and the question is what the decision is.

2. David Bertolini, Provost

- i. Moving forward on the steering committee on the college mergers. They will receive the charge, from PTE to bylaws, etc.
- ii. We're working on the advising and retention priorities, to help students stay at NDSU.

3. Anastassiya Andrianova, Faculty Senate President

- i. Not present.

4. Florin Salajan, Faculty Senate Past-President

- i. Update on bills HB1446 and SB2247. Both are in committees and are yet to be scheduled for a second vote in the opposite chambers. Consider submitting testimony when they are scheduled for a vote.

5. Warren Christensen, Faculty Senate President-Elect

- i. Submit (self)nominations for the Council of College Faculties. This is a three-year term for which you will be serving.
- ii. Tri-Summit, organized by students next month.
- iii. Listening session with the Provost in Anishinaabe at 3pm.

- iv. Amendments to the FS Bylaws will have to be made as a result of the reorganization. Elections for the FS will be held as the units stand, then a transition period will follow until the new unit structure is determined.
6. Kristi Steinmann, Staff Senate President-Elect
- i. Gunkelman Award nominations are due by March 26. Consider nominating someone who makes the campus a better place. A nominee can be a student, staff, or faculty.
 - ii. The ASK group (Admins Sharing Knowledge) is a Teams group dedicated to connecting staff across our campus with resources and each other. It's a place where people are free to post questions, tips, and seek advice on the various platforms and tools we use at NDSU. ASK has been in existence for a while now, and we are stronger with every member. Consider following [ASK on Teams](#)!
7. Christian Walth, Student Body President
- i. Student Government elections are under way, we have three tickets for president/vice-president.
 - ii. Will forward official thrift store email about where to donate and buy clothes.
 - iii. Tri-summit next month, heard from presidents.
 - iv. Student Govt. to participate in the NSGA, applied and won against other student government associations in the country (e.g., Harvard), and presenting on 3R (rapport, recruit, retain).
 - v. Submitted testimony against several bills on the ND Legislature.
 - vi. His last meeting as Student Government President, we made improvements. Has three more goals before leaving, including creating a green team to work on sustainability.
 - vii. Comment from Philbrick: Appreciated his ideas, enthusiasm, and energy.
8. Phil Hunt, Registrar
- i. Not present.
9. Tim Greives, Chair of the Graduate Council
- i. Grad Council spent a lot of time talking about tuition waivers. Created a report that captures all discussion, posted to the Grad School website. There will be a change in the catalog about GS policy, related to tuition waivers and assistantship. GS decided to have a 6-credit minimum for assistantship, which will increase credit hour production, and will allow students to graduate in a timely fashion.

- VI. Committee and Other Reports.
- VII. Consent Agenda.
 - 1. UCC Report
 - i. Approved by unanimous consent.
- VIII. Unfinished Business.
- IX. General Order.
 - 1. Policy 164
 - i. Motion on the floor from previous meeting, to approve, then amend Policy 164 revision (see minutes from 2/13/23)
 - a. Discussion
 - a. Sen. Travers: faculty thought they should not be required to provide alternate plans when the university is closed. The policy amendment would privilege students who have access to the internet and would create additional pressure on faculty to hold class online.
 - b. Sen. Arnold: Faculty may feel they would not have a choice in the situation in which they would be expected to hold class online.
 - c. Sen. Wood: Heard concerns about academic freedom, as faculty would have to provide instruction in a situation they are not forced to.
 - d. Sen. Smith: There is gray area in the amendment, which is left up to interpretation. If there is an amendment, it should be clear.
 - e. Sen. Huseynov: Had several class meetings canceled, is there any language to provide an exception?
 - f. Sen. Brynjulson: Clinical rotation requires students to be in class, so they need to have a certain number of class sessions. The issue is assessment where that is only possible in in-person classes. This affects more than just one class period.
 - g. Sen. Akhmedov: Some students were not able to show up for exams, as they were expected to drive to campus. Supports the comments from previous Senators.
 - i. Motion to approve amendment
 - 1. Motion failed: 9 AYE; 25 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (See Appendix 2: Q1)

- ii. Revert to main motion to approve initial revision to Policy 164
 - a. Discussion
 - a. Sen. Smith: Opposed previous amendments, in favor of initial amendment. It does not mean we cannot make up for content, it just means we cannot ask students to risk safety and mental health to attend class.
 - b. Sen. Kirkpatrick: For this, in general, but if there is an extended closure, is there something in policy that allows for additional guidance.
 - i. Motion to amend: Brynjulson/Arnold; text of the proposed amendment: “2.1.4 When classes are cancelled (2.1,.2) or the University is closed (2.1,.3), there shall be no class meetings. Faculty will follow the instructional continuity plan of their college.”
 - 1. Discussion
 - a. Sen. Smith: point of order; meeting is overtime and Senator’s schedules should be considered.
 - b. President-Elect Christensen called for adjournment; item will go to Old Business on the next FS Meeting Agenda.

X. New Business.

1. Amendments to the CCF Constitution

- i. Due to adjournment, item to be placed as Old Business on the next FS Meeting Agenda.

XI. Adjournment at 4:32pm: Smith/Peters

- 1. Passed unanimously.

Appendix 1: Attendance

Last Name	First Name	Substitution	Present
AKHMEDOV	Azer		X
AMBROSIO*	Tom		
AMIRI	Ali		X
ANDRIANOVA	Anastassiya		
ARNOLD	Lisa		X
BARABANOV*	Nikita		
BERG	Eric		X
BRYNJULSON	Rebecca		X
CHOI	Bong-jin		X
CHOI	Juwon		X
CHRISTENSEN	Warren		X
CREESE	John		X
EMANUELSON	Pam		
FELLOWS	Kristen	BOONSTOPPEL, S.	
GAO	Jerry		X
HAUG	Karla		X
HERSHBERGER	John		
HONG	David		X
HUSETH-ZOSEL	Andrea		X
HUSEYNOV	Fariz		X
JEONG	Inbae		
KILINA	Svetlana		
KIRKPATRICK	Sarah		X
KIRKWOOD	Matthew		X
KRYJEVSKAIA	Mila		X
LARSON	Jamee	HASSEL, H.	X
LAW	Quincy	PETERS, T.	X
LIN	Zhibin		X
MARCH	Raymond		
MATTHEW	Sijo		X
MCGRATH	Ryan		X
NORDSTROM	Onnolee		X
PELTIER	Allison		
PHILBRICK	Candace		X
RAHMAN	Mukhlesur		X
RAO	Jiajia		X
ROBERTS	David		
ROSS	Darrell		X
SALAJAN	Florin		X

SECOR	Gary		X
SELEKWA	Majura		
SMITH	Matthew		X
TANGEN	Jodi		X
TRAVERS	Steve		X
VOLD	Jessica	JIANG, L.	X
WOOD	Scott		X
YAN	Guiping		X
ZHANG	Qi		X

* = Alternates

Appendix 2: Voting Record

Session Name	Active Participants	Question Count
03-20-2023 4:13 PM	29	1

Participant	Q1
ARNOLD, Lisa	NAY
BERG, Eric	NAY
BOONSTOPPEL, Sarah	NAY
BRYNJULSON, Rebecca	NAY
CHOI, Bong-Jin	NAY
CHOI, Juwon	AYE
CHRISTENSEN, Warren	NAY
CREESE, John	NAY
HASSEL, Holly	NAY
HAUG, Karla	NAY
HONG, Yongtao	AYE
HUSETH-ZOSEL, Andrea	NAY
HUSEYNOV, Fariz	ABS
KIRKWOOD, Matthew	NAY
KRYJEVSKAIA, Mila	NAY
MATHEW, Sijo	AYE
MCGRATH, Ryan	AYE
NORDSTROM, Onnolee	NAY
PETERS, Thomas	NAY
PHILBRICK, Candace	AYE
RAHMAN, Md Mukhlesur	NAY
RAO, Jaja	AYE
ROSS, Darrell	NAY
SECOR, Gary	AYE
SMITH, Matthew	NAY
TANGEN, Jodi	NAY
TRAVERS, Steven	NAY
WOOD, Scott	NAY
ZHANG, Qi	NAY

Some Senators were unable to access online voting. Their voice votes are recorded below:

Q1: AYE: Jiang (proxy), Yan; NAY: Akhmedov, Lin, Kirkpatrick, Salajan; ABSTAIN: 0.