

## Farewell from Outgoing President-Barb Pickering

It has been my honor to serve as your President this year. The academic year was busy with social events, negotiating a collective bargaining agreement, sharing faculty concerns with administration in hopes of resolving problems, and monitoring the 90-day legislative session.

The new Executive Committee members are listed at the bottom of the page. I look forward to continuing to work with this group!

## Grievance Activity

The Executive Committee has recommended the creation of a Grievance team to help share the workload of resolving faculty concerns. Michael Peterson and Angie Eikenberry will continue as Grievance Officers next year and are organizing a team to help facilitate the process. As always, feel free to reach out to them or any Exec. Committee members if you have concerns. Once issues are brought to our attention we can address them with administration to resolve the matters.

## Contract Settlement

Our bargaining team did a tremendous amount of work to reach a settlement with administration which will result in a 3% salary increase for each of the next two years. Thanks again to Jim Shaw, Katie Bishop, Shannon Cummins, and Thomas Sanchez for their hard work.

## Membership Numbers

We had a successful year in terms of membership numbers. Of the 658 faculty at UNO, 216 were dues-paying members of our chapter. That represents a 33% membership rate, our largest ever! Our membership group has already begun planning a membership drive in the Fall. Please encourage your colleagues to join us!

## Scholarship Opportunities

After discussion with the scholarship committee, the Executive Committee agreed to add an additional cycle of scholarship awards for the Donald Greer-Travel Abroad scholarship beginning in August. To help meet the rising cost of travel abroad, in the future, two scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1000. Look for application dates coming late summer or early in the fall semester.

Scholarship recipients have been selected. Receiving the Bernie Kolasa Academic Freedom Memorial Scholarship is Brianna Larson. Receiving the Donald Greer Academic Travel Memorial Scholarship is Dikccha Gurung. Congrats to both students.

## Constitution Revision

In planning our CBA ratification meeting, we discovered that the Constitution was unclear in defining the term "present" for participation/voting on ratification. As a result, the Executive Committee approved a revision to the constitution for Article II, D and Article VI. The change would allow members to vote either in person or via secure virtual technology (i.e. Zoom). This language was presented at the Spring membership meeting and will now be reviewed by the Executive Committee and forwarded to the membership for a vote. Look for an e-mail ballot, coming in late summer.

## Course Modality Survey: Coming in Fall 2023

I will be working with Faculty Senate committees to prepare and circulate a faculty survey regarding course modality. You may know that a survey of student opinions on course delivery was conducted last year. To better understand how faculty view the course delivery systems, we'll be creating a survey that will be launched early in the Fall semester. Stay tuned!

## Welcome from President-Laura Grams

Greetings everyone and thank you for permitting me to represent our group during the next academic year. In addition to preparing for the next biennial cycle, next year we will focus attention on a range of faculty concerns about working conditions. We will closely monitor the status of academic freedom for faculty, as well as the health of faculty governance. We hope to continue growing and strengthening our mutual bonds. I look forward to hearing from faculty across the colleges and invite you to contact me with any news or issues.

Laura Grams, Philosophy

## Executive Committee Members 2023-2024

President—Laura Grams-Philosophy  
 President-elect—Griff Elder-Math  
 Past President—Barb Pickering-Communication  
 First Vice-President—Thomas Sanchez-Sociology  
 Grievance officers—Michael Peterson-Geology & Geography  
 & Angie Eikenberry-Public Administration  
 Secretary—Amy Schindler-Criss Library

Treasurer—Bob Darcy-English  
 Full Prof. Rep.—Shannon Cummins-Marketing & Entrepreneurship  
 Assoc. Prof. Rep.—Gwyneth Cliver-Foreign Languages  
 Asst. Prof. Rep.—Nuri Heckler-Public Administration  
 Other Bargaining Unit Rep.—Jill Quandt-English