UNO May 2022 NEWSLETTER

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 Elkember 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 reaching a tentative agreement 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 growth. By the end of the year, UNO 236 had 232 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 Green-Travel Award 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 $300. Look for application dates coming late summer or early in the fall semester.

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.

Membership 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 will 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 officer—Michael Peterson-Geology & Geography
& Angie Elkember-Public Administration
Secretary—Amy Schindler-Crisis Library
Treasurer—Bob Darcy-English
Full Prof, Rep.—Shannon Cummins-Marketing & Entrepreneurship
Assoc. Prof. Rep.—Gwyneth Clever-Foreign Languages
Asst. Prof. Rep.—Nuni Heckler-Public Administration
Other Bargaining Unit Rep.—Uli Quandt-English