

Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts
Faculty Meeting
Lied Commons
Friday, April 5, 2019
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

O'Connor welcomed the faculty, expressing gratitude during the busiest time of the year. Feedback received from students, peers and from University administration consistently notes that our faculty are outstanding.

Update from Dean O'Connor

Recently in the College:

N150 Event – we were THE College chosen to kick off the 150th year of our University; Congratulations to our Glenn Korff School of Music, Bill Shomos and Andy Park for being the pride of our University.

During our Nebraska Young Artists Awards celebration, we were shown the ledger from 1868 when our University was chartered; the Arts were one of 4 founding Schools of our University.

The list of our faculty accomplishments is long; congratulations to all.

The Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts is making progress on our new dance facilities, scheduled to open in August. The Carson Center will be a new part of our College for the first time in history. Search committees across our College, particularly the Carson Center's search committee, is working very hard and has received over 200 applicants and will be hiring several new faculty members at the same time.

Minutes from October 19, 2018 were approved.

Effects of Nebraska Flooding on Students

O'Connor remarked that our state experienced the worst flooding in modern times; 77 of 93 counties declared emergencies. While we were unscathed in the city of Lincoln, the President has declared a national emergency for the 77 counties affected. 273 of our students come from those counties; O'Connor stressed that we should be kind and understanding.

College Strategic Planning/New Budget Model

O'Connor announced that the College will begin its own Strategic Planning process this fall, and will be hiring a consultant to join us. We may need to have a longer than usual convocation meeting this fall, possibly half a day on Tuesday, August 20. O'Connor remarked that the change to our budget model is underway; the new RCM (Responsibility Centered Management) model will be incentive-based budgeting. We are not the only school doing this; contrary to popular belief this does not mean program cuts; the University understands, for example, that you can't have an acting studio with more than 16-18 students. We will all need to think about the choices we make and the cost, and that's a healthy thing to do.

Revenue to support the University's \$1.2 billion per year operating cost comes from 3 sources: 21% student tuition, 23% state funding, and over 50% from grants, endowments, etc. Funding gets distributed to the Chancellor, who distributes it to all operations and support for landscaping, libraries, human resources, administrative and non-academic costs. Under the new model, we will still get the same state appropriated funding, but it'll come to the College first, and then we'll have to pay a "tax" back to central University administration to pay for the non-academic units; what we owe the University will be based on a formula that includes how many students we have and teach, and the number of credit hours we're producing. We are a College that subsidizes; we cost more than the amount of students we have; no one is saying we have to teach classes bigger than we can manage; there will be a subvention fund that we will fight for. We have outstanding outreach through music, theatre and art. The new model will run as a shadow budget for the 2019-2020 academic year, and than on July 1, 2020 we go live. For updates, please visit <https://budget.unl.edu/>

Student Mental Health

Acting Associate Dean Stan Kleppinger presented information from an ad hoc subcommittee made up of members of the Hixson-Lied Graduate and Undergraduate Student Advisory Boards to address the growing concern of student mental health issues. The subcommittee met with UNL's Bureau of Sociological Research, and developed and distributed a survey to every undergraduate and graduate level student who has a major in our College. The results of that survey were received during spring break. The survey was more substantial than any we have ever done before, and is a work in progress. The data received from the survey is sensitive, some of the results are startling and the College will proceed with the utmost sensitivity. Students Grace Trudeau, Madeline Reddel and Terry Ratzlaff presented some of the survey findings:

818 full-time students received the survey; 296 responded (36.18%)

Commonly identified stressors of students, or largest responses of extreme stress:

- Time management
- Future and career path
- Course workload
- Mental health depleted from feeling overworked, including self harm, self hate and disassociation

Common themes in responses included:

- Receiving loads of work at the same time as working on productions
- No time to eat in between classes or between classes and rehearsal
- Not getting enough sleep to stay functional and healthy
- Disregard of health for the betterment of their work/doesn't help with longevity of working in the arts

42.6% of respondents - never or rarely found time to prepare healthy food

86.4% of students reported being in class during their meal times

32% feel lonely most of the time

21.1% of respondents said they had seriously considered suicide

56.5% of the respondents who had seriously considered suicide said they had made a plan to do so

Sample comments:

- Overload of assignments
- Not enough time to eat lunch
- Course load is extremely heavy
- No breaks longer than 10 minutes between classes
- Forced to choose between taking notes or missing meals
- Most messages to faculty never returned
- Majority of stress comes from financial situation
- Not able to make enough money to save for emergencies
- Unhealthy competition

38.7% do not think faculty understand student stress

27% do think faculty understand

33% not sure

The intent of the survey or presenting the results is not to cast blame, but to make our College aware of what students are perceiving; a fair summary of both the data and the responses. Admittedly, the College is unsure of how to address these issues.

Faculty member Brenda Wristen commented that faculty members are also deeply concerned, and that these are remarkably consistent data points regarding this age group and stage of life. Perhaps one way to move forward would be to establish a comparison group, if possible, to determine whether our College has special issues, and develop ways we can establish support networks beyond what is available through CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services)

Dr. Tricia Besett-Alesch and John Goldrich from CAPS presented information about the services CAPS can provide to students, provided folders and cards to distribute to students.
<https://health.unl.edu/caps>