

Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts
Spring Faculty Meeting
Friday, April 6, 2018
3:30 pm
Mary Riepma Ross Cooper Theatre

O'Connor welcomed the faculty, acknowledging the busy time of year for all and thanked the faculty for their attendance while completing courses, doing research and creative activity and preparing students for graduation. O'Connor reminded the faculty of the importance of attendance at our meetings, and the reception afterward is a good time to gather without the burden of being on campus.

O'Connor reviewed the minutes from the fall faculty meeting on November 10, 2017. A correction was made to the 2nd page to read "Bachelor of Fine Arts in Emerging Media Arts". Motion made by Harris Smith to accept the minutes as corrected. Carolyn Barber seconded. Motion passed.

O'Connor reminded the faculty of our College Honors Day celebration on April 22, 2018 at the Innovation Campus Conference Center, and asked faculty to submit RSVPs by Friday, April 13.

O'Connor congratulated Kate Butler, Liz Ingraham and Virginia Smith on their retirements, and noted that their achievements will be recognized during the Honors Day celebration.

O'Connor announced that the Chiara String Quartet are ending their 18 year collaboration together with 14 years here at UNL. They remain great friends and we look forward to enjoying them as soloists and future performances together outside of the confines of the quartet. O'Connor remarked that they have made a transformative contribution to our College.

O'Connor remarked on the passing of Ariel Bybee, who helped energize our opera program, who died on March 20th. Bybee was a famous opera singer who performed at the Metropolitan Opera and many other places. She will be missed.

O'Connor remarked that the Governor signed the 1% budget reduction of \$2.9 million this week, after an original proposed reduction of 4%. O'Connor noted that one of our own outstanding programs in art history was on the list of those cuts. Our Chancellor and Presidents, Board of Regents and all of our faculty and staff have fought for us, and this is why we are only sustaining a 1% reduction. O'Connor continued that \$2.9 million is still a considerable cut, and our current biennium budget will end on June 30, 2018. O'Connor remarked that in efforts to reach the \$50 million cut announced by Hank Bounds, with cash giveback, the University raised tuition, put together a series of task forces to find inefficiencies in HR, Travel, IT, PR, non-academic programs. Our College's share of that cut was nearly \$5.5 million, and we're going to see those inefficiencies in our staffing, and there will be impact in cutting an additional \$2.9 million.

O'Connor asked for continued patience and appreciation of our great business staff, and advised that the hard work is yet to come, we're a strong University and we will protect what is important to us.

O'Connor continued that we are also going through a strategic planning process. N150 recognizes the 150th anniversary of the University, and some of our faculty members are on that committee. O'Connor advised faculty to respond to requests for input in the process.

Chris Marks remarked on the bylaws amendments that were proposed and shared with the faculty. Peter Lefferts made a motion to accept the amendments. Carolyn Barber seconded. John Bailey commented as a member of the Executive Committee that the changes are reasonable and non-substantive and urged the faculty to accept them. Marks explained the proposed changes. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.