This report by the Faculty Senate president summarizes the Senate’s significant actions during the academic year, and outlines some issues that will require continued monitoring and action by the Faculty Senate next academic year.

**Faculty Senate Administrative Retreat**
Faculty Senate hosted a retreat with members of the FS Executive Committee and Administration. The retreat was open to observers from across campus. Major topics of discussion were: Senate Plan of Action, strategic planning, facilities, General Studies, NCA results, distance education, new student orientation, UNK branding and marketing strategy, Noel Levitz, Residential Life, alumni matters, undergraduate research, and program reviews of first year, history, the English Language Institute, philosophy, psychology, and Student Services.

**Communication with campus communities**
Faculty Senate hosted a number of speakers and presentations:

- NCA results and assessment, Jeanne Butler
- SIS implementation (October and April), Kim Schipporeit
- Long range facilities and property development, VCBF Barbara Johnson
- World learning community, Ann Marie Park
- New Student Orientation, Brandon Benitz and Rick Miller
- Resolution and presentation to SVC Finnie Murray
- Emergency notification system, John Lakey
- Student instructional preferences, members of the Student Assessment Committee
- Noel Levitz recruitment and retention initiative, Dusty Newton
- Introduction and common understanding, SVC Bicak

Faculty Senate was asked for formal response to various administrative campus initiatives, including:

- New Rank and Tenure Guidelines
- Honorary degree recipients
- AIT smart classroom software standardization
- Campus parking
- Amending Faculty Senate bylaws

**Actions of the Faculty Senate**
The Faculty Senate undertook several actions, some of which are still ongoing:

- Changed allocation policies for Artists & Lecturers committee funds
- Created an approved list of software to standardize in all smart classrooms
• Created (in progress) a New Faculty Development program for implementation in fall 2009
• Established a Faculty email list to facilitate communication among faculty on academic and other matters
• Fully revised and updated the Faculty Senate website for improved communication with all campus and non-campus constituencies
• Hosted faculty / staff forums on the budget and other matters with the UNK Administration, and with NU President Milliken
• Met frequently with Administration to discuss principles, process and specifics of budget cuts
• Monitored plans by deans of each college for implementing new Promotion & Tenure Guidelines and for creating college and department specific guidelines
• Monitored progress in renewing the General Studies Program
• Provided representation on the Request for Proposal committee for a new bookstore vendor
• Provided representation on the Task Force to review the First Year Experience program
• Provided representation to the Deans Council to discuss academic matters
• Reviewed and approved the proposed new Promotion and Tenure Guidelines
• Worked with Administration to identify a more workable model for funding summer school courses.

Recommendations for Future Actions

• **Budget**: the university system is facing almost unprecedented budget cuts due to insufficient funding from the state linked to the world wide economic crisis. Senate will need to be proactive to make sure that any proposed cuts do the least harm to the academic integrity of the institution. It is anticipated that a formal process for making cuts will commence in late summer.
• **First Year Experience**: with the FYE program on hiatus in 2009-2010, Senate should play an active role in evaluating how the program is restructured and re-implemented.
• **General Studies and NCA**: the Senate should continue to monitor implementation of a new General Studies program and its alignment with NCA requirements.
• **New Faculty Development**: the Senate should oversee and participate in the effort to help new faculty become “quick starters” and increase their effectiveness in teaching, scholarship and service.