I. Call to order.

The Faculty Senate was called to order by President Clark at 7:00pm.

II. Roll Call.

Senator Roger Davis served as Ad Hoc Secretary in the absence of Secretary Kay Hodge. Secretary Davis called the roll:

Present


Absent

: Elder, Emrys, Hodge, Hoehner, Smith, Ziebarth

Guests present

: Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, David Anderson; Director of General Studies, Richard Jussel; Dean of Continuing Education, Barbara Audley.

III. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of February 3, 2000.

Senator Zikmund, D. (Kelley) moved approval of minutes.

Senator Bob Young asked that the minutes be amended to note that in response to a question asked by Senator Young B., Regent Blank concluded that since UNK entered the university system the overall impression of the impact of UNK has been very positive.

Senator Benz noted a contradiction in the General Studies discussion with regard to whether the capstone course is mandatory. Director Jussel clarified the issue by stating that the capstone course is not mandatory.

Motion Passed.

IV. Election Committee
Senator Miller announced that Senator Jose Mena Worth is on leave for Spring Semester 2000. Consequently, the Election Committee recommended Professor Laurence Becker, Geography, be elected to fill the vacant seat for Natural Sciences.

*Dr. Becker was elected to the Senate by unanimous vote.*

Senator Miller announced the due to the unfortunate stroke suffered by Dr. David Nabb, his seat on the Academic Affairs Committee had become vacated. The Election Committee recommended Dr. Lon Pearson, Modern Languages, be elected to fill that seat.

*Dr. Pearson was elected to the Academic Affairs Committee by unanimous vote.*

Senator Miller announced that the draft of the revised Faculty Senate Constitution would be available for the next Senate meeting.

**V. General Studies Council**

The Senate reviewed the minutes of the General Studies Council from February 3, 2000.

In response to an inquiry why the Allied Health Proposal was not supported by the administration. Director Jussel reported that the Sr. VCAA did not find the proposal as presented academically sound enough to endorse.

Discussion of the General Studies Capstone Course Proposal: Questions from many Senators focused upon the role of faculty in the proposal. Director Jussel noted that the students would submit work in email to the coordinator who would pair the student with a faculty member, who might have a couple or more students to work with. The faculty member would be the team leader of this population of students. When the student work was ready that work would then be evaluated by a distinct faculty evaluation team.

Discussion of the Central Community College Proposal to offer WI and CD courses: The Council minutes noted the Council tabled a request from CCC to approve their WI and CD guidelines. These guidelines mirror the UNK guidelines. Senators expressed concern about the monitoring of these guidelines. Director Jussel noted that General Studies Council approval was required for the community college guidelines, but also noted that in some cases, such as Mid-Plains, the community college retains right of approval of the faculty offering these courses.

**VI. Faculty Senate Continuing Education Committee**

The Senate reviewed the minutes of February 9, 2000.
Action Item: The Committee recommended the Senate endorse the University of Nebraska Extended Education Policy for Credit Courses.

Discussion: Despite the fact that the Committee chair reminded Senators via email to bring their copies of this document, which they received in their November packets, to this meeting, none of the Senators did. Consequently-

*The motion for endorsement was defeated.*

This item will be revisited at next Senate meeting when Senators have copies of the document to review.

Senator Davis noted that the copies of the Report of the Intellectual Property Working Group sub-committee were distributed as an informational item and that the committee report for the next Senate meeting will deal in more depth with the issue.

Discussion on Distance Education with questions directed to Continuing Education Dean, Barbara Audley highlighted the following: Distance Course assignments can be assigned "in load." Chronicle of Higher Education reports indicate a 50% dropout rate in Distance Education coursework. Dean Audley noted that for all resources invested in Western Governor's University they only have 190 students enrolled. Questions raised with regard to the conflict between retention efforts on one hand and the statistical impact of high drop out rates of Distance Ed courses.

**VII. Graduate Council**

Senator Miller noted that a new GA allocation process has gotten underway. GAs will now only be allocated to departments that have graduate programs. This policy has been approved by the Sr.VCAA.

**VIII. Strategic Planning Committee**

FS President Clark reported that campus building projects are on schedule, and the new Education Building should break ground in August. Benchmarks for the evaluation of academic programs are being prepared and should be out in the near future.

**IX. Budget Committee**

No report.

**X. Honors Council**

No report.
XI. Information Technology Advisory Committee

FS President Clark reviewed results from an ITAC survey of students. Highlights included: 99% of students say it is important to have 24 hour access to computer labs in Otto Olson. At same time 38% of students report they do not use the lab. 72% of students report that they do own a computer. There have been technical problems with the Students Lotus Notes. Lotus Notes company has acknowledged this and is working to solve the problems. With regard to enhancement priorities, in the Academic area the priorities are replacement and upgrade of faculty equipment is primary followed by classroom update. Residence hall upgrades is also a high priority.

XII. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee

CTE Director, Senator Liz Peck distributed information on attendance for the February 11, 2000 workshop on "Teaching for Learning", indicating an audience of faculty, administrators, and students totaling 72 people. She indicated faculty support for CTE programs has been good.

XII. Gender Equity

Senator Young A. distributed a notice from the NU Office of the President announcing "A Symposium for Women: Mentoring, Preparation for Success." to be held on Friday, March 31, 2000, from 9:15am to 4:00pm at the Clifford Hardin Center for Continuing Education in Lincoln. The registration fee is $25.00. Information can be found at http://www.uneb.edu/symposium or call Shari Clarke at 402-472-2111. Money must be paid by March 24.

XIII. Executive Committee Report

The Senate reviewed reports of meetings with the Vice Chancellors and with the Chancellor. Items which generated discussion and comment were:

Learning Communities:

It was noted that the VC for Student Life has started working with college deans to implement Learning Communities in the College of Ed and the BT College as a pilot project for fall, 2000, with 7 or 8 communities. Many senators inquired about the details of this proposed program and the nature of faculty involvement and the tie to coursework and academic programs. The Executive Committee did not have many details. It was emphasized that these were prototypes for trial. Many senators noted that this process appeared to be by administration fiat, that there did not appear to be any deliberative process in either college mentioned, any yet it seemed faculty participation and academic issues were essential to the program. Senator YoungB wondered if the Faculty Welfare Committee should not be re-created to monitor such initiatives. Senator Sluti reflected the general
concern of the Senate by noting that too often these types of initiatives get "sprung on us" by the administration; that faculty hear of projects only after they are underway. Senator ZikmundD noted that the Learning Communities at UNL were the model and that they apparently had high retention rates. Senator Miller reminded the Senate that it had already acted upon this issue, requesting that any proposals or prototypes be brought before the Senate.

[October 1, 1998 Senate Resolution: "The Faculty Senate endorses the continued development of the residential college concept to include preparation of a prototype to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate prior to implementation."

Senator Miller (Sluti) offered the following motion:

That the Senate direct the Executive Committee to carry the word to the administration that the Learning Communities proposals and prototypes need to be brought before the Faculty Senate for review and comment.

Motion passed unanimously.

Marketing Plan

: Senator Young noted that the VCUR has reported that a marketing plan has been developed and approved, and asked that the plan be brought to the Senate for informational purposes. President Clark stated that it would be put in the packet for the next Senate meeting.

Child Care Program

: Senator Kelley noted that in the report VCBF Haack reported that the Child Care program is being successfully worked out and moving forward. Senator Kelley commended the administration for making progress on this project.

XIV. President’s Report

President Clark reviewed topics from the Regents meetings, including the Antelope Valley Flood project, the fetal tissue topic, and a comment upon the general operating budget. Clark noted that with regard to faculty salaries in the university system, President LD Smith has indicated that he would like see a point beyond a midpoint as an aspirational goal.

XV. Academic Freedom and Tenure

Senator ZikmundA reported that Jim Middleton was elected Chair.

XVI. Grievance Committee
XVII. Professional Conduct Committee

No report.

XVIII. Academic Computing Committee

Senator Hartman reported that the committee is currently discussing the issue of information literacy verses competency. No decision as of yet. There have been problems with the Lotus Notes system. Please note that adoption of the LN system was a decision made in Lincoln for the NU system and not made here.

XIX. Artists and Lecturers Committee

No report.

XX. Athletic Committee.

Senator Sluti reported that Bruce Elder has been elected Chair. Senator YoungB hoped that the committee would soon be reporting the academic record of the athletic teams. Past reports indicated excellent academic records for UNK student/athletes.

XXI. Library Committee

Senator Miller reported that the Library is looking at a new system for purchasing materials based on discipline profiles rather than discipline headcount. Books and materials would be sent by companies to match the discipline profile as determined by departments needs rather than on a population basis.

XXII. Student Life Committee

No report.

XXIII. Ad Hoc FS Orientation Committee

Senator Kelley noted that it appears the administration is proceeding with planning for summer and fall orientation but the committee is out of the loop, despite significant involvement last year. Comments by various Senators supported the continuation of the committee and an insistence of a strong faculty presence in planning the orientation sessions. President Clark concluded he will discuss the issue further with Senator Kelley and administration officials and report back to the Senate. The Senate was unanimous in its endorsement of the committee and its continuation.
XXIV. Unfinished Business

The Senate reviewed a resolution offered by Senator Wozniak at the February 3, 2000 meeting which it did not have time to act upon. The resolution raised the issue of formal recognition of faculty service and increased demands for faculty service, especially in the area of retention, and concluded:

"Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate requests that the administration clarify the relative importance of the three components of faculty performance especially with regard to senior faculty. It is suggested that institutional service be given greater weight for tenured professors thus encouraging reciprocal commitment."

The resolution passed unanimously.

XXV. New Business

No new business.

XXVI. Faculty Comments

Senator YoungB encouraged the Senate to consider re-establishing a Faculty Welfare Committee. Questions were raised about which issues were already covered by the Bargaining Contract and UNKEA, or other committees, and which issues would remain for such a committee to address.

Senator Benz noted that Regent Blank mentioned that the Regents would like to receive copies of the FS minutes and inquired if this could be done. President Clark stated the Executive Committee will look into the issue.

Senator Benz (Wozniak) moved adjournment.

Motion passed. The Senate adjourned at 9:25pm

Respectfully submitted

Roger Davis
Ad Hoc Secretary