Faculty Senate Minutes of the Meeting of April 6, 2000

I. Call to order. Faculty Senate was called to order by President Clark at 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll call. The secretary called the roll.


Absent: Elder, Emrys, Fleming, Tassi

Guests: Regent Bob Allen; Mrs. Allen; AVCAA Anderson; DoG Jussell; Student Body Vice President, Brieanne Thomas; Dean of Distance Education, Barbara Audley

III. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of March 2, 2000.

Senator Zikmund D (Davis) moved approval.
Motion Passed.

IV. Presentation by Regent Bob Allen from Hastings, Ne.

Regent Allen began his talk by complimenting former Chancellor Bill Nester and current Chancellor Styles-Johnston for the fine work they have done for UNK. He discussed the Regent’s visit last week. He said that the Regents were impressed with the number of writing intensive classes the UNK offers.

He said that originally he was opposed to Kearney State College coming into the University system, but Kearney has added much to the system. He was afraid that Kearney would get hurt by the move, but that has not happened. Kearney has an ideal location in the city and is well set up. Also it has much continuity.

Additionally, he feels that the state needs to focus on how to help students and the faculty.

Regent Allen also said that the fetal tissue business kind of blind-sided the Board. He believes the Med Center is on the right road. The tissue is used for many proposes for which it is ideal including vaccines and work in the area of neurological disorders. Public support for research is vital.

Senator Smith asked: Do you support merit pay?

Regent Allen replied that he favors anything that helps faculty. He did say that he feels that the system needs fewer administrators. The Regents go on the Board to help. If he
were younger, he would run for the Regents again. He said that the system is far from perfect, but it is a good University and President Smith has done some marvelous things.

Senator Fredrickson commented that UNK’s Graduate Assistants need to have their pay improved. GAs at UNK receive much less than those at UNL. Could the Board address that issue?

Regent Allen replied that he would like to visit that issue. He doesn’t see same-sex benefits being offered for the system, however. He wishes that the Board would focus more on classroom issues. If there is anything that he can do to help UNK let him know and he will try to help.

V. Reports from Academic Councils.

A. Graduate Council.

Minutes from February 10, 2000 were in the packets. Senator A. Young asked why the Senate does not get committee minutes sooner. If they are not timely, they are useless.

B. General Studies.

Minutes of March 2, 2000 were in the packet. There were no comments.

VI. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees.

A. Strategic Planning Committee. This committee has not met.

B. Budget Committee. This committee has not met.

C. Honor’s Council. This committee has not met.

D. Information Technology Advisory Committee.

President Clark reported that this committee has met. He reported that the Committee finalized recommendations that will go to the Chancellor. These include campus-wide issues (infrastructure) and responses to student concerns. He believes that these issues should be funded easily with the money available and faculty should see some monies available for departmental requests.

Senator Fredrickson asked if a new Web Master is being hired? President Clark replied that he did not know.

E. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee.
Senator Peck reported that Senators Anderson and Elder to the Regents regarding the Center. The Center is sponsoring three activities this month, which Senator Peck will advertise to the campus through e-mail.

F. Gender Equity Committee.

Senator Ziebarth reported that Senator Peck made an excellent presentation at the Women’s Symposium on Mentoring meeting in Lincoln recently. The committee is also working on exit interviews for leaving faculty and child care.

G. Others.

The Safety Committee met and Senator Fredrickson reported that there are no smoke alarms in the residence halls. The cost for these would be $18,000 and UNK does not have the money. He offered that if there is a fire, it will cost UNK a lot more than that to settle. Senator Sluti said that if he had a child moving into a residence hall, that child would not stay were there were not smoke alarms. This is an asinine situation especially since incoming freshmen have no choice but to live in the residence halls.

Senator D. Zikmund (Fredrickson) moved that the Senate direct the Executive Committee to investigate this situation of no smoke alarms in the residence halls and report back to the Senate.

Motion passed.

Senator Davis reminded the Senate that just last weekend the Regents approved an increase in student fees. Something must be done about smoke alarms.

IV. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Election Committee.

Senator Miller held one election to fill Senator Kathy Smith’s seat due to absences she incurred teaching a class this semester. Senator B. Young (Davis) moved that Senator Smith be nominated for that seat and that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast.

Motion passed.

The Senate was also presented with the revised Constitution via mail. Senator Benz (Davis) moved that the Senate accept the revised Constitution in total.

Motion passed with one abstention.

B. The Executive Committee.
Copies of the minutes of the meetings were available at the meeting. Senator Davis noted that Interim VCSA Oseth is working with the Deans who are working with the faculty on the learning communities. Senator Davis would like to have more information. Senator Smith noted that the learning community students will take two courses per semester together. Senator Ziebarth said that the focus will be service learning.

Senator Miller reminded the Senate it had passed a resolution regarding learning communities.

President Clark said that Interim VCSA Oseth declined to come before the Senate. He also said that it would be appropriate to bring representatives of the colleges to Senate to get more information regarding the learning centers.

Senator B. Young said that he assumes that the colleges take their direction from the administration.

President Clark said that from his conversations with IVCSA Oseth, the colleges were on their own.

Senator Young asked if the personnel in the colleges were born able to establish learning communities?

Senator Davis asked if there was an Advisory Board?

Senator Smith asked if the Senate had endorsed learning communities?

President Clark responded not it had not.

Senator Smith suggested that the Executive Committee address this issue with the Chancellor. The Executive Committee should make it clear that the Senate has NOT discussed nor endorsed the learning communities. This was not brought back to the Senate for review. The Executive Committee should then report back to the Senate.

Senator Davis said this is a serious issue. The administration is obligated by Board of Regent’s policy to work with us on these academic issues. The faculty has no choice in the matter. This is a academic matter because faculty will be involved in mini seminars for these communities.

Senator B. Young said this is another Faculty Welfare issue because again faculty are being asked to do more with no remuneration.

Senator Peck pointed out that the sheet we received from IVCSA Oseth totally misrepresents the Faculty Senate position.

Senator Smith pointed out that she is not necessarily opposed to the issue it is just that Faculty Senate does not get the information it should have.
Senator Terry asked if Senate is usually contacted on residence hall issues?

President Clark pointed out that this is also an academic issue because faculty will be involved in learning situations.

Senator Falconer said that she is opposed to the whole idea. The college experience is partly an exposure experience to other people and other cultures and the learning communities limit the amount of contact these students will have with other students.

Senator Becker pointed out that Case Hall seems to have become the international residence hall. There are lots of models out there from which to get information and ideas.

Senator Miller noted that the Chancellor voiced concern regarding the number of classes available on Friday morning when the Regents were on campus. He thought that filtering may have been the problem.

Senator Davis asked about freshmen orientation.

Senator Kelley reported that he is not involved with summer orientation—faculty will not be involved in summer orientation.

Senator Anderson said that faculty will have an opportunity to address students in the fall during a time period when the departments will address academic expectations.

Senator Hodge asked if this is another instance when Faculty Senate has a committee that administration has elected to by pass?

Senator Kelley said that he did have a nice talk with IVCSA Oseth and it was productive, but the ad hoc committee was excluded.

Senator Davis pointed out that Faculty Senate has had the Orientation Committee and two dozen plus faculty involved in summer orientation, we have been asked by the administration to be involved in orientation in a variety of ways and for the administration to ignore faculty now is a real problem. Faculty are being asked to do a lot, but often only when told what to do. This is a major communication issue.

Senator Terry reported that freshmen orientation is on Saturday prior to classes and he thinks that this also is a poor idea and the timing is not good. The last place that students want to be is with faculty at this time.

Senator B. Young asked who is the focus group which decided Saturday orientation was a good idea?

Senator A. Young pointed out that faculty orient students for the first several weeks of class every semester.
Senator B. Young said that faculty commitment of time required by the administration makes him believe that now is the time to revive the Faculty Welfare Committee. He also wanted to know if the Teaching Circle was invited to be one of the presentation groups to the Board when it was on campus.

President Clark said no, he did not think so.

C. President’s Report.

President Clark reported that the last Board of Regents meeting focused on scholarly teaching. The Regents appeared to be impressed with the close relationship between faculty and students on UNK’s campus. We are following our mission. In the afternoon there were committee meetings. The Academic Affairs Committee focused on Career Counseling and Nancy Kneen represented UNK. The General Affairs Committee met with four agricultural boards who wanted to know why the University was going to eliminate the Nebraska Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute. This is not happening. During the Planning Committee meeting, Regent Miller wanted information on the Keweit Institute. Regent Miller feels that the Omaha campus is not getting a fair shake.

The strategic issue was: How to build and maintain programs of excellence. Each of the four campuses reported. From UNK was Sr. VCAA Roark discussing the PEW Roundtable and the results of those meetings. Identified as excellent departments were Industrial Technology, Chemistry and Political Science.

D. Academic Freedom and Tenure.

Senator B. Young reported that this committee had business and they took care of it. The committee recommended a change in the policies but before the change could be made, they asked the Board the change one item in its policy. This was to have its attorney send information to faculty that he/she (the faculty) has 20 days to respond to the attorney of the President. Senator Young has not heard one word from the Board since his December letter. Previously the committee chair had to tell the faculty about the 20 day period. If the faculty does not respond in 20 days the faculty loses the case by default. If the committee chair receives the information at a time when he/she is not on campus, the case may be lost because of lack of information to concerned parties.

AVCAA Anderson said that UNL got involved in this issue somehow, but he doesn’t remember exactly how or what happened.

Senator D. Zikmund asked if there was a reason why someone in Central Administration could not respond?

Senator Davis asked if Bob receives an issue, has it already gone through the Super Committee?
Senator Young said no.

E. **Grievance Committee.** No business.

F. **Professional Conduct Committee.** No business

G. **Academic Computing Committee.** Minutes from 2-17-00 were in the packets.

H. **Academic Affairs Committee.**

Minutes from 2-17-00 were in the packets. Senator Kelley commented on the G.S. Review material on page 3 of the minutes. He said that Faculty Senate put forth the idea that UNK have writing intensive and cultural diversity courses and this is an important part of what we do.

I. **Artists and Lecturers Committee.** No money, no meeting.

J. **Athletic Committee.**

Senator Davis noted that the facilities are closed through May 8 due to hostile language and weapons. Senator Benz said that he thought that this was something that the Student Life Committee should address. Senator B. Young noted that he really misses the academic reports of athletes that Senate used to receive.

K. **Library Committee.**

The minutes of 2-26-00 and 3-22-00 were included in the packets. The proposal with Blackwells is being developed.

L. **Student Life Committee.**

Why is this committee not meeting? Senator Davis said that the Executive Committee should investigate this. Senator Moorman reported that the reason that HPER is closed until May 8 is because a student assaulted an official at an intramural event. The student was suspended from intramural events. Senator Davis said that this is an example of exactly why we need to have an active Student Affairs Committee.

M. **Continuing Education Committee.**

Senator Davis reported that $13,000 in grant monies have been awarded. Senate will have the minutes from this committee at the next meeting.

VII. **Reports of Faculty Senate Special (Ad Hoc) Committees**

A. **CEET.** This committee has finished its work and has been disbanded.
B. **Faculty Senate Orientation Committee.** The report was earlier in the meeting.

VIII. **Unfinished Business**

A. **The University of Nebraska Extended Education Policy for Credit Courses.**

Senators were reminded to bring their copies of this policy to the meeting. Senator Benz (Miller) moved to take the document off of the table.

Motion passed.

Senator Miller said that he has concerns with the language in the document. For example in paragraph 4, “The development of courses for distance education is a creative form of scholarly activity, which should be, included in annual performance evaluations as well as in tenure and promotion considerations.” He does not believe that this would fly in the colleges. In paragraph 2, “Course delivery structure must emphasize a learner-centered instructional process, providing for appropriate faculty-student and student-to-student interactions, and paying attention to differing student learning styles.” Senator Miller proposes that the concepts discussed here are not well understood and already dated. In paragraph 3, “Faculty may receive various resource incentives to engage in the development of courses for distance education.” Faculty MUST get resource incentives. In paragraph 18, “Further, extended education courses should be subsidized to the same extent as on-campus courses.” This must be clarified because the language is fuzzy.

Senator Smith pointed out section II, Implementation Recommendations. It seems to her that there should be strong recommendations for incentives and resources. Faculty must be trained and have resources to do the job. She would like to see a recommendation about that. She also pointed out sentence number one “Extended education is part of the core mission of the University of Nebraska.” Is this our mission? She is not saying that it should not be, but is it? She would also like to see a strong statement regarding resources going to distance education. Where are the priorities on campus? It seems that the University wants to take the work out of the hide of the faculty.

Senator Fredrickson pointed out that in the bargaining agreement, people who teach distance education classes are to get release time and compensation, but this doesn’t happen.

Senator Peck point out in #12, it seems that Distance Education and Intellectual Property are at odds. The current Intellectual Property document is not being enforced. How can Faculty Senate approve something that does not exist.

Senator B. Young said that in #10 and #11 rather that saying “should be” the document should say “will be.”

Dean Audley pointed out that the document should be considered a guiding principle, not tightly controlled.
Senator Smith pointed out that the document can not be picked apart word-by-word, but Senators have key issues here.

Senator Audley said that the document was designed to affect UNL.

Senator Peck pointed out that the one-size fits all model does not work here.

Senator Audley said that the intent was that UNK would write its own document.

Senator Miller proposed that Senators summarize their concerns and forward them to Lee Jones and hope that something comes back. He urged senators not to approve the document.

President Clark said that Senator Davis’s committee will handle the concerns.

Senator Fredrickson (ZikmundD) moved previous question.

Motion passed.

Vote on motion to endorse the document.

Motion failed unanimously.

President Clark urged Senators to get their comments to Roger Davis as quickly as possible.

B. Other.

Hamster Wheel Award. President Clark reminded Senators to make recommendations for the award. The nominations can be sent to any member of the Executive Committee. These need to be sent in as quickly as possible.

IX. New Business

Senator Young recognized the Senators who will not be coming back to the Senate next year.

Senator A. Zikmund announced that there will be a fundraising event for David Nabb on April 30.

Senator Falconer pointed out the recent news releases which noted the amount of money being paid the new UNL basketball coach and wondered if the University was designed to train minds or athletes.

Senator Zikmund (Fredrickson) moved adjournment.
Respectfully submitted

Kay Hodge, Secretary