I. Call to Order. Faculty Senate was called to order by President-Elect Elsie Cafferty at 7:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call. The secretary called the roll.

Present: Bean, Becker, Boeckl, Bridges, Burlingame, Cafferty, Clark, Craig, Curry, Davis, Eshleman, Fredrickson, Kruse, Lewis, Lillis, Luthans, Conrad, Miller, Moorman, Narey, Terry, Tracy, Volpe, Wozniak, Young, A. Zikmund

Absent: Dart, Emal, Fleming, Hartman, Hoehner, Peck

Guests: John Oseth, Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, James Roark, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Tom Contine, College of Education faculty member

III. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of April 6, 2000.

Senator Miller (Young) moved approval. Senator D. Zikmund pointed out that on page 5, lines 8-9 the statement by Senator Fredrickson should read as follows: "Senator Fredrickson pointed out that in the bargaining agreement, people who teach distance education classes are to get release time or (rather than and) compensation, but this doesn’t happen."

The minutes were approved as corrected by unanimous vote.

IV. Senator Miller (Fredrickson) moved to suspend the agenda

for the election to replace the Senator-at-Large seat vacated by Bruce Elder. The Election Committee suggested that former Senator Elder’s seat be filled by Dale Zikmund. Senator Young (Fredrickson) moved approval.

The motion passed unanimously.

President Elect Cafferty introduced Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Life (IVCSA) Oseth to the Senate for a few words.

IVCSA Oseth said that he was at Senate to discuss Learning Communities and Orientation. He made several points.

- The Chancellor has looked at the residence halls and he would recommend that any faculty member who wanted to, go look at them as well. The Chancellor is committed to repairing them. Occupancy in the residence halls is low. In the past, UNK relied on monies from tuition and
housing fees to keep the residence halls in repair, but both of these sources have decreased in recent years. The work on the residence halls will begin this summer. The fire alarms in the towers need to be fixed. There are places where the alarms cannot be heard. What is needed is hard-wired smoke alarms in each room; however, this will cost $500,000. Other projects in the residence halls include everything from carpets to curtains.

- Much is being done in the area of International and Cultural Affairs. President Clark headed the committee that made several suggestions for needed changes. On campus, there is not an office designated for American minorities, but the Multicultural Affairs office will do this in the future. The job of servicing international students is overwhelming so that work will go to the International Office. UNK must get serious about the diversity problem on campus.

- There will be a contingency of Japanese students arriving on campus this fall. The first cohort will number about 30 students. This is a real help to our enrollment.

Senator Miller asked if there were plans to provide language support for these students.

IVCSA replied that the organization that brings them here gets them up to speed on language skills.

Senator Young asked if the students were freshmen. IVCSA replied yes.

Senator Young asked if UNK paid the providing organization a fee. IVCSA said no.

Senator Burlingame asked what discipline the students would pursue? IVCSA said that there were a variety of disciplines.

Senator Davis asked the name of the agency. IVCSA said that he would send that information to him. People from the agency have been on campus twice so far.

Senator Terry asked if the former director of Multicultural Students left because of the demands of the job. IVCSA said no, he had a good opportunity professionally, but he probably was not very satisfied here due to INS demands.

Senator Young asked if the International Office would return to what it was before and whether the new responsibilities change of current focus of the office. IVCSA replied that the focus would stay the same.

Learning Communities—IVCSA Oseth handed out brochures and an explanatory sheet
• IVCSA Oseth said that he believes that Learning Communities and Orientation are just small pieces of a much larger puzzle, which is a first year experience. UNK would benefit from a systematic approach to help freshmen adjust to the academic experience and unless UNK does this it will not meet its goals. Learning Communities will be an attempt to improve the learning experience of freshmen. It is important to see this as something that augments what currently happens at UNK. It is an attempt to integrate academic and nonacademic opportunities.

• Learning Communities are a partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Life. They should provide an environment where students can become all they can be. Retention is very important to UNK and Learning Communities could help this. UNK has some experience in the area through the Honors Program’s Learning Community and the Service Learning Community.

Senator Miller pointed out that he gets very different feedback from students regarding the two current learning communities. IVCSA said that the Honors community is an academic community and it has a lot going for it. The Service Learning Community needs more attention on the substantive side.

Senator Moorman asked if anyone has signed up for the communities. IVCSA said yes, but he does not have the figures. He said that he thinks that there have been some mistakes made doing the Learning Communities, but we have learned much.

Senator Young asked if any Senators had seen the brochures. One Senator said he had.

Senator Young asked if these communities were modeled after another institution’s. SVCAA Roark responded that in a very general way they were modeled after UNL’s.

Senator Young said that he wondered about that model.

IVCSA said that we know what Universities nation-wide are doing. The community needs to fit the school. This is an effort to orchestrate shared experiences and the brochures allowed flexibility.

Senator Davis said that he had heard that UNL was the model and the place we looked to, but should we not emphasize our distinction? The literature is rich with distinctions between Research I institutions and institutions like ours. Maybe there is a better model out there. He also pointed out that if a partnership is what the administration wants, then they must be more sharing in designs and cooperation.
IVCSA Oseth replied that he created the "devil" that he is wrestling with now by using the UNL model. UNL has had very good success with their Learning Communities and it seemed good to examine these. There was never a conscious effort to attempt to copy the UNL model. However, UNK has issues to address—retention and graduation rates. On Senator Davis' second point IVCSA said that if we believe that he erred by not talking to the Orientation Ad Hoc Committee—ok. However, he does not believe that he violated shared governance on the Learning Community partnership. The Administration has not crossed the line. You cannot implement anything if you do not have students.

Senator Miller said that the point is that the Senate did not even know about the Service Learning Community until recently.

Senator Terry pointed out that originally he had asked if Senate generally had any involvement in residence hall issues, but now his question is what will be the expectations from faculty?

IVCSA said that no one will be asked to do what he or she doesn’t want to do. Regarding the academic component he has nothing to say. He would like this to be a willing partnership. He believes that it is critical to proceed with some approach.

Senator Fredrickson said that he really likes the idea and sees Learning Communities as a totally beneficial program. When it was originally presented as an International Student’s Program he had some problems because he thought such a community would isolate them.

IVCSA said that he is very aware of the idea of cloistering.

Senator Miller said that he noticed that all of the students in the Learning Communities would be taking Speech 100 and he sees this as a way to tailor a class to these particular groups. IVCSA said he doesn’t know anything about that.

Senator Becker said that the idea of International Houses has always had nationals living along with internationals. The international students are the other side of the coin. Living in the U.S. can be perceived as very isolating for them. When the issue of the essay requirement to live in the Learning Communities was brought up, he thought this was wonderful. This would bring in a higher level of student. He would like to see this continued.

IVCSA said that the evaluation of the Learning Communities would steer the future of the idea, assuming the idea works at all.

Senator Young pointed out that many Senators see value in Learning Communities and we certainly did not expect a step-by-step plan to purview. But,
we did think that the plan for the whole program would come forward for our advice. Senate does have the right to question the welfare of faculty and we do appreciate all of the information tonight.

Senator Zikmund pointed out that no one has ever explained how faculty will be involved in the Learning Communities. What are the expectations for faculty?

IVCSA said that he has no fixed expectations. There may be an ad hoc lecture session or perhaps a faculty member going to the residence halls to talk with students.

Senator Davis said that many years ago we used to offer courses all over the place, filled the courses with students, and then tried to find someone to teach the courses. The problem is the appearance of such activities. Faculty needs to know what is happening so that we can speak to the issues in a proper way. Talking tonight is positive—by working together perhaps we can make it work.

Senator Terry pointed out that perhaps the Deans should be asked questions about what they are doing since they seem to be the ones who know.

Tom Contine said that UNL’s Learning Communities were well researched and studied prior to any implementation processes. The concept is good, but it must be studied and well thought out.

Summer Advising and Enrollment and Fall Orientation

- IVCSA said that this summer the focus for the students will be on proper advice for enrollment and getting them enrolled. This is the last step in the admissions process. In the fall we will work on orientation. Everyone on campus needs to collaborate on orientation. The major change is that it is set for Saturday this fall. This will be a time for colleges to talk to students and the programs are at their discretion. However, interaction needs to be continued systematically throughout the year so the freshmen have a "first year experience."

Senator Young said that with all of the work involved in orientation he is sure that the Deans will need some assistance from faculty on fall orientation. Also he wanted to know why registration quits so early? He finds this troublesome since some prospective students are still shopping. IVCSA Oseth agreed that the early ending date is troublesome and he is trying to bridge the gap.

Senator D. Zikmund reported that the chairs and faculty of the College of B & T will be on duty August 19 for orientation. He wondered if the ad hoc committee on orientation was going to be reactivated.
Senator Terry believes that UNK ought to be able to survey the people who come to campus to find out why students who were at one time interested in attending UNK changed their minds. Surely this data could prove useful to the community. IVCSA said that such a survey had not been done yet, but it might make sense.

V. Reports from Academic Councils

A. Graduate Council. Minutes from the meeting of March 9 were included in the packets. Senators had no comments.

B. General Studies Council. No minutes.

VI. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

A. Strategic Planning Committee. Sr. VCAA Roark reported that this committee discussed prioritization and general issues. When the Prioritization Committee issues its report, UNK will have to take the information and adapt it to this campus. There will be one more meeting and then open forums will be held on campus regarding the priorities. Clark believes that implementation will be in the fall.

B. Budget Committee. No meeting

C. Honor’s Council. No meeting

D. Information Technology Advisory Council. This group presented its recommendations to the Chancellor and they were approved. UNK needs a campus-wide plan to replace faculty/staff workstations in a systematic manner. That will be the next major task of the committee.

E. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee. The director has offered at least two events per month this semester and the committee is satisfied with the progress to date.

F. Gender Equity Committee. Has not met.

G. Other—none

VII. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Election Committee. Senator Richard Miller officiated over the elections for the coming year. Those elected are as follows:

President
Elsie Cafferty
President-elect
James German
Secretary
Tom Eshleman
B. Executive Committee.

Senator Fredrickson asked where the pay for the Web Master is coming from. SrVCAA

Roark responded that it is from student tech fees. The job of the Web Master was to bring UNK into the early 21st century. That job is complete. Now the job will include student and faculty support. The position will serve a wide range of campus needs—mostly student oriented. There may be other sources, but this is the best solution.

Senator Zikmund noted that the Chancellor wants us to schedule her or a vice chancellor for every meeting. Can we have a time frame for them to follow? Senator Young agreed that if there is a presentation, there should be a time limit. Senator Davis offered that it is a good idea for us to have the information, but it is a bad idea for Senate to get into the habit of having one of the five here all the time and on the agenda.

C. President’s Report. Nothing—which received a round of applause.

D. Academic Freedom and Tenure. No meeting

E. Grievance Committee. No meeting.

F. Professional Conduct Committee. No meeting.

G. Academic Computing Committee. Minutes of March 23 were in the packets. Senator Fredrickson reported that the committee is working on obtaining more licenses for the campus.

H. Academic Affairs Committee. Minutes of March 23 were in the packets. Business as usual. Senator Zikmund asked about the progress of accepting WI and CD courses from other institutions. He wondered if these would be given to the faculty advisors.

I. Artists and Lecturers Committee. No meeting.
J. Athletic Committee. No meeting.

K. Library Committee. Finished its work and has had no meeting.

L. Student Life Committee. No meeting.

M. Continuing Education Committee. Minutes from March 29 were in the packets. Senator Zikmund asked about the committee’s progress. Senator Davis reported that there will be a meeting next week. He added that he had received no response from Senators with one exception—Dale Zikmund. Senator Young begged to differ as he also responded and had in fact received an e-mail thank you from Senator Davis. Senator Zikmund asked about the status of the Intellectual Property document and the response is that it is in Varner Hall. Senator Fredrickson thanked Sr VCAA for the grants—even though he did not get one, but he had not applied either.

VIII. Reports of Faculty Senate Special (Ad Hoc) Committees

A. Faculty Senate Orientation Committee. The Senate understands that there is a letter from Daryl Kelly proposing disbanding this committee. Senator Young suggested that perhaps the Faculty Senate Executive Committee could get together with John Oseth, Jim Roark, and Daryl Kelley to form a committee to begin the formulation of a plan for the freshman experience.

Senator Wozniak said that he believed that to have much of what faculty have done in the past to just be taken away by fiat is extremely demoralizing. Many faculty had two to three years' investment in the process and this year was very frustrating. This could be the reason why Daryl Kelley opted to quit.

IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business.

Senator A. Zikmund reported that the Search Committee for the VCSA—the Screening Committee has gone over the resumes and will reduce the list to the top three. These applicants will be brought to campus this coming week.

President Clark asked for nominations to various committees. The following were nominated:

Learning Community Oversight Committee  Tom Contine
                                           Lon Pierson
                                           Laurence Becker

Search of AA/EEOC person  Glenn Tracy
                                           Kyle Luthans
Senator Young said that many years ago, faculty from UNK were asked to prepare classes to take to Kearney High in an effort to recruit. What happened? Sr.VCAA Roark said that fizzled.

Senator D. Zikmund reported that he enjoyed his brief retirement from Senate.

Senator Young (Wozniak) moved to thank the current Executive Committee for all its hard work this year.  

*Motion passed.*

Senator D. Zikmund (Davis) moved adjournment.  

*Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted  

*Kay A. Hodge*  

Secretary