I. Call to Order.

Faculty Senate was called to order by President Cafferty at 7:08 p.m.

II. Roll Call.

Present:

Boeckl, Bridges, Burlingame, Briner, Cafferty, Clark, Conrad, Craig, Curry, Dart, Davis, Eshleman, Hartman, Hoehner, Kruse, Lewis, Lillis, Luthans, Mena-Werth, Miller, Moorman, Peck, Smith, Tracy, Unruh, Volpe, Wozniak, Young, Zikmund.

Absent:

Bean, Emal, Fredrickson, German, Terry.

Guests:

Brieanne Thomas, Student Body Vice President; Dale Zikmund, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; Allan Jenkins, Professor of Economics.

III. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of December 7, 2000.

Senator Lewis was incorrectly listed as present. Miller/Davis moved approval of the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Speaker:

Allan Jenkins, Professor of Economics and representative on the University-wide Benefits Committee, urged all Senators and Faculty to make suggestions as to what they would like to see on the bargaining table in the future. He emphasized that some items had been on a bargaining "wish list" for several years before they were finally agreed upon. He also stated that the trust funds were dropping fast due to some huge medical claims, including a bill of half a million dollars for a hemophiliac sufferer.

V. Reports from Academic Councils

A. Graduate Council.

The minutes of the December 12 meeting were included in the packets, no discussion followed.
B. General Studies Council.

No report.

VI. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

A. Strategic Planning Committee.

Committee members, Dept. Chairs, and Deans were getting data related to the benchmarks of the Strategic Plan.

B. Honors Council.

No meeting

C. Information Technology Advisory Council.

No meeting

D. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee

Minutes of the October 20 meeting were handed out. The committee is working on a "Faculty Instructional Handbook" to be published in the year 2002.

The Center now has new furniture, and resource acquisitions have been made. UNK Consultants have been selected for the Center, and Laurie Bellows, a UNL consultant will conduct a training session for the these Consultants. Also, Ralph Carter from Texas Christian University will facilitate a full-day workshop on Strategies and Tactics of Effective Teaching in March.

E. Gender Equity Committee.

No meeting.

F. Other.

No other reports.

VII. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Election Committee.
Senator James Fleming was removed from the Faculty Senate as he missed 3 meetings. Clark/Mena-Werth moved to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Scott Unruh to take this seat. The motion passed unanimously.

David Nabb stepped down from the Academic Affairs Committee. Miller/Young moved to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Keith Comer to take this seat. The motion passed unanimously.

Peg Camp went on Medical leave this semester and vacated her seat on the Athletic Committee. Boekle/Young moved to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Kari Anderson to take this seat. The motion passed unanimously.

Elaine Battenhorst stepped down from the Grievance Committee since members must be tenured to serve. Dart/Miller moved to cast a unanimous ballot to elect James Fleming to take this seat. The motion passed unanimously.

The Election Committee is reviewing their charge, with the possibility of adding the duties of reviewing the Constitution. With this new charge, they might change their name to the Oversight Committee. Also, the committee has brought up the idea to re-instate the Faculty Welfare Committee to look at things like the role of faculty in teaching, service, and scholarship.

Election procedures for all Senators whose terms end this year will begin this month, with nominating ballots being sent out shortly. The finale election ballots will be reported at the last FS meeting on April 26, with new Senators taking office after this meeting.

B. Executive Committee.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors were e-mailed to the FS prior to the meeting.

Miller/Zikmund moved to table discussion on the Student Affairs White Paper on the First-Year Experience (included in the packets) until a report from the FS First Year Experience Committee can be made. The committee is working on this issue and was urged to report to the FS at the next meeting.

The Learning Center is being reviewed by a separate committee and their recommendations are being communicated to the First Year Experience Committee.

C. Presidents Report.

A handout was distributed on the Board of Regents Resolution on Core Curriculum, emphasizing their commitment to the General Studies program.
The FS resolution on recognition of service activities, and a copy of the Board of Regents Policy on teaching, research, and service, were sent to the Dean's Council and the Director of Libraries directing them to recognize service activities in faculty reviews.

VCCA Lewis is asking for broad grassroots support for the lobbying effort on behalf of UNK. He asked the Senate to identify 5 faculty who would agree to contact Nebraska Senators on important issues related to the University. Gene Koepke and Dale Zikmund of B&T, Ruth Brown of FAH, and Julie Agard of Ed have agreed to act in this capacity during the next legislative session. Another member from NSS will be asked to join this group.

Jane Sheldon asked for a Senate representative to review the UNK bookstore contract procedure. Hannes Johannsson from the Economics Dept. has agreed to do this.

D. Academic Freedom and Tenure.

No report.

E. Grievance Committee.

Minutes of the 11-30-00 meeting were included in the packets, no discussion followed.

F. Professional Conduct Committee.

No report.

G. Academic Computing Committee.

No report.

H. Academic Affairs Committee.

Minutes of the 11-30-00 meeting were included in the packets. Discussion ensued on the 62 hour credit limit for Comprehensive Degrees. Some departments have requested exceptions to these limits when external accrediting agency requirements make it necessary to exceed the limits. The AcAf committee has agreed to allow these exceptions, but has concerns about the procedure used in considering exceptions. Perhaps documentation from the external accreditation agency should be submitted to the AcAf committee for review to see if the requirements are being interpreted correctly, since some of the requirements are vague. It is possible that some requirements could be met and still fit into the 62 hour credit limit if some program and/or course changes were made.
The College of Education requirements have increased as well, practically making Education a 5-year program, and since Education has no General Studies requirement, there is no overlap between Education degrees and General Studies requirements, making it even more difficult to stay within the credit hour limits. While one might think that an accrediting agency would be concerned that their requirements might make a student take 130-140 hours and thus hurt enrollment in the program, this does not seem to be a major concern for them.

Departments need to determine if accreditation requirements are negotiable or flexible, and see if there may be a way to satisfy requirements and still remain within the credit hour limits. It was noted that AACSB accreditation for the Business College is just the opposite of the ones being questioned, as it requires 50% of credit hours be taken outside the Business College. It was suggested that it might be helpful if somebody could inventory external accrediting agencies to get a better picture of the number and the requirements of each.

Miller/Dart moved that the Senate reaffirm its commitment to maintaining academic credit limits to degree programs, and that all requests for exceptions to those limits be accompanied with documentation to support the request. Further discussion suggested that the AcAf Committee could ask for clarification if differences occur after reviewing the documentation. Departments should be prompted to try to find a way to satisfy requirements within current limits, with exceptions granted only if this can't be done. Some programs at UNK have done some rearranging of classes to accomplish this.

Currently, documentation is not required when asking for an exception to the credit hour limits, except for a few lines in the "request for program change" sheet. Older programs that exceed the limit have been "grandfathered" in, but if these programs request changes, the AcAf committee requests full documentation.

It was noted that some accreditation agencies have no credit hour requirements, but rather require that certain competencies be achieved. Who would make the final decision as to what coursework is needed to satisfy these competencies, the department or the AcAf committee? The motion was intended to put the burden of satisfying these types of requirements upon the departments, to try to find a way to do so within current credit hour limits.

Clark called the question, and the motion passed unanimously.

On another topic, the FS was informed that the roving deadline for grade submissions is now the Tuesday after finals week, according to Kim Schipporeit.

I. Artists and Lecturers Committee.
No report.

**J. Athletic Committee.**

No report.

**K. Library Committee.**

Minutes of the 12-06-00 meeting were included in the packets, no discussion followed.

**L. Student Life Committee.**

No report.

**M. Continuing Education Committee.**

Minutes of the 12-13-00 meeting were included in the packets, no discussion followed.

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

**A. First Year Experience Committee.**

No report. This committee will report at the next FS meeting, including their response to the VCSA White Paper on the First Year Experience.

**B. North Central Accreditation Assessment Committee.**

This committee will be called shortly, should be a report by next FS meeting.

**IX. Unfinished Business**

In the EC meetings with the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellors it was noted that a team of faculty and administrators was sent to a workshop on faculty evaluation and portfolios, but the FS had no knowledge of what went on or what was learned. This was finally identified as the workshop on "Keeping Faculty Vital," and it was revealed that a report has been written and will be presented to the FS at the next meeting.
A question arose as to how the December 7 motion to support the resolution on recognition of service was to be established. It was requested that the Faculty Affairs Committee of each college look into this resolution to come up with recommendations as to how to put this motion into action. The Dean's Council has received this information from the Senate, and we need to know their response to the motion. A suggestion was made that each Dept chair should be sent the letter to stimulate grassroots action, but it was emphasized that the Dean's must approve it.

Discussion arose on the centralization of classroom scheduling, which will now be handled by Carla Brush. The Senate would like to get a briefing from her on procedures for special requests such as high tech rooms and such. Requests have not been followed through, and we need to know if the problem is in the coordination of requests or if it is just that people are not doing their job. It makes a faculty member look bad to their student groups if they have to wait outside a room for a meeting because the door has not been unlocked, even though the faculty member has followed the correct procedure for requesting the use of the room. Priorities for use need to be established.

President Smith has been invited to address the Senate during the March Meeting, while Chancellor Johnston is planning on addressing the Senate during the April 5 meeting.

The Goodrich Program on attracting and promoting success in minority students may be extended to the UNK campus. We need to investigate this program and be prepared to institute a program of this sort.

With respect to the first year experience program, a course for credit must be implemented, but we have no forum for developing this course. We need to decide if the Senate is the right place for developing this course, and how to proceed. It was thought that this was beyond the scope of the Center for Teaching Excellence, but perhaps some FS group could look at it.

The Constitution has been sent back from Varner Hall with a few editing changes to be made. It was referred to the Constitution committee, and will then be presented to the Senate for a finale look at the March 1 meeting.

**X. New Business**

A handout was distributed on changing the University-wide grading system to one with both plusses and minuses. It was mentioned in the handout that the UNK faculty supported this proposal in the past, but Senate members disagreed on this. The Secretary was directed to look up the previous vote on this issue and report back to the Senate. The complaint with the current system of just plusses
is that it contributes to grade inflation. It was suggested that we table this issue, take it to the colleges for input, and discuss it again at the next meeting.

**XI. General Faculty Comments**

It was reiterated that we should seriously consider reconstituting the Faculty Welfare Committee to look into issues like terms of employment and pay for service activities vs. scholarship. We need to monitor the increased faculty service load created by things like the 1st Year Experience and increased faculty time spent on mentoring, recruitment, and retention activities.

Miller/Hartman moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

*Respectfully submitted*
*Tommy Eshleman*
*Secretary*