I. Call to Order.

Faculty Senate was called to order by President Cafferty at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call.

Present:

Bean, Boeckl, Bridges, Burlingame, Cafferty, Conrad, Craig, Curry, Davis, Emal, Eshleman, Fleming, Fredrickson, German, Hoehner, Kruse, Lewis, Lillis, Luthans, Menawerth, Miller, Moorman, Peck, Tracy, Wozniak, Young, Zikmund.

Absent:

Clark, Dart, Hartman, Narey, Terry, Volpe, Smith

Guests:

Brieanne Thomas, Student Body Vice President; Jim Roark, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; Dale Zikmund, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

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

A request was made to specify the recommendations of the FS Ad-Hoc Orientation Committee Report of August 2000, which the FS endorsed in section VI. G. The recommendations were:

1. to dissolve the FS Ad-Hoc Orientation Committee.
2. to reinstate the Summer Session on Academic Values by volunteer faculty presenters.
3. to establish an Ad-Hoc Faculty Senate First Year Experience Committee.

Reference to the document on Intellectual Contribution in section VII. C. was changed to Intellectual Property rights, and the incorrect usage of the word unroll was changed to enroll.

Senator Young/Tracy moved approval of the minutes as corrected above. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Speaker:

AA/EO Director Michelle Roggasch reported on three documents, the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 Grievance Procedure, the ADA/504 Reasonable Accommodations Policy, and the Accommodation Procedures. It was noted that the
Accommodation Policy was merely a restatement of the law passed by Congress in 1990, and that her office must have documentation of a disability to act upon any request or complaint. UNK is constantly looking for areas in need of improvement to make the campus as accessible as possible, but is sometimes limited by cost constraints. It was emphasized that teachers should not demand less of students with disabilities, but must do everything possible to accommodate them so they can learn on an equal basis with others. Obvious disabilities, such as blindness, do not need documentation, but teachers must be informed by the student of their specific needs. UNK can test students to determine their qualifications for specific accommodations.

Changes or requests for accommodations not currently addressed by UNK are submitted to the Chancellor for final approval. The Chancellor ultimately determines if a request for an accommodation imposes an undue hardship on UNK, in which case it may be refused. Those dissatisfied with UNK’s response to a request for accommodations may take their case to the UN ADA expert in Lincoln.

Every state has its own interpretation of the ADA, and UNK is working hard to show that we are serious about our obligation to those with disabilities.

V. Reports from Academic Councils

A. Graduate Council.

The minutes of the September 7 meeting were included in the packets, no discussion followed.

B. General Studies Council.

The minutes of the May 4, August 17, and September 7 meetings were included in the packets. No discussion followed.

VI. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

A. Strategic Planning Committee.

A member sheet for this committee was included in the packets. A report on the Oct 5 meeting revealed that a consensus was reached on prioritization and evaluation of program definition to be used to identify the 25 best and most essential programs in meeting the needs of the Nebraska workforce, as directed by President Smith. A draft document should be out within the next month. VCAA Roark is the chair of the committee.

B. Budget Committee.

The Election Committee has determined that this committee does not exist and needs to be removed from the Non-Senate Committees list.
C. Honors Council. No meeting

D. Information Technology Advisory Council.

A draft of the Project Status Report was included in the packets.

The Library Computer Lab is finished and is being used for classes.

Concern was expressed that in previous years when there was a Technology Fee Committee, the FS received a detailed report on Tech Fee expenditures, and that this information is just as important today. It was suggested that the FS Executive Committee check on this and report back to the FS.

Also, machines purchased with tech fee money used to be identified with a sticker, but this is not currently the case. Such machines in the Library are identified with a screensaver, but this means of identification will not work in all situations.

E. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee.

The Web page is up and running, and the FS was urged to check it out. Sessions are going well, averaging around 25 participants. Future sessions are planned on Service Learning and Teaching for Inclusion, the latter emphasizing creating a hospitable environment for everyone and embracing multiculturalism.

Minutes of this committee’s meetings were requested, the Director will consider it.

F. Gender Equity Committee

. No Meeting.

G. Other

. No other reports.

VII. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Election Committee.

An election was held to fill the FS seat vacated by Martha Narey, who has left UNK. Senator Young/Davis moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Wayne Briner. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate representatives were elected to the following committees:
Academic Freedom & Tenure: Kieth Terry
Athletic: Don Sluti, Dennis Pothoff, Karla Hackenmuller
Continuing Education: Sherry Burlingame

It was noted that Senators Young, Burlingame, and Fleming are on the World Affairs Conference Steering Committee, Senator Davis is on the Executive Graduate Council, and Senators German and Moorman are on the General Studies Council.

The Executive Committee was asked to find out if the Academic Advising Ad-Hoc Committee is still in existence.

B. Executive Committee.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting with the Chancellor and the meeting with the Vice Chancellors were distributed. Discussion followed concerning the UN Distance Learning Consortium, which does not have a committee attached to it and therefore has no UNK representation, and is not a well known entity to the Administration. It is different than the UN Distance Education Council, where UNK is represented by Jim Roark, Deb Schroeder, and Larry Carstenson. It is thought to have ties with the Midwestern Universities Consortium, which offers expertise in matters such as what courses work best in Distance Learning. It was suggested that students don’t know much about such programs, even students that have been exposed to them, and that much needs to be done to explain how these programs work. It was emphasized that Distance Learning is not the same as Distributed Learning.

The assistant to the VCSA position was described as an opportunity hire, whereby two outstanding candidates for the Director of Multicultural Affairs were identified in the search process, so the assistant position was created to give expertise in two areas, retention and diversity. The FS requested that the Executive Committee find out where the money for this position is coming from.

It was noted that three papers on retention, recruitment, and enrollment are scheduled for release from the Chancellor to the faculty on e-mail.

It was explained that there is no Orientation Steering Committee, and discussion ensued concerning the need for faculty involvement in orientation to speak directly to students and their parents about programs. Parent comments suggest that they like this, and it is needed by new students who are facing a new and intimidating culture when they enter college. It was reported that some NSS faculty say that this year’s freshman class is doing poorly compared to previous years, and that perhaps we need to do a better job of communicating academic expectations to students and parents.

Senator Miller/Young moved to have the FS urge the Administration to reinstate the session conducted by faculty at summer orientation that provided students with information on academic values: responsibilities and expectations.
Discussion followed suggesting that this could be addressed in the ‘strawman’ discussion paper being prepared by the VCSA on a program detailing the First Year Experience, but it was emphasized that the reinstatement of academic values must be done in the summer orientation process, since there is some uncertainty as to exactly when the First Year Experience begins; in the summer or with the start of school. Students and parents need to understand what to expect in terms of study hours required for success, and how to balance this with work and other activities outside the classroom. Too often, work takes too much time away from studies because students don’t understand the time requirements of college work.

The motion on the floor passed unanimously.

The FS emphasized the need for the Executive Committee to get to work filling the Ad-Hoc FS First Year Experience Committee.

Senator Miller/Fredrickson moved that the FS create an Ad-Hoc North Central Accreditation Assessment Committee. It was noted that the FS had an Assessment Committee around 10 years ago, and that we should revisit the recommendations of that committee. It was stated that members of such a committee should be skilled in research methods to provide technical assistance.

Senator Davis/Zikmund moved to call the question on the motion to create an Ad-Hoc North Central Accreditation Assessment Committee. The motion passed unanimously. The vote was taken on the motion to create an Ad-Hoc North Central Accreditation Assessment Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued on the NCA Assessment Committee. Concern was expressed that loading the committee with statistics experts may create a lopsided committee insensitive to the needs of all Colleges and Departments. Some Departments would not evaluate programs and results in the same way as the more technical Departments. A recommendation was made to give the broadest definition to research methods and technical abilities when assigning members to this committee. A recommendation was made to describe the type of people and the range of abilities needed for this committee. It should be faculty driven, and it should pick up where the assessment committee of 10 years ago left off.

The FS was encouraged to get the April 21 version of the Communications and Marketing Plan to be distributed in the packets for the next meeting. It was stated that this plan seems to emphasize undergraduate programs at UNK, and should do more to emphasize that Graduate programs are important too.

C. Presidents Report.

Report on the status of the FS Constitution and By-laws revealed that it was submitted to the VCAA, and from there it will make its way to the Council of Academic Officers meeting, and then to Central Administration before being sent to the Board of Regents. It
was noted that the last time the Constitution was sent to Central Administration, it sat in Varner Hall for several months and was never acted upon.

The UN Board of Regents Committee meeting of September 29 focused on three areas:

1. Discriptors of Service & Outreach.
2. Credit given to faculty for service in the Tenure & Promotion process.
3. Rewards given to faculty for participation in Service & Outreach activities.

It was emphasized that our institutional policy still deems service as being important, and outreach activities apply to this area. It was thought that a resolution regarding the measurement of Service activities was tabled in a previous meeting, and that we should revisit that resolution and act on it. The time and effort spent on committee service should not be ignored.

D. Academic Freedom and Tenure. No meeting.

E. Grievance Committee. No meeting.

F. Professional Conduct Committee. No meeting.

G. Academic Computing Committee. This committee met but the minutes have not yet been approved.

H. Academic Affairs Committee. This committee met but the minutes have not been distributed to the FS.

I. Artists and Lecturers Committee. This committee met but the minutes have not been distributed to the FS.

J. Athletic Committee. No meeting.

K. Library Committee. No meeting.

L. Student Life Committee. No meeting.

M. Continuing Education Committee. No meeting.

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

A.

No meetings.

IX. Unfinished Business.
None.

X. New Business.

None

XI. General Faculty Comments.

None

Respectfully submitted
Tommy Eshleman
Secretary