I. Call to Order.

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

II. Roll Call.

Present:


Absent:

Boeckl, Fleming, Lewis, Mena-Werth, Moorman, Young

Guests:

Brieanne Thomas, Student Body Vice President; Dale Zikmund, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; Deb Schroeder, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Information Technology Services; Charles Bicak, Professor of Biology

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

Senator Dart/Fredrickson moved approval of the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports from Academic Councils

A. Graduate Council.

The minutes of the November 9 meeting were included in the packets, no discussion followed.

B. General Studies Council.

The minutes of the October 5 and November 2 meetings were included in the packets, no discussion followed.

V. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

A. Strategic Planning Committee.
The committee met with discussion focusing on the benchmarks used in the Academic Prioritization Process.

**B. Honors Council.**

No meeting

**C. Information Technology Advisory Council.**

The committee finished the Strategic Technology Plan, and copies will be distributed soon. Guidelines for student Webpages have been completed. A LIITS (Library Instruction/Information Technology Services) presentation on Library Technology was made to the Council.

**D. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee**

The Committee met on October 20, and is preparing a special section on Center activities for the Faculty Handbook. The cumulative attendance at Center workshops this year is 158. A session on Course Info is coming up in January.

**E. Gender Equity Committee.**

No meeting.

**F. Other.**

No other reports.

**VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees**

**A. Election Committee.**

A handout was distributed on the new members of the FS committees. Kurt Siedschlaw stepped down from the Grievance Committee since he is the new Ombudsperson. Clark/Fredrickson moved to elect Janet Steele from Biology to take his place on the committee. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that all persons on this committee should be tenured, and that Elaine Battenhorst and Mark Harmon are untenured faculty on this committee. Annabell Zikmund has agreed to serve on this committee if she is needed to replace untenured faculty.

**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. Discussion on the Student Affairs White Paper on the First-Year Experience (included in the packets) was deferred to the Unfinished Business section of this meeting.

C. Presidents Report.

The Regents meeting of November 3 focused on Capital Construction Procedures, and ways to speed this process along. They called upon the support of the University to improve relations with the Nebraska Legislature to aid this process.

D. Academic Freedom and Tenure.

No meeting.

E. Grievance Committee.

Elected Annabell Zikmund and Don Envick as Co-Chairs of this committee, and Wayne Briner as Secretary.

F. Professional Conduct Committee.

The minutes of the November 11 meeting were included in the packets, no discussion followed.

G. Academic Computing Committee.

The minutes of the October 19 and November 16 meetings were included in the packets. The committee asked for FS input to review and revise the charge of this committee. The committee questions the need for the continuation of this committee since most of its duties have been taken over by other committees, especially the Information Technology Advisory Committee. The committee members feel that the committee no longer serves a useful purpose. The committee was originally formed to provide a balance for faculty vs. the administration on computing issues at a time when there were few computing resources for faculty but many for administration systems. The computing situation has changed dramatically since then with computer labs, classroom computers, and a computer in every faculty office. This balance is thought to exist in the Information Technology Advisory Committee as it has ample faculty representation and input. There is no specific liaison between the Academic Computing Committee and the Faculty, though Deb Schroeder has been much more willing to work with the faculty than the previous head. The monthly report from the Information Technology Advisory Committee FS representative was thought to be sufficient to keep the Faculty informed of committee activities. It
was stated that in the 10 years of the Academic Computing Committee's existence, they have not produced much.

Miller/Davis moved to have the Election Committee investigate and decide the fate of the Academic Computing Committee. Deb Shroeder reported that her office likes having input from anybody, including the Academic Computing Committee, but is not against dissolving the committee if the FS so chooses.

It was questioned whether the Election Committee was the appropriate body to investigate this issue, since the Academic Computing Committee has already done so, and should have more knowledge and expertise in the situation than the Election Committee. It was countered that the current members of the Academic Computing Committee are relatively new and perhaps are not that knowledgeable either, so the Election Committee would be the best body to contact former Academic Computing committee members to get a more informed view on the usefulness of the committee.

The vote on the motion to have the Election Committee investigate and decide the fate of the Academic Computing Committee was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Academic Affairs Committee.

Minutes of the October 10 and November 16 meetings were included in the packets. Discussion ensued on the practice of some colleges of piggybacking college credit for courses taken in High School. The concern arose that some students taking such courses might be short-changed by taking a class that would not properly prepare them for further courses in that area in college. If these classes are listed on an official college transcript, UNK has no choice but to accept it since there is no way for the Registrar to tell if the course was taken in college or high school. There is no quality control to ensure that college level material is being covered in such courses.

The procedure for approval of GS courses was discussed. The procedure for existing courses differs from new courses in that they go directly from the Department to the GS Council, bypassing the College Educational Policy Committee. Wozniak/Fredrickson moved to have the FS recommend that existing courses be approved by the College Educational Policy Committee as General Studies courses before going to the General Studies Council. A comment was made that this might make it difficult to get courses approved that were submitted late.

It was mentioned that WI courses would need the approval of the Department because extra resources would be needed. It was suggested that the minutes of the General Studies Council should be distributed to all faculty so advisers would know about WI courses. Some felt that this was a department responsibility, and
that CD and WI courses are noted in the class schedules. It was noted that CD and WI courses were not included in the motion.

German/Peck made a friendly amendment to the motion to change the word approved to reviewed, which was accepted by the maker of the motion.

A vote was taken on the motion, which now reads: the FS recommends that existing courses be reviewed by the College Educational Policy Committee as General Studies courses before going to the General Studies Council. The motion passed 12 to 10.

A comment was made that a description of the GS program review is now available on the UNK website.

I. Artists and Lecturers Committee

Minutes of the October 23 meeting were included in the packets. No discussion followed.

J. Athletic Committee

Minutes of the November 20 meeting were included in the packets. No discussion followed.

K. Library Committee

Minutes of the November 25 meeting were included in the packets. Of note was the Approval Plan for Library Procurement. Departments are working with Blackwell’s in building department profiles to accurately cost out the procurement plan to see if we can afford to implement it.

It was noted that grant proposal money was not all used, and that for every $2000 that was requested, $2500 was given in order to use up the excess. FS was encouraged to request grant money even if you received funds last year.

L. Student Life Committee

No meeting.
M. Continuing Education Committee

No meeting.

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

A

. First Year Experience Committee.

Members of this committee are:

Kieth Comer, Chair
Krista Forrest
Tami Moore
Jane Ziebarth

It was noted that the committee should have a representative from the Library. Davis/Fredrickson moved to add a Library representative to the First Year Experience Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

A directive from Chancellor Johnston was read, requesting the FS to work with the VCAA to define the parameters and characteristics of a freshman seminar or similar academic experience for first-year students at UNK. Discussion followed as to where the hours for such a course would come from, GS or what. It was requested that a copy of the letter from the Chancellor outlining the directive be sent to each member of the FS.

Davis/Dart moved to refer the letter from the Chancellor and the Student Life White Paper on the First-Year Experience to the First Year Experience Committee for review, with reports on findings being made to the FS on a regular basis. The motion passed unanimously. It was stated that the 5 charges of the First Year Experience Committee should apply to the formation of the freshman seminar. It was also suggested that the White Paper be sent to Darrell Kelly, since he has vast experience in this area, and his input could prevent the committee from duplicating work that has already been done.

Noting the March 1 deadline from the Chancellor on the proposed freshman seminar, Miller/Clark moved to increase the number of members on the First Year Experience Committee to accomplish this task by March 1. It was suggested that a representative from the GS Council be included in the committee.
In response to a question of how the freshman seminar would differ from the University Foundation course, it was revealed that the Chancellor feels that the faculty is split on the effectiveness of this course, and would like a better alternative for this purpose. It was noted that much work in this area has already been done in ways other than a course, but this work fell on deaf ears in the Administration.

The vote on the motion to enlarge the committee in an effort to accomplish the task of creating a freshman seminar by March 1 was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued on the freshman seminar, pointing out that in the past, important classes were not required due to the 125 hour limit for graduation. The freshman seminar could potentially face the same problem. The committee must decide whether each department should have its own freshman seminar course, or whether it should be University-wide. The enormity of this project suggests that the March 1 deadline may be unreasonable. The Administration needs to identify resources they are willing to put forth on this project. Faculty resources needed for this project will be a huge issue. Resources could come from fee increases or outside sources, but some consider this to be unreasonable.

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

The VCAA recommended for inclusion on this committee:

Kim Schipporeit  
Michael Bohnhoff  
Jeanne Cutler  
Charles Bicak

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

Regent bylaws on Teaching, Research, and Service were distributed. It was noted that each department has its own bylaws on this, but most either resemble or are exactly the same as these. UNL has a different set of bylaws reflecting its emphasis as a research institution.

The VCAA will direct Department Chairs and Deans to recognize service in Faculty Reviews.

A resolution was distributed concerning the 3 pillars of faculty performance, summarized as follows:
The FS of UNK requests the faculty of each of the undergraduate colleges undertake a review of the established faculty evaluative criteria to enact criteria that will recognize the unique and important service function provided by senior tenured faculty, and incorporate within the evaluative criteria specific language which will allow senior tenured faculty to submit evidence of and receive substantial recognition for positive and appropriate service activities such that the record of service shall stand as an equal to recognition given for teaching and scholarship, with a report of this review submitted to the FS by May 2001.

Dart/Davis moved to support this resolution. The motion passed.

It was noted that the resolution provides a good starting point for action on the recognition of service, and it should be sent to the Dean’s Council.

IX. New Business

There is concern that the date for submitting grades is getting earlier and earlier, and is difficult to meet especially for those with papers due on finals week. It was requested to have the Academic Affairs Committee look into this.

The VP of the Student Senate stated there would be no meeting until January, and that they have completely filled all seats on the Senate.

X. General Faculty Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted
Tommy Eshleman
Secretary