I. President Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:03.

II. Present: Barua, Bridges, Brown, Buckner, Conrad, Cook-Fong, Craig, Damon, Darveau, Davis, Exstrom, Fredrickson, Hartman, Hoehner, Hodge, Hof, Kelley, Korb, Kruse, Lewis, Lightner, Lillis, Miller, Obermier, Scott, Terry, Tracy, Unruh, Wozniak, Young.
Absent: Clark, Curry, Luthans, Moorman.
Guests: Asst. to Sr. VCAA Glenn Powell, Center for Teaching Excellence Director Elizabeth Peck, Student Senate Representative Bret Chloupek.

III. Bridges/Miller moved to suspend the order of business for a special election to replace Sen. Volpe who has a conflicting teaching schedule this semester. *Motion passed.*
    The Oversight Committee nominated Carol Lilly. No further nominations being heard, Miller/Bridges moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Carol Lilly of History to temporarily replace Vern Volpe as senator for NSS. *Motion passed.*
    Sen. Lilly was seated as acting senator for NSS.

IV. Davis/Hodge moved approval of the minutes for the Faculty Senate meeting of 12/5. *Minutes were approved with minor revisions.*

V. Reports from Academic Councils:
   A. Graduate Council: Minutes of meeting of 12/12 accepted without comment.
   B. General Studies Council: Minutes of meetings of 11/7 and 12/5 were accepted with brief discussion of the acronym APR, Academic Program Review, and plans to implement changes based on that review.

VI. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees
   A. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee: Minutes of meeting of 12/16 were accepted. President Kelley commended the Center, pointing out the high numbers of both junior and senior faculty attending Center programs.

VII. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees
   A. Oversight Committee: Minutes of the meeting of 12/18 were accepted.
      Sen. Roger Davis (History) was nominated to replace Sen. Scott Fredrickson (Teacher Education) as representative to the Continuing Education Committee. No further nominations being heard, Hodge/Bridges moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Sen. Davis. *Motion passed*
      George Lawson (Communications) was nominated to replace David Nabb (Music) on the Academic Affairs Committee. No further nominations being heard, Bridges/Unruh moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Prof. Lawson. *Motion passed*
   B. Executive Committee: Minutes of meetings of 1/24, 1/27 were accepted.
      Sen. Lewis expressed continuing concern about the problem of dorm closings immediately before breaks, stating that it is a problem not just for international students, but for
others as well. The numbers of students affected are significant. She agreed that space is available for these students, but that she was moved to comment due to the dislocations involved.

Pres. Kelley reported that, according to Bryan Samuels, the agreement with Alcorn State has been put on hold.

Sen. Davis opened discussion concerning the Dead Week policy by querying whether the problem is not specific to individual teachers. Sen. Fredrickson stated that the Faculty Senate established the policy six or seven years ago. Student Senate Representative Chloupek indicated that the problem is not specific but general. A vote alone is not sufficient to alter the problem. Sen. Fredrickson suggested that, as it is a departmental problem, perhaps the Council of Chairs should disseminate the policy. Sen. Miller indicated that they plan to do so. Sen. Terry wondered whether the problem was with the prohibition against assigning projects after the eighth week of the semester that are due during Dead Week or with exams themselves.

C. President’s Report of 12/3 was accepted with discussion. Pres. Kelley called attention to the Nebraska Research Initiative, about which the UNMC president provided information at the Regents’ Meeting. UNK VC Lewis provided senators with a roster of legislators and posters to encourage faculty members to make their voices heard concerning the current budget crisis. Senators and faculty in general are encouraged to contact Lewis directly. Deb Thomas gives him information regarding legislative lobbying efforts.

Sen. Fredrickson asked about the rural outreach program. Pres. Kelley identified John Owens as Dean of the Extension Office at UNL.

Also presented by Pres. Kelley was an email providing an update from Registrar Kim Schipporeit concerning last year’s resolution on academic advising.

Concerning the need to identify new members for the Technology Committee, two apiece for each of the colleges, Sen. Lewis said that the committee had met last semester and that a meeting planned for this semester had been cancelled due to SVCAA Hadley’s illness. The following individuals were selected as nominees for the Technology Committee:

B&T: Tim Obermier (Industrial Technology) (nominated but not confirmed, lacking a second nominee);
Education: Joan Lewis and Scott Fredrickson (Teacher Education);
FAH: Darleen Mitchell (music and Performing Arts), Rick Schuessler (Art);
NSS: Ken Messersmith (Computer Science and Information Systems) and Diane Wysocki (Sociology).

D. Academic Affairs: Minutes of meetings of 11/21, 12/19, and 1/16 were accepted without discussion.

E. Academic Information and Technology Committee: Minutes of the meeting of 10/8 were accepted with brief discussion. Sen. Fredrickson asked for clarification of Prof. John Anderson’s remarks concerning student desire for “Off-campus access to the university network.” Sen. Damon agreed to investigate and report back to the Senate at next month’s meeting.

F. Athletic Committee: Minutes of the meeting of 12/2 were accepted. Kelley/Davis moved and the Faculty Senate voted unanimously to commend UNK’s student athletes for their exemplary performance both athletically and academically last semester.

G. Faculty Welfare Committee: Minutes of the meeting of 12/12 were accepted with extensive discussion. At first, it was suggested that the Faculty Senate should endorse the motion of the Faculty Welfare Committee. Many senators expressed concerns about the uneven implementation of the workload policies in the four colleges and the need for the existing
policies to be implemented rather than being set aside due to the absence of official approval signatures on the documents. Sen. Fredrickson questioned whether the matter of workload is really UNKEA business, but it was established by Sen. Davis and others that it is a campus policy not a contractual concern. Sen. Unruh and others expressed hesitation about forwarding the report to the SVCAA without an opportunity to discuss the contents of the 1995 and 2001 reassigned time policies. After extensive discussion, the Faculty Senate tabled, on a motion by Darveau/Terry, pending the location and attachment of the 1995 campus-wide and 2001 college-specific workload guidelines, a motion moved and seconded by Damon/Scott to accept and forward to the SVCAA the Workload Report of Aug. 22, 2002, and to further recommend that the SVCAA take whatever steps necessary to make the 1995 and 2001 Workload Guidelines official policy. Senators will seek out copies of the policies from each of the colleges of the 1995 and 2001 documents for the Senate’s consideration in next month’s meeting.

VIII. Reports of Faculty Senate Special (Ad Hoc) Committees
   A. First Year Experience Committee: Fall 2002 Pilot Program Report was accepted without discussion.
   B. Assessment Committee: Minutes of the meeting of 12/12 were accepted without discussion.

IX. Unfinished Business:
   A. Oversight Committee: Constitution and By-laws Revision
      Fredrickson/Hof moved one additional amendment to the Constitution, adding the position of Parliamentarian to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. This requires changes in lines 187, 188, and 646 of the Constitution. Sen. Obermier asked for clarification about the former policy. Sen. Wozniak explained that the Parliamentarian was asked to sit on the Executive Committee three years ago, but the policy was never formalized and has not been consistently implemented. Motion passed.
      Wozniak/Lillis moved approval of the amended Constitution. Motion passed.

X. New Business: Two resolutions were considered concerning priority programs: A from Priority Program Chairs and Directors; B from Sen. Davis. The Senate considered resolution A first:

   A. Resolution on Funding of Priority Programs
      By the
      Priority Program Chairs and Directors
      of the University of Nebraska at Kearney


   WHEREAS the University of Nebraska has set aside and provided special priority funding for Programs of Excellence in 2002, and
WHEREAS providing priority funding for Programs of Excellence is essential to the maintenance and enhancement of those programs, but

WHEREAS the state budget continues to be in grave financial difficulty, and
WHEREAS the university thus faces the prospect of further budget reductions that will impact the entire university, and
WHEREAS faculty and activities both prioritized and non-prioritized programs are important to the well being of the university curriculum, and
WHEREAS in the 2003-2005 biennium the University of Nebraska plans to add a substantial amount of additional funding to the special priority program funding provided in 2002-2003 for Programs of Excellence, and
WHEREAS such increases in the current special funding for Programs of Excellence will have substantial impact on non-priority programs,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Priority Program Chairs and Directors strongly recommend that the amount of special priority funds provided to Programs of Excellence should remain at $584,625 annually during the 2003-2005 biennium unless and until the financial situation of the State of Nebraska improves sufficiently to allow additional funding of Programs of Excellence.

Sen. Scott explained that the context of the resolution is that the Unicam is considering an increase in the funding for priority programs. The UNO Faculty Senate passed a resolution opposing this increase, and the chairs and directors of priority programs at UNK decided to present a similar resolution here. Sen. Miller clarified that the resolution did not propose a taking away of funds from priority programs but neither did it endorse the pumping in of new funds during a time of budget shortfalls. Scott/Lewis moved to endorse Resolution A. Sen. Davis spoke in favor of Resolution B, indicating that although it may be reasonable to keep funds, the seriousness of the budget situation calls for the funds to be moved to an unrestricted status, still available for use but where most needed. Sen. Unruh addressed a point of clarification: was not the priority program launched initially to set the foundation for programs of high priority in case of budget cuts? He is leery of eliminating the priority funding now that budget cuts have arrived. Sen. Hof expressed concern about the lack of a second year discussion of priority programs. Implementation has been delayed once because of budget cuts, and this was not intended to be a once for all proposition. Both SVCAA Hadley and Chancellor Kristensen have endorsed an opportunity to add to or modify the list of priority programs. Sen. Bridges asked if the priority program budget increases were expected to be permanent enhancements or if they were just discretionary funds.

Sen. Young reminded the Senate that only Resolution A was under discussion. Kelley/Unruh moved a suspension of rules to allow discussion of both resolutions. Motion passed by a vote of more than 2/3rds. Subsequent discussion established that the priority funds come from President Smith’s office, and it would not be likely that he would allocate those funds to UNK if we decided to set aside the priority program funding. Sen. Lilly stated that hiring decisions are already being made which favor priority programs. Sen. Lightner pointed out that, as a new faculty member, he came to UNK in part because Industrial Technology had been designated as a university priority. Sen. Darveau suggested that taking existing funds from the priority programs and making them instead unrestricted would be tantamount to starting the budget cuts with the priority programs first, rather than protecting them from those cuts.
Dissatisfaction with the process and procedures of the selection of priority programs was expressed by a number of senators. In the end, however, the position articulated by Sen. Hartman, questioning why we would reject funds earmarked for us by upper administration, gained general acceptance. The motion to endorse Resolution A passed. Davis/Bridges moved endorsement of Resolution B:

University of Nebraska at Kearney
Faculty Senate Resolution
February 6, 2003

Whereas the General Operating Budget of the University of Nebraska states the following with regard to “Programs of Excellence”, “A total of $3 million is committed to Programs of Excellence that will be distributed to the campuses in consideration of academic program prioritization and other campus priorities.”, And

Whereas the General Operating Budget for the University of Nebraska at Kearney identifies the cost object 51-2210-1200 Priority Program Enhancements at a total of $584, 625.00, And,
UNK-State General Fund-751 State & University Generated/Unrestricted

Whereas the University declares in the Introduction of the General Operating Budget that, “The following FY2002-03 General Operating Budget highlights reflect the guidelines used to allocate new FY 2002-03 University-wide revenues. It should be noted that the University of Nebraska campuses have the discretion of allocating these resources at the campus level based on their specific needs.” And,

Whereas L. Dennis Smith, President of the University of Nebraska, has stated that, “Recommendations to reduce the University of Nebraska’s budget by $80 million over the next two years should be of concern to every parent, every potential employer –in fact, every citizen of Nebraska.” And,
Lincoln Journal Star, 1-16-03

Whereas UNK Chancellor Doug Kristensen has stated that, “For people who say that we’ll be the same after these budget cuts, I’m sorry that’s not true. We will be a different institution; we’ll be a different university. What’s up to us is to decide what we’re going to do with that.”
The Antelope, 1-30-03

Consequently, be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney endorses the position that all “Programs of Excellence” and “Priority Program Enhancement” monies be suspended from any prior specific applications, and that these monies be unrestricted in their use so that the University of Nebraska campuses have the discretion of allocating these resources at the campus level in ways that the campus administration deems necessary to address the current budget cut crisis. And, that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee communicate this resolution to the other campuses of the University, the UNK administration, and the NU administration.
Submitted to the Senate by
Senator Roger Davis, CNSS
February 6, 2003

The motion to endorse Resolution B failed.

B. Continuing Education Report was accepted with brief discussion. Sen. Fredrickson questioned whether this was a done deal, with the main points already decided in advance. He stated his belief that the changes will hurt continuing education students. “We are shooting ourselves in the foot,” he said.

XI. General Faculty Comments

Sen. Hodge expressed concern that students being deployed in response to the crisis in Iraq are being refused refunds of tuition and fees. Sen. Lightner said that funds are being held until those called up returned to UNK, being held as a credit. Concern was raised that some students might not ever return. The Faculty Senate passed the following resolution:

The Chancellor should intervene to guarantee an unconditional refund of all tuition and fees to students called to active duty.

Respectfully submitted,

John Damon
Faculty Senate Secretary