I. President Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Barua, Bridges, Brown, Buckner, Conrad, Cook-Fong, Craig, Curry, Damon, Davis, Exstrom, Fredrickson, Hoehner, Hof, Kelley, Korb, Kruse, Lewis, Lillis, Luthans, Miller, Moorman, Obermier, Scott, Terry, Tracy, Unruh, Volpe, Wozniak, Young.

Absent: Burlingame, Hartman, Lopez.

Guests: Library Director Mike Herbison, CTE Director Liz Peck, Asst. to Sr. VCAA Glenn Powell, Student Body Vice President Abranda Schwensen.

II. Wozniak/Korb moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of 4/25. Minutes were approved.

III. The Oversight Committee asked that we suspend the order of business in favor of a special election to fill three vacant positions. Young/Moorman moved to suspend the order of business. Motion passed.

The first position to be filled was a vacant Senator-at-Large seat caused by Glenn Powell’s movement into the position of Assistant to the Sr. VCAA. The Oversight Committee put forward the name of Kay Hodge from the Department of Management and Marketing. Fredrickson/Terry nominated Barbara Clark of the Department of Teacher Education. Miller/Lillis moved that the nominations cease. Motion passed. Kay Hodge was elected.

The second position to be filled was the vacant seat of Larry Becker for the College of Natural and Social Sciences. The Oversight Committee nominated Scott Darveau of the Department of Chemistry. Barua/Lillis nominated Carol Lilly of the Department of History. It was moved/seconded that the nominations cease. Motion passed. Scott Darveau was elected.

The third position was that of President-elect also occasioned by Glenn Powell’s assumption of the position of Assistant to the Sr. AVCAA. The Oversight Committee nominated Richard Miller of the Department of Psychology. Damon/Lewis nominated Scott Fredrickson of the Department of Teacher Education. Sen. Lewis spoke about the importance of representation of all four colleges on the Executive Committee. Lewis/Young moved that the nominations cease. Motion passed. Richard Miller was elected.

IV. Reports from Academic Councils:

Graduate Council – minutes of 5/2 and 7/11 meetings were presented without
V. Reports from Non-Senate Committees:

Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee – Peck announced that the Center has moved to E212 West Center and invited faculty to visit the new offices.

VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees:

Oversight Committee presented the minutes of their meeting of 8/26. The college elections for standing committees will be held beginning with a nomination process by college ending on 9/12. The election will be 9/16 through 9/30. Sen. Miller stressed the need for a good ballot through sufficient nominations of candidates. Sen. Terry queried whether these nominees should be associate professors with tenure. Each committee has specific requirements. The Faculty Senate-elected representatives to the Athletic Committee are required to be two males and one female. From the Executive Committee, Sen. Bridges will serve on the Grievance Committee, Sen. Miller on Professional Conduct.

Sen. Fredrickson raised the issue of bringing college eligibility requirements for college committees, etc., in line with the requirements for voting in Senate elections. Currently Lecturers cannot vote in COE but they can serve as senators. Fredrickson/Lewis moved that the Oversight Committee change the wording regarding eligibility so that those not eligible to vote in a college would not be eligible to serve as senator. Discussion ensued. Sen. Miller pointed out that lecturers can vote in NSS and Sen. Young stated that also is true in CBT. Bridges/Terry moved that discussion cease. The motion to change the eligibility rules was defeated.

President's Report was presented by Pres. Kelley. He reminded senators of the Faculty Senate Ad-hoc Assessment Committee’s forum on assessment to be held on Weds. 9/18, 4:00–5:00 p.m. in Copeland 142. Materials were made available concerning the new early retirement buyout program. Further reports with more detailed information will be forthcoming. The specific proposed budget cuts will be released on 9/10, with discussion following through 9/30 when the final proposal will be passed on to President Smith. Kelley/Korb moved that a Special meeting of the Faculty Senate be held to discuss budget decisions. Motion passed. Special Session will be 9/19 at 7:00 p.m.

Bridges/Terry presented a procedural motion that the Faculty Senate continue to skip reports by those committees not having written minutes. Terry/Miller presented a clarification of the motion: reports should be removed from the schedule when no written minutes exist, rather than merely being moved down in order of business. Exceptions could be made when significant news or events should be shared with the Senate. Motion passed.

Sen. Davis reported that UNKEA is preparing to establish a Committee on
Reduction in Force should it be called for in the current round of budget cuts.

Discussion of the Continuing Education Committee minutes of meeting on 4/30 focused on the development of online assessment tools, including using Blackboard for course evaluations.

Student Life Committee presented specific recommendations from their meeting of 4/10: “This committee recommends that records of academic integrity/dishonesty violations be kept in the office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. It further recommends that the Vice Chancellor’s office should provide a summary report to the Faculty Senate Student Life Committee each semester with tracking information on academic integrity/dishonesty policy violations.” Kelley entertained a motion to approve the committee recommendations. Sen. Young asked why tracking was needed. Sen. Cook-Fong responded that tracking would allow the faculty to understand the incidence of violations. Student Senate Vice President Schwensen said that discussions of the Student Code of Conduct led Student Senators to question how often such actions occur, and VC Schlake said at that time she would follow up on the query. Further discussion followed. Sen. Unruh spoke for the policy being changed before procedures are altered to track offenses.

Fredrickson/Bridges moved to suspend the prior motion. Motion passed.

Miller/Tracy made a motion that the Student Life Committee be charged to establish a policy on repeat offenses to academic integrity/dishonesty. Discussion focused on the need for a policy of no repeat offenses and concerns that students be held accountable for past infractions. Miller insisted that someone must know. Bridges reiterated that the Code of Conduct Committee is working on it, but Schwensen countered that the Code of Conduct Committee is awaiting forwarding of a policy by the Student Affairs Committee, although their concern grew out of a desire to have information available not in order to track individual students. Wozniak encouraged the SAC to make the policy consistent with FERPA guidelines. The question of organized cheating by campus groups was also raised. Schwensen said the policy does not address organized cheating yet, but it could. Darveau spoke in favor of including all forms of dishonest collaboration.

Davis/Bridges moved that the Senate return the recommendations to the Student Life Committee to consider in light of the prior motion. Motion passed.

VII. Reports of Faculty Senate Special (Ad Hoc) Committees:
Assessment Committee minutes for meeting 4/5 were presented without discussion.

VIII. Unfinished Business:
There was no unfinished business.
IX. New Business:

Work-load Report was presented. Davis/Young moved to accept the report.

Discussion moved to specific recommendations within the report, which contains specific recommendations. Sen. Kruse stated that provisions of a number of documents included in the report are not being kept, asking if these shouldn’t be binding and if the new recommendations be binding. Specific wording was questioned, as well as concerns about implementation. Sen. Wozniak stated that implementation is separate from policy. Sen. Miller specified that reassigned time and a determination of no negative impact on degree programs is determined by the dean with recommendations from the chair of each department. Young pointed out that there was no representation by COE or FAH on this committee and suggested that specific provisions are needed for recourse by a faculty member who believes that workload assignments violate the policy. Davis explained that there is disagreement on the status of certain parts of the policy currently being followed. Damon asked that the additional policy’s status be identified/ascertained. If the guidelines of 1995 have never been approved, yet we have been following them, are the 1992 guidelines still binding? Craig asked who approved the 1992 policy. It was approved by the Board of Regents.

Sen. Fredrickson spoke strongly in favor of college autonomy, pointing out that the colleges have various different policies in place, and asked for confirmation that the reassigned time policy for research and scholarship has been ended in FAH. That was confirmed; at least for the present year reassigned time has been eliminated in FAH, with very few exceptions. Concerns were expressed about junior faculty’s ability to meet tenure and advancement requirements without reassigned time for research and scholarship. Sen. Scott said the Faculty Senate should be on record supporting scholarship for junior faculty.

Sen. Miller questioned whether the motion under consideration would accept the report or only the recommendations within the report. The 1995 guidelines were constructed by the Dean’s Council under the guidance of SVCAA Jim Roark. Does the Senate want to support the 1995 guidelines or to see that they are not superseded? Sen. Davis firmly asserted that the 1992 guidelines are still in place, saying that they are the only legal document, along with the clarifications made in the 1993 and 1994 addenda. Fredrickson returned to the question of whether we should accept the report and its recommendations or only the report. Young stated that if we accept the report we accept its recommendations and indicated that “workload policy” recommendations should be addressed by the FS Welfare Committee (in accordance with its charge). Lillis/Miller moved to amend ‘accept’ to ‘acknowledge receipt’ of the report. The motion, reworded to “acknowledge receipt of the report,” passed.

Unruh/Lewis presented the following motion: The Faculty Senate charges the Faculty Welfare Committee, based on the recommendations made in the Work-
load Report, to further evaluate the report’s recommendations as well as the additions and alterations of the 1992 Guidelines document. Motion passed.

The Staff Senate forwarded to us for our support the Leadership UNK proposal. It was moved and seconded that the Faculty Senate endorse the proposal and encourage faculty to participate. Sen. Davis asked if we could get the real proposal rather than a draft. Sen. Wozniak argued that faculty need to have had ownership in creation of the project. Fredrickson/Tracy called the question. Motion passed.

Wozniak/Fredrickson moved that the Staff Senate include both faculty and students in development of the program. Motion passed.

The length of terms for members of the Pratt/Heins awards selection committee was discussed. Currently senators serve three-year terms while the recipients themselves only serve for two years. Sen. Miller recalled that the original policy was for three people to be selected for one-year terms. Further research is needed into the evolution of the current policy. Mike Mosher is the new chair of that committee.

X. General Faculty Comments

Senator Miller expressed concerns of the Library Committee regarding the current year’s proposed 30% reduction in expenditures for periodicals. These reductions should take into account frequency of use and should be variable by discipline based on need. Priority program funds could be redirected to the library for support of scholarship needs of priority programs.

Mike Herbison, Library Director, expressed his willingness to come next month to provide information on planned cuts. Senator Bridges asked if the cuts included electronic materials or just paper. Sen. Miller stated that accreditation processes may be hurt by periodical reduction. Herbison stated that North Central did note the amount of money spent on the library holdings as a priority ten years ago. Davis asserted that priority money should be directed toward priorities. Senators should become well informed about the issue in order to act on it. Herbison stated that the current cuts aren’t draconian but the increase in costs exacerbates the problem. Sen. Darveau expressed a concern that departmental as well as university-wide accreditation could be jeopardized. Schwensen stated that students rely heavily on electronic library access.

Wozniak/Buckner presented the following resolution:

Whereas, Dr. James Roark has served the University of Nebraska at Kearney for over 5 years as Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and for much longer as a member of and Chair of the Department of Chemistry, and
Whereas, he has been a leader at the University of Nebraska at Kearney who has
promoted the development of the academic culture for both students and faculty, and

Whereas, he has supported the concept of shared governance and has acknowledged that
the responsibility for academic decision-making belongs to the faculty,

Whereas, he has helped maintain a steady course for UNK through some difficult
challenges,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney
acknowledges his outstanding contributions to the University of Nebraska at Kearney
through his faithful service, his personal vision, and his distinguished accomplishments.
We express our deepest gratitude to him and wish him well in his return to the classroom.
Resolution was approved.

Miller/Wozniak presented the following resolution:

Whereas the University of Nebraska at Kearney Faculty Senate recognizes the
importance of utilizing classrooms efficiently,

And whereas, room utilization statistics are important in demonstrating efficient use of
campus space,

And whereas, important activities central to our educational mission occur in the
classrooms, the laboratories, and other teaching and learning spaces,

And whereas, mere percentage of occupied chairs may not be the best indicator of the
effective and efficient use of these teaching and learning spaces,

And whereas, some learning and teaching practices, such as small group activities and
discussion, may be better served when the percentage of occupied chairs in a room is
much less than 100%,

And whereas other factors, such as availability of computers, proximity to essential
facilities, and unique features of particular classrooms, may be more important to
effective and efficient teaching and learning than percentage of occupied chairs

Be it resolved that the UNK Faculty Senate considers the teaching/learning process to be
the most important factor to be considered when allocating a classroom to a particular
course or instructor.

Be it further resolved that centralized scheduling practices as they are developed should
include greater attention to these essential needs for the education of UNK students, and

Be it resolved that since the faculty are the individuals who are most aware of the needs
for effective teaching and learning, the faculty should be consulted extensively as the
system is further refined and decisions implemented. 

*Resolution was approved.*

Tracy/Davis presented a resolution on behalf of the Center for Teaching Excellence thanking Dir. Herbison and members of the library staff for their cooperation and support in the setting up and running the center. *Resolution was approved.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted (with apologies for their length),

John Damon, Secretary