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

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

**Absent:** Burlingame, Curry, Hoehner, Hof, Lopez, Volpe.

**Guests:** Library Director Mike Herbison, Student Body Vice President Abranda Schwensen, Modern Languages Prof. Sonja Kropp, Teacher Education Prof. Barbara Clark.

II. The only business before the Faculty Senate sitting in Special Session was discussion of the Budget Reduction Plan. Sen. Fredrickson asked that business be suspended to allow for the election of a replacement for the vacant seat held by Sen. Lopez. Barbara Clark of Teacher Education, who had been nominated for a vacant seat at the meeting of 9/5/02, was present and willing to begin serving. Sen. Young, acting as Parliamentarian, clarified that no new business could be presented at a Special Session. Clark will undoubtedly be nominated by the Oversight Committee, and she was encouraged to comment in the period set aside for general faculty comments.

Wozniak/Bridges put forward the following motion: I move that the UNK Faculty Senate acknowledge receipt of the proposed temporary and proposed permanent budget reductions from the administration, that the minutes of this special Faculty Senate Meeting constitute our commentary on the proposed reductions, and that, as soon as possible, these minutes be approved via e-mail by the Faculty Senate and be forwarded to the administration.

Sen. Obermier questioned whether minutes can be represented to the Administration as official positions of the Faculty Senate. Sens. Young and Wozniak clarified that these minutes would include reactions and commentaries as well as official positions of the Faculty Senate. Sen. Miller specified that single senator’s comments would not be official. *Motion passed.*

Damon/Hodge presented the following motion: The Faculty Senate commends Chancellor Kristensen and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Galen Hadley for the openness of the process used in presenting the proposed short-term and permanent budget cuts and in soliciting faculty, student, and staff response to their proposals. *Motion passed.*

Sen. Miller proposed that discussion be limited to issues having an effect across campus,
as opposed to cuts specific to one college or one department.

Miller/Lillis read into the record and moved Fac. Sen. endorsement of a resolution signed by the directors/chairs of priority programs:

**Resolution opposing the proposed $35,000 cut in the library materials budget**

Whereas 76.5% of the library’s materials cost is invested in the periodicals collection, and

Whereas the cost of maintaining the periodicals collection has risen at an annual rate of 8-11% over each of the past eight years, and

Whereas the library budget for purchasing periodicals has remained relatively flat for each of the past eight years, and

Whereas periodicals often form the core resource for several graduate programs, including music, communication disorders, counseling and school psychology, and instructional technology, and

Whereas periodicals are a critical resource for many of our designated priority programs including the general studies program, the honors program and the degree programs in chemistry, biology, visual communication, psychology, political science, social work, computer science and information systems, music, teacher education, and communication disorders,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney goes on record as opposing the proposed permanent reduction in the library’s materials budget.

Resolution introduced by Senator R. Miller on 9/19/02.

We, the undersigned, as Directors/Chairs of priority programs, support the Senate Resolution opposing the proposed reduction in the materials budget of the library.

Signatures of chairs and directors followed.

Discussion ensued concerning programs not represented on the resolution. It was agreed that a comprehensive list, with signatures, would be attached to the final form sent to the Administration. Friendly motions were presented an accepted to clarify wording.

Sen. Hodge cautioned that solutions will be needed if we exempt the library and German from the proposed cuts. What would the Senate suggest should be cut instead? She added that this is the easy round; the next set of cuts will be worse. Sen. Craig countered that administrators should find substitutes.

the permanent cuts or any budget cut. Sen. Miller stipulated fiscal 2003 budget cuts. Sen. Fredrickson, reminding us that we are an advisory body, encouraged a vote for the resolution, without undue concern for the wording of the “whereases.” Sen. Miller reminded the Senate that Chancellor Kristensen’s budget does contain cuts in excess of the required amount: $85,000 in total. Sen. Scott: use the $85,000 extra cuts to exempt the library. Sen. Lewis: money is needed for all programs in the library. Sen. Young: if there is an extra $85,000 in cuts, he supports their use to save the library budget. Sen. Tracy: library cuts are horizontal, not vertical. Student Senate VP Schwensen: students asked in their forum, were told they were a head start for the next round of budget reductions. Prof. Kropp quoted the Chancellor’s message to the campus community: “You will note that the cuts featured on the ‘short-term’ list amount to the reduction target exactly. By contrast, the reductions shown on the ‘permanent’ list total about $85,000 more than the mandated target requires. That is simply to provide us some degree of flexibility to accommodate campus feedback about particular initiatives.”

Craig/Damon called the question. Motion to approve the resolution passes.

Craig/Tracy moved Fac. Sen. support for a resolution already approved by the Modern Language Department and the faculty of the College of Fine Arts and Humanities:

Resolution in Support of the German/FL-ESL Methods Position

Whereas the study of other languages and cultures is more important today than ever before and is essential to an understanding of our global world,

Whereas the study of European languages, their literatures and their cultures is an inherent component of the humanities in the United States and is directly related to the mission of the University of Nebraska at Kearney as a premier undergraduate teaching institution,

Whereas the German language and culture form an essential part of Western civilization and persons of German descent constitute the largest ethnic group in the State of Nebraska,

Whereas the study of German at UNK and throughout the world contributes significantly to the study of numerous disciplines within the College of Fine Arts and Humanities (English, French, Spanish, philosophy, history, music and art), as well as to the study of many fields in our other Colleges (the natural and social sciences, international business, education, etc.),

Whereas our colleague in German (now in his third year) has worked diligently and has made great strides in revitalizing the German program at UNK, in increasing the
number of German students, majors and minors and by teaching the methods courses for the 7-12 endorsements in French, German, Spanish and ESL,

Whereas this faculty line is the only tenure-track position at UNK presently held by an actual, highly qualified and experienced professional that is being proposed for elimination and

Whereas the Department of Modern Languages at UNK has already been considerably weakened by the loss of two members of its faculty and will be further hampered by the elimination of this colleague and of this position, which still offers us enough linguistic diversity to be considered more than a romance language department,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney go on record as being strongly opposed to the elimination of the one and only regular faculty position in German/FL-ESL Methods and of the German major at UNK.

Sen. Craig pointed out that the resolution was approved unanimously by ML Dept. and with only one abstention by FAH. Sen. Kelley noted that, according to the presidents of the faculty senates of the three NU campuses, the UNK German professor is the only tenure track faculty eliminated in the entire system. Sen. Fredrickson suggested a wording change, accepted as a friendly amendment. Motion to approve the resolution passes.

Sen. Lewis questioned the cuts in technology, especially distance-education-related computer cuts. Damon noted that some of these are savings carried forward from last year. Lewis added that student technology fees are involved in some purchases, not UNK’s regular budget.

Sen. Wozniak presented his perception of the budget process: The future holds a similar process next year and the year after. The Admin. is probably thinking of more cuts and does not want to make them public. The process is to negotiate, but what is the long-range plan? Are we just reacting to initiatives? Should we be discussing major budget-cutting ideas of our own? Cutting inter-collegiate football? Moving to a 4-day workweek? Where can the brainstorming occur in which the faculty can have input and impact? The budget seems to complex for us as we attempt to work in the dark.

Sen. Kelley suggested that Strategic Planning is where it should happen. Sen. Wozniak added that Chan. Kristensen is not necessarily ahead of the strategic plan in his thinking yet. Sen. Young agrees. The Faculty Senate has an important role to play in helping to set long-range goals and strategic planning.

Sen. Fredrickson: Is the night operator at the helpdesk the current 5:00 – 10:00 or a proposed 10:00 to dawn shift? If so, he questioned the plan. Sen. Miller suggested that it may be a proposed 10:00 to dawn shift eliminated. The Executive Committee will
forward this question to the Administration directly.

Sen. Scott: Are the cuts in Academic Affairs’ and individual colleges’ budgets a similar percentage of total budgets as the percentage cuts of non-academic areas? Academic areas should be protected; a lower percentage should be taken from academic area budgets. Executive Committee will ask.

Sen. Lewis: Some cuts, such as the M.Ed. in Math, are already in place, if not yet officially implemented.

Sen. Young: The Fac. Sen.’s position is difficult: it is a huge budget, and the Administration has technical help in analyzing and interpreting it. We need accounting information and a look at the total budget. Sen. Kelley expressed confidence that Chan. Kristensen will be forthcoming, based on the openness of the current process.

Sen. Darveau: Summer spending authority cuts: are these all prior savings from unused funds or are there funds not cut? Are we going to reduce the number of classes taught or the spending authority? How much more can we take out before a reduction of classes occurs? Executive Committee will inquire.

Sen. Unruh: Where will early retirement funds appear in the budget planning? Executive Committee will ask. Discussion followed concerning how to encourage early retirement, how it could benefit our university, and concerns about the replacement of those who do retire. Sen. Exstrom pointed out that retirement already played a role in the downgrading of the CDIS faculty position. Sen. Craig: Could replacement of a position be used to encourage retirement? Sen. Miller explained that faculty salaries are not held by departments or even colleges. All funds freed up by retirements are returned to the SVCAA for departments to compete for. Terry indicated that this is not a new policy.

Discussion turned to priority funds. Damon questioned the lack of priority funds earmarked for General Studies, a priority program. Sen. Young opposed discussion of priority program funding as not appropriate to the topic of the Special Session. Sen. Davis disagreed: It should be discussed since it helps us in opening up the issue of finding funds. The Office of Sponsored Programs is not on the priority program list but it was allocated priority funds. Is it a filter for General Studies? Discussion continued on the appropriateness of the issue to a special session on budget cuts and whether the SVCAA has already adjusted priority funds to aid in the budget cuts. Sen. Miller: More background is needed; let’s get out of the dark on this; these are reasonable questions to ask.

Senators are encouraged to e-mail questions to the Executive Committee.

Sen. Davis: What are some of our ideas about money and positions in the administration that could be cut? Is a $90,000 special assistant to the Chancellor needed?

Sen. Brown: Could we have a list of new administrative positions added over the last few years? Are they all needed? Executive Committee will ask. Discussion ensued about the percent of the budget going to administration. Two statistical models examined recently were discussed: one involving UNK’s spending exceeding the other NU campuses’ by 11% to 7% the other that UNK spends 48% of its budget on education but peer institutions spend 38%. Are we spending less than our peers on student services and facilities, more on admin. and ed.? Senators spoke to our need to understand the budget as a whole.

Sen. Davis stressed that the Regents mandated vertical cuts, and that the Board is part of the dialogue as publicly elected to serve NU. They should be brought into our consideration and thought.

Library Dir. Herbison thanked the Fac. Sen. for its support. Prof. Clark spoke against cuts to the night operator at the helpdesk as many online students use late night hours as work time. They need service for Blackboard, for example, which is often down and students are unsure why. Sens. Fredrickson and Lewis agreed: Often Blackboard just needs to be reset and many students use nighttime service, both traditional and distance learning students.

Hodge/Terry moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Damon, Secretary