I. President Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Roll Call

Present: Anderson, Barton, Buckner, Damon, Darveau, Exstrom, Fredrickson, Hartman, Hodge, Hof, Korb, Kruse, Lewis, Lightner, Luscher, Markussen, Miller, Moore, Moorman, Nelson, Seshadri, Terry, Unruh, Wozniak, Young

Absent: Barua, Bridges, Brown, Cook-Fong, Davis, Fronczak, Kelley, Lilly, Obermier, Tracy

Guests: Glen Powell, Kim Schipporeit, Kathleen Smith

III. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of 2/5/04. Korb / Young moved approval. Minutes approved with one spelling correction.

IV. Reports from Academic Councils
A. Graduate Council – No minutes submitted
B. General Studies Council – Assembly discussed minutes of the 2/5/04 meeting. Senator Wozniak announced that the GS Council will begin lobbying departments to develop interdisciplinary 0-3 credit hr. capstone courses. Logistics of such courses and budget considerations are yet to be worked out. A chart of a revised GS program shows what the program would look like if the recommendations of the last Academic Program Review were implemented. No action has been taken. The chart is not a formal proposal and may yet evolve. Senators are welcome to share comments with the GS Council.
C. Council on Undergraduate Education – Minutes of 2/19/04 meeting reviewed without comment.

V. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees. No report.

VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Oversight Committee – Kenya Taylor and Bob Young were elected to 3- and 2-year terms respectively as Senators at Large. Their terms will begin the last meeting in April. Leslie Korb has resigned from the Oversight Committee. Bob Young will conduct the B&T College senator election this spring. In the meantime, the committee needs a representative from B&T, though it is expected that the replacement will have no duties. Tami Moore volunteered to serve. Korb/ Nelson moved that Moore be elected to the position. Motion
carried. Luscher/ Korb moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Moore. Motion carried.

B. Executive Committee – Assembly reviewed the minutes of the 2/25/04 meeting. In response to questions regarding the likelihood that the proposed Philosophy major will be approved, Pres. Miller noted that chances are better now. Regarding a statement that UNK had benefited from such promotions as the Pat Sumerall spot, one senator asked how we know that this in fact has been the case. Miller replied that we need to conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of these promotional strategies, particularly when faculty are asked to participate. A final question concerned clarification of the term CAO. The minutes should read “Council of CAOs,” which includes the CAOs of all four NU campuses.

C. President’s Report – Pres. Miller reported on the latest Board of Regents meeting.

1. At that meeting, the BOR heard a report from Information Technology and Cooperative Education noting that the use of paperless systems, such as electronic rosters, has saved $164,500. Senators asked whether those funds were truly saved or spent elsewhere among the departments.

2. The BOR also heard a report stating that distance education programs teach in ways that students want to learn. Senators noted the importance of assessing student responses; numbers don’t necessarily equal success. Perhaps non-traditional students are taking courses in this format because there is no alternative. How many courses are developed because of pressure from above? Senators also agreed that assessment should be discipline specific and conducted in a way that distinguishes graduate students from undergraduate students. Senator Anderson said that distance education students must be dedicated and bright, thus they would do well in any form of the course; therefore, a self-selection process applies. Senator Damon responded that the opposite has been true for online composition courses offered by the English department, which do not fill. All agreed that preparation of the faculty member is a crucial component in the success of such courses.

D. Academic Affairs – Minutes of 2/19/04 meeting reviewed without comment

F. Academic Information and Technology Committee – Minutes of 12/2/03 meeting reviewed without comment

I. Continuing Education Committee – Minutes of 1/26/04 meeting reviewed without comment

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

A. First Year Experience Committee – Pres. Miller encouraged senators to attend the March 31 FY workshop sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence. Our campus is lagging in faculty investment in this program. A senator asked if any follow-up studies have been performed to measure the impact of this program on student retention. Sen. Moore responded that data will be
forthcoming, though the goals for the program specify a better academic experience for our students rather than retention as a priority.

B. Assessment Committee – Minutes of 2/12/04 meeting reviewed without comment.

VIII. Action on the Barton/Young motion which was postponed at the February meeting.

The original motion stipulated that resolutions must be included in the packet before they may be considered at the regular Faculty Senate meeting, with the exception of emergency situations. Barton / Terry moved to remove the item from the table. Motion carried. Questions raised by senators:
- Q: Who decides what constitutes an emergency situation?
  A: The matter would be decided by a simple majority vote.

- Q: Does the motion include all resolutions?
  A: Yes

- Q: Would the motion prohibit a senator from writing a resolution during the meeting?
  A: No, it could be declared an emergency and voted on during the meeting.

  Other resolutions not declared emergencies would be voted on at the following meeting.

Motion carried.

IX. New Business:
A. Proposal to Reinstate Summer Commencement

Registrar Kim Schipporeit presented a proposal to reinstate summer commencement. Fredrickson / Lewis moved approval. The summer ceremony would be a scaled-down, more informal version of the May and December rituals. Several senators commented that perhaps the May and December ceremonies could also be conducted less expensively and with less fanfare.

Current policy states that “early” marchers in the May ceremony must be undergraduates within 12 hours of graduation. Graduate students completing their requirements during the summer may not march in May but must wait until December. Senators also noted that some undergrads have stated that they would appreciate having a summer ceremony.

Questions raised by senators:
- Q: Will faculty attend?
  A: Perhaps.

- Q: Would a summer ceremony siphon off enough graduates to make a difference in the May ceremony?
A: Perhaps the May ceremony would not be significantly shorter, but a summer ceremony might alleviate the overcrowding we experience in May. Furthermore, given the crowding at May ceremonies, the university may need to go back to issuing admission tickets.

Q: What about students doing summer internships? Will they return in August to graduate?
A: Again, perhaps. The fact that many summer interns are ultimately hired by the institution with which they interned and may not wish to return was cited as a drawback of the proposal.

Q: How much would the university spend to graduate this number of students?
A: The registrar’s office, with staff already working throughout the summer, will incur no extra cost. Likewise with Facilities. Exact costs have not been estimated.

Q: Could programs with demonstrated need allow summer graduates to march in May?
A: Probably not—one of the objectives of this proposal is to reduce overcrowding at the May ceremony. Such decisions are beyond the scope of the proposal being deliberated.

Young / Fredrickson moved that the motion be amended to add the text of paragraph 2, page 2 of the proposal. Motion carried.

Inherent in the proposal is the understanding that by reinstating summer commencement, we are saying that students must completed all graduation requirements by the end of their designated graduation term (May, December, August). Students finishing in August may be able to march in December; again, these questions lie beyond the scope of the motion.

Motion carried.

B. Assessment of Marketing Plan -- It was noted that senators sometimes make decisions in the absence of assessment data while still demanding that assessment data be provided.

C. Senator Terry noted that department chairs must go through extra steps to schedule distance education courses. Separate sheets are already needed for day, night, and graduate classes. Now chairs must fill out yet another form for distance education classes. He suggested that the registrar coordinate the master schedule with the office of Continuing Education. The Executive Committee will take up this matter with the administration.
D. Pres. Miller read part of a letter from Antelope Bookstore manager Len Fangmeyer. When instructors order “bundled” copies of required texts, some elements can’t be resold, resulting in higher initial costs for students and lower or no buyback refunds. Some materials, such as CDs, are furnished with one password and can’t be shared. Yet sometimes faculty have no choice but to assign bundled packages. Pres. Miller will post the full text of the letter to senators to share with their departments. A senator also cautioned that distance education students misdialing the Antelope 800-number may get a porn site.

E. Wozniak / Terry moved that the senate oppose the Brashear bill, which allows public institutions the option of not disclosing the names of job candidates. While the process involving the NU presidency is of immediate interest to our campus, the bill applies to more than just this position. Motion carried.

F. Senator Exstrom noted that administrative paper-saving measures are often passed on as expenses to individual departments. Perhaps this matter should be investigated by the Executive Committee or the Council of Chairs. Pres. Miller noted that the administration is aware that these are cost reallocations rather than savings.

X. General Faculty Comments

A. Pres. Miller clarified that we went on record as opposing the Brashear bill. This decision will appear in our own minutes and communicated to our administration. We would communicate this decision to the legislature through the press. Seshadri / Fredrickson moved that our opposition to the Brashear bill be communicated to relevant constituencies. Motion carried.

B. Discussion ensued over the difference between motions and resolutions. Parliamentarian Young was asked to provide guidelines over what type of content belongs in each.

C. Senators have received a document regarding conflict of interest guidelines to read before the next meeting.

Unanimous motion to adjourn.

Martha Kruse, Recorder