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

II. Present: Davis, Korb, Bridges, Lightner, Moore, Fredrickson, Lewis, Scantling, Strawhecker, Unruh, Jackoviak, Brown, Buckner, Hartman, Fronczak, Kruse, Luscher, Damon, Snider, Exstrom, Miller, Darveau, Lilly, Wozniak, Kelley, Rieder, Barton, Obermier (late)

Absent: Taylor, Seshadri, Elder, Nelson, Cook-Fong, Albrecht

Guests: Gary Davis, Jeanne Butler, Glen Powell

The slate of officers for 2004-05 is presented at the second meeting in April; therefore, the Oversight Committee presented its slate of nominees as listed in the minutes of its 4/9/04 meeting. The Oversight Committee presented the following slate of nominees to the 2004-2005 Executive Committee:
- President-Elect: Martha Kruse (FAH)
- Secretary: Scott Darveau (NSS)
- Senate Representative: Scott Unruh (COE)

Wozniak / Korb moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Martha Kruse as President-Elect. Motion carried.

Wozniak / Korb moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Scott Darveau as Secretary. Motion carried.

Korb / Wozniak moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Scott Unruh as Senate Representative. Motion carried.

The Senate then turned to election of members of the Oversight Committee.

Bridges / Korb moved that nominations cease and that Tami Moore be elected as B&T representative. Motion carried. Fredrickson / Bridges moved that nominations cease and that Nathan Buckner (FAH), Jane Strawhecker (COE), and Chris Exstrom (NSS) be elected to represent their colleges. Motion carried.

New Senators were introduced:
- B&T: Tim Obermier and Bruce Elder
- COE: Eve Scantling, Jane Strawhecker, Lynne Jackowiak, and Scott Unruh
- FAH: John Damon and Daren Snider
- NSS: Darryl Kelley, Marc Albrecht, Paula Rieder
- Senator at Large: Kenya Taylor

III. Bridges / Korb moved approval of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of April 4, 2004. Minutes were approved with 3 emendations.
IV. Fredrickson / Bridges moved to suspend the agenda to move on the Assessment Program proposal.  
Glen Powell had shared an earlier draft with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, explaining changes in the reporting structure. The Assessment Committee will serve in an advisory role to the two coordinators.  
The roster of committee membership found on the last page is no longer accurate—the draft has the most current information.

Questions / Comments:  
Senator Miller: The NCA says that we must pay attention to General Studies (GS). Does the responsibility for assessing GS courses lie with the GS director or with the departments? We learned that the GS director is working with the departments to work out an assessment process; the departments should have some say in the assessment design.  
Senator Davis: The new structure for committee membership does not have a spot for a FS representative. Why not formalize the role of a FS rep rather than embed a senator already on the committee? Perhaps each college could send just one representative so that that committee does not grow too large.  
Senator Damon: The GS courses are grouped by areas; ex: Language. Would it be more logical to assess by areas rather than courses?  
Senator Fredrickson: FS represents the entire campus, so committee reps shouldn’t “double-dip” between UNK as a whole and their own colleges. It would be preferable to have an independent FS rep.  
Senator Lightner: Will one set of assessment guidelines apply to the entire campus?  
Senator Lilly questioned the meaning of “Data collected from assessment is to be used in strategic planning and budgeting initiatives.” Powell responded that trends might emerge regarding curriculum / faculty development. The committee does not want to just collect data but to do something with it. Sen. Miller added that the assessment process, along with Annual Program Reviews, will identify resources needed.  
Senator Barton added that the statement in question implies the possibility of more budgeting support.  
Senator Darveau: Is the web site manager listed on the committee roster the campus web site manager or the assessment web site manager? Powell replied that Jeanne Cutler wishes to be removed from a decision-making role to function solely as web site manager, posting reports. Sen. Darveau suggested that her spot on the committee be given to a FS rep.  
Senator Damon reminded the group that NCA will look for connections between assessment and budgeting, therefore the process must be faculty-owned.

V. Reports from Academic Councils  
A. Graduate Council: No comment  
B. General Studies Council: Sen. Lighter asked if the issue of academic freedom had been addressed in a suggestion that students must earn a grade of C or better in order to enroll in Writing Intensive courses. Apparently not.
C. **Council on Undergraduate Education**: Sen. Kelley commended Glen Powell and the committee for its fine work. But we still need some kind of standing committee to coordinate recruitment, preferably created out of the office of the new SVCAA&SA. Powell replied that the three different initiatives in this area are not formally linked. Turf issues are holding things back. Sen. Miller added that we need coordinated planning regarding student recruiting and marketing.

VI. **Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees**

A. **Strategic Planning Committee**: No report

B. **Honors Council**: Professor Gary Davis, Director of the Honors Program, addressed the group. He noted that in its almost 25 years of existence, the Honors Program has had only 4 directors. It currently operates with a part-time staff of three (Professor Davis, Assistant Director Jane Christensen, and secretary JoLene Williams). A current challenge is to involve transfer and international students in the program. Of the 461 students in the program as of January, 363 get financial aid. The average cumulative GPA for Honors Program students in Fall 2003 was 3.622. To remain in the program, students must maintain a 3.25 GPA over 24 hrs/year. Honors students are well represented in student organizations; 12 of 17 Student Senators are Honors students. Dr. Davis also explained the process whereby students add an H-option to non-Honors classes. ACT scores continue to rise with enrollment. In fact, it is questionable whether the program can grow much larger. Challenges to the director include projecting enrollment and figuring overloads and FTEs.

The Honors Program was designated a priority program in 2001. Dr. Davis reports to the SVCAA through Glen Powell

C. **Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee**: Director Jeanne Butler asked senators to direct questions and comments to her.

D-G. **Gender Equity, Parking Advisory, Safety, and Technology Committees**: No report.

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

A. **Oversight Committee**: See p. 1

B. **Executive Committee**: A number of senators asked if any progress has been made on the formation of a Faculty Workload Committee. The answer is no. The deans heard a report from Dave Anderson and Darryl Kelley but we have not been given a response. This is a matter we will take up with the new SCVAA&SA.

C. **President’s Report**: Much of the discussion centered on distance learning. Sen. Miller noted that the administration should post our current distance-learning programs on the web site. He also noted that new programs must be approved by the Board of Regents. Sen. Fredrickson commented that we need some mechanism for sharing expertise in developing distance-learning
courses. Sen. Damon suggested support groups for those teaching on-line courses. The CTE could pull together and promote these workshops.

D. Academic Affairs: Regarding a proposal that responsibility for designating WI courses by moved from General Studies, GS director Wozniak claimed he would not mind handing off this responsibility to another committee. Academic Affairs is not terribly excited about taking on this task, but agrees that the proposal makes sense.

E. Academic Freedom and Tenure: No report

F. Academic Information and Technology Committee: Sen. Lewis informed the group that the Blackboard upgrade will occur in May, with training also scheduled for that month.

G.H. Artists and Lecturers, Athletic Committees: No report

I. Continuing Education Committee: No comment

J-N. Faculty Welfare, Grievance, Library, Professional Conduct, Student Affairs Committees: No report

VIII. Report of Faculty Senate Special (Ad Hoc) Committees

A. First Year Experience Committee: No report

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Ethnic Studies Minor (proposal)

Senate was reminded that this is not a full, complete proposal. It comes to FS not to approve but to improve upon. Furthermore, funding for the proposal is a different issue and not to be considered at this time.

Comments and Questions:

Sen. Korb said that advanced research methods and statistics courses should include prerequisites.

Sen. Davis noted that the proposal cannot be discussed without a proposed budget for such elements as a director, library acquisitions, and release time.

Sen. Bridges said the proposal should be accompanied by a needs / demand assessment. There may no demand for this program.

Sen. Unruh affirmed the previous comment. “Build it and they will come” is not supported by the data. What will be the use of this minor?

Sen. Lilly commented that the same issues proving troublesome for Women’s Studies will also apply to this program. We should not re-create the same problems. Sen. Damon agreed.

Glen Powell noted that the proposal implies a double cost. Administration would have to deal with the Women’s Studies issues along with the Ethnic Studies proposal.

Sen. Wozniak noted that Modern Languages courses are well represented in the FAH offering, a situation consistent with initiatives to internationalize the campus.

Sen. Lighter suggested a mechanism to prevent students from choosing a narrow focus on a single ethnic group. Senator Wozniak noted that some ES programs do
allow that type of specialization. Sen. Kelly said the issue of narrow / wide focus has not been addressed.
Sen. Miller said it is important to remember what we want this minor to accomplish.
Sen. Rieder noted that an assessment of need could determine a narrow or wide scope.
Sen. Hartman said that department chairs have not been recently consulted regarding relevant courses. He, for example, would not agree with the list of Art course submitted.

B. Priority Program Statement
Senator Kelley, author of the proposal, noted that the statement is a discovery draft, a place from which to begin a discussion of the underlying assumptions behind priority programs (PPs) on our campus. [A forum on this subject is included in the FS’s new plan of action for 2004-05.]
Sen. Lilly said it is important to remember that PPs are not synonymous with departments.
Sen. Hartman noted a situation in his department in which all the PP funds go to a single faculty member.
Sen. Luscher suggested that the statement focus more upon what UNK faculty are rather than on what they are not.
Some senators noted that the current strategy looks like a plan to give major funding to a few scholars. Sen. Bridges pointed out that the administration might intend to divide the PP funds among fewer entities.
Sen. Unruh reminded the group that the concept of PPs came from central administration in response to budget cuts. Now the initiative idea may be too spread out. Perhaps all entities involved with a program should be involved with funding. The concept needs reviewed and guidelines should be in place regarding how the money is spent.
Sen. Damon noted that in the original plan, the top quartile of programs would then be ranked. This apparently has not happened.
Sen. Miller identified 3 types of programs that received PP designation. The first were identifiable programs of excellence at UNK. Others seemed to be institutional choices. And others are those that may become important in the future. Some met the criteria, others were chosen, others had potential. He agreed that PPs need to demonstrate accountability.
Sen. Korb asked if assessment is tied to PP status.
Sen. Miller asked how administration can parcel out money among excellent programs.
Sen. Davis noted that PP funds are not locked down. These funds can be both designated and fluid.
Sen. Barton noted that PPs and strategic planning must go together.
Sen. Exstrom noted that the Statement downplays the importance of strong programs to all of UNK.
Sen. Fredrickson said that one concern is lack of accountability in programs that do get funds. Sen. Miller responded that some colleges do expect accountability, but communication is sometimes lacking.

Sen. Lightner said it is important to ask what programs benefit Nebraska or the region. Some programs may need help.

Sen. Wozniak commented that natural selection does not apply to college campuses. Programs are being reduced to criteria of productivity.

Sen. Miller noted that in the prioritization process, departments on our sister campuses were compared to other departments across the country. UNK's mission seems more complex than that.

Sen. Exstrom noted the lack of critical comparison with counterparts in our peer institutions. It is better to compete with departments in one's own discipline.

Sen. Wozniak pointed out that not all campuses have comparable programs.

Sen. Lightner commented that we can't use the same standards for every department or program.

X. New Business

A. UNK Assessment Proposal (see pp. 2-3)

B. Hamster Wheel Award – Nominations are due tonight. Sen. Miller will re-send the nomination forms, which should be given to Bob Young ASAP.

C. Faculty Senate Plan of Action 2004-2005 – Sen. Bridges said the draft will be officially proposed at the Fall Convocation.

XI. General Faculty Comments

Senator Damon noted that by region, we have fallen in our share of new students brought in by recruitment. The diminishing size of rural counties will continue to have an impact on UNK.

Sen. Miller noted that the FS has again been invited to structure the fall administrative retreat. The program will likely include summaries of APRs, a look at key programs, and a look at the NCA report. The second stage will involve taking issues that need work and dividing them among faculty committees. Faculty can work with the administration on marketing and recruiting.

Sen. Fredrickson, reporting for the Safety Committee, remarked on our silent tornado sirens. Some of the sirens—which UNK doesn't own—do not work. The situation is being looked into. Also, more work is being done on the calling trees.

Sen. Lightner, member of the Student Affairs Committee, noted that an article regarding the student code of conduct will appear in the first issue of next fall's Antelope.

Sen. Miller said that the Executive Committee is charging the Professional Conduct Committee with developing a policy on consensual relationships. He has models from our sister and other campuses that might be useful.
President Miller shared a memo from Chancellor Kristensen directing Vice Chancellor Galen Hadley as leader of the Technology Advisory Committee to require the committee to conduct a broad reassessment of the use of information technology and the expenditure of the information technology student fee at UNK. Miller expressed his concern pointing out the memo seems to "jump the gun" in advance of efforts to respond to the NCA report. President Miller indicated he would entertain a motion that suggests to the administration that the request in the memo be coordinated with the general efforts to deal with North Central Accreditation. Obermier/Korb moved to accept President Miller’s suggestion. Motion carried.

Sen. Wozniak presented a resolution honoring Dr. Galen Hadley for his service as SVCAA. Obermier / Lewis moved to suspend the rules and consider the resolution at this meeting. Motion and resolution carried. Sen. Bridges said she was asked by Bob Young to read a newspaper item regarding flat-rate tuition. Figures from the article suggest that this proposal would not be feasible. Sen. Miller asked about the wisdom of renewing some our reciprocity agreements, which have not worked to our advantage.


Unanimous motion to adjourn at 9:15. Motion carried.

Martha Kruse, Acting Secretary