UNK FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
APPROVED October 7, 2004
Ockinga Conference Room
Thursday, September 2, 2004
7:00 p.m.

I. President Bridges called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Albrecht, Barton, Bridges, Brown, Buckner, Darveau, Davis, Exstrom, Hodge Fronczak, Jackowiak, Kelley, Kruse, Lewis, Lightner, Luscher, Moore, Obermier, Scantling, Seshadri, Snider, Strawhecker, Taylor, Unruh, Wozniak, Young

Absent: Damon, Elder, Fredrickson, Hartman, Lilly, Miller, Nelson, Rieder

Guests: Glen Powell, SVCAASL Finnie Murray, Director of Registration/Records Kim Schipporeit, Vijay Agrawal

Kelley/Albrecht moved to suspend rules to take action on items from Oversight Committee. Motion passed.

Senator Young conducted elections for several open seats as follows:

The seat opened by the resignation of Leslie Korb:
The oversight committee nominated Kay Hodge issue for a one-year replacement term.
Davis/Wozniak moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kay Hodge. Motion passed.

The seat opened by request of Senator Damon as temporary replacement for the fall term:
The oversight committee nominated Keith Terry.
Wozniak/Davis moved to close nominations and cast and a unanimous ballot for Keith Terry. Motion passed.

Two seats were vacated due to excessive absences during the previous academic year.
The oversight committee nominated Sri Seshadri to fill his previous seat.
Lewis/Hodge moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Sri Seshadri. Motion passed.

To fill the seat vacated by Sally Cook-Fong:
The oversight committee nominated Steele Becker for the seat as he earned the second-most votes in the previous election. Wozniak/Lightner nominated Maha Younes.
Barton/Wozniak moved to cease nominations. Motion passed. Maha Younes was elected to fill the seat as a one-year replacement.
Brown/Young moved to suspend the rules to discuss new business. Motion passed.

IX. New Business:

A. Summer Class Schedule and Graduation

Director of Registration/Records Kim Schipporeit presented the proposal for changes in Summer school and for a Summer commencement. She offered as background to this proposal: the proposal was developed after meetings with interim senior Vice Chancellor of academic affairs Hadley and later with a task force of the associate Deans during the summer in order to turn the tide on Summer school enrollment; these discussions led to an interest in changing to the old Kearney State College Summer school format; UNK changed to the UNL and UNO 3-5-5 format in 2000 which resulted in lower student enrollment; and there was also interest in creating a Summer commencement ceremony.

Senator Davis asked about the reaction from Varner Hall. Director Schipporeit responded that the Provost was aware; the rules were discussed and that UNO was already different from UNL.

Senator Luscher asked if the new schedule would meet K-12 teacher schedules. Director Schipporeit responded that it would unless there are changes to the K-12 schedules.

Senator Brown was concerned about four weeks being enough time to cover enough material and that many students had no time to register if the summer session would begin immediately following the Spring semester. Director Schipporeit responded that the classes don't have to be four weeks long, they can be six or eight weeks, and while the start dates are set, the lengths can be variable. The scheduling of undergraduate classes for length and duration will follow the rules established for graduate classes.

Senator Young mentioned that the four-week/eight-week schedule was popular with both students and faculty and that the possibility exists to enhance Summer school by requiring all students to take one Summer school class.

Senator Unruh asked about the policy to create/add undergraduate courses for Summer school. Would there be a minimum enrollment or would budgetary decisions be the deciding factor in whether a class is scheduled. Director Schipporeit responded that course scheduling in the summer is essentially decided by the Deans on the basis of both enrollment and budget.

Senator Lewis asked about the number of weeks required for a graduate class, thinking the minimum required length was four weeks. Director Schipporeit responded the four-week schedule is required if the class meets four days a week; the three-week schedule is allowed if the class meets for five days a week.

Senator Wozniak asked why an eight-week session must start on June 6 and not May 9. Director Schipporeit responded that the May 9 session is planned as a Monday through
Friday session whereas the June session is planned as a Monday through Thursday session. However, it should be possible to schedule an eight-week session starting on the May 9th date.

Senator Young emphasized the need to avoid cannibalizing other sections if all classes started at the first session.

**Young/Lewis moved to endorse the proposal.**

Senator Wozniak asked if this was a done deal anyway. Senator Young said that this was endorsed by the administration and is needed to promote the advancement of Summer school.

**Motion passed.**

**B. Academic Fall Convocation:**
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Affairs and Student Life Finnie Murray presented background on a proposal to create an Academic Fall Convocation. Kate Benzel wanted to highlight the First Year Program with a Fall Convocation. The idea was expanded to create an academic convocation to celebrate the Academy. He asked the Faculty Senate to endorse the idea of the Academic Fall Convocation as an annual event. Plans for the first Fall Convocation are to invite Bob Kerrey to talk about liberal education. The Chancellor has inquired and Kerrey is interested pending his schedule.

President Bridges asked if he wanted the faculty to buy in and run the convocation. Senior Vice Chancellor Murray said his vision for the convocation included a faculty procession, a formal keynote speaker, and discussions that would celebrate the Academy.

Senator Davis expressed concern for the funding of future convocations and that even with a lack of funding that we would still have this convocation. Senior Vice Chancellor Murray said that the event depends on faculty involvement. The event needs to be embraced and that he would support, with internal funding, the convocation on an annual basis as needed. He further stated that if the convocation works that we would keep it, but that if it was not valued, it would not be continued, as it would be a waste of university resources.

Senator Kelley stated that throughout the years he has heard of the need to develop traditions, especially those steeped in the Academy, and that Faculty Senate should endorse the proposal.

Senator Young posed a pair of questions: first, is convocation planned for this fall? Second, what is the planned length? Senior Vice Chancellor Murray responded that the plan is for a ceremony this fall and that this first one will be of relatively small scale and will consist of a processional, a speaker, and a reception with guests. The caveat being; that the first year experience courses would incorporate this into classes this fall.
Senator Young voiced several concerns over the time frame and the cancellation of classes; that we need to avoid politicization with the perceived agenda of any speaker; and that the focus on liberal arts neglects the Colleges of Education and Business and Technology.

Senator Brown suggested that since the NU system chooses a professor for the university teaching award, that we should have them as a speaker (which would lower the cost). This would add prestige to the award and give the winner a venue to talk about their experiences.

Senior Vice Chancellor Murray stated that he expected an apolitical presentation from any speaker.

Senator Hodge stated she liked the idea of bringing in a big “name”. That “big-name” would create a good draw and is necessary to create the tradition.

Senior Vice Chancellor Murray stated it would be a faculty driven process and suggested that the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs or other committee could have a role in choosing speakers.

Senior Lightner suggested we should have a broad spectrum of speakers. He also suggested that the NU foundation work to endow the event. Senior Vice Chancellor Murray agreed that there might be some organizations that may support such an academic endeavor.

Senior Luscher stated that an annual convocation was an important tradition and that sends a good message to students. He endorses the idea.

Senator Albright expressed concern about why all speakers would have to be apolitical. Why not allow a political speaker?

Senator Young said we must require equal time for opposing viewpoints at the same session; that we should require balance.

Senator Moore took part in the early discussions for this fall convocation. She feels that this convocation should have some focus on the students, perhaps even focused towards the freshman students to give them the idea that they are part of something special.

Senator Luscher stated that you don’t necessarily need to invite balancing views and that in the past, for example when President Clinton visited, there was no need for an opposing speaker.

Senator Wozniak asked about the implementation of the Fall convocation; would the Senior Vice Chancellor's Office handle the program the first year and then the Faculty Senate thereafter? Senior Vice Chancellor Murray indicated that he and Kate Benzel would handle the initial convocation and that would be handed off thereafter.
President Bridges asked that if the Fall Convocation were to continue, would the planning occur in the spring? Senior Vice Chancellor Murray indicated that, yes, it would, and that he hoped to hand it off to some Faculty Senate committee or other faculty committee.

Senator Davis stated that the Faculty Senate is the proper place for control and that it should be housed in a Faculty Senate committee.

**Wozniak/Kelley moved to endorse the proposal. Motion passed.**

**Bridges/Darveau moved to consider only items with submitted reports. Motion passed.**

**III.** Kelley/Davis moved approval of the minutes for the Faculty Senate meeting of September 2. 
*Minutes were approved.*

**IV. Reports from Academic Councils:**

A. **Graduate Council:** April 22, 2004. No discussion.
B. **General Studies Council:** April 8, 2004.

Senator Wozniak said that these minutes should be a “heads-up” that the NCA will be making a focused visit on assessment in four years. We haven’t shown in the past and that we must show in the future the use of the data to improve the General Studies program.

C. **Council on Undergraduate Education:** no report.

**V. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees:**

A. **Strategic Planning Committee:** no report.
B. **Honors Council:** no report.
C. **Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee:** no report.
D. **Gender Equity Committee:** no report.
E. **Parking Advisory Committee:** no report.
F. **Technology Advisory Committee:** no report.
F: **Safety Committee:** no report.

**VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees:**

A. **Oversight Committee:** August 23, 2004.

Senator Young encouraged all faculty take part in the College elections for the upcoming Senate standing committees. President Bridges said to ‘Rock the Vote’.

B. **Executive Committee:** August 17, 2004. No comments.

Senator Kelley asked about a comment in the meeting with President Smith about the budget: specifically concerning the comment that the Board of Regents would look unfavorably on campuses that have been trying to put all four quartiles of their programs in the programs of excellence. President Bridges stated that President Smith said that priority programs are here to stay and that there have been efforts on some campuses to increase the number of priority programs on their campuses. The Board of Regents will resist any attempt by a campus to increase the number of programs of excellence without removing others.

Senator Young asked about the timing of any plan to review the current programs of excellence and the opportunity for any non-priority programs to get priority status and bump another program off. President Bridges responded that President Smith said it wasn’t his job as he is retiring. There may be a chance with the new President of the University that there would be a review of the priority programs. The special funding towards programs of excellence does remain a priority of the Board of Regents.

Senator Young said was encouraged about the movement toward strategic planning and assessment and that he was also encouraged about compliments made by the students in the graduating students’ survey presented by Director Schipporeit. He suggested that these complimentary comments be used in our recruiting efforts.

President Bridges emphasized the fact that the NCA report summary is the Chancellor's words only.


Proposed policy for B.S. Science Related Course Requirements:

Senator Wozniak gave the background on the policy. The policy was created to close loophole in program requirements and that there is no component in the B.S. requirements similar to the B.A. requirements; that both of these requirements would be above and beyond the General Studies requirements. The fact that there was no definition of B.S. related courses has been used as an end run to require more hours in some departments for their degrees than is normally allowed by University policy.

Senator Lewis asked about the definition of the B.S. science course-related content to involve the application of the scientific method versus those courses that are applied science. Which courses would be allowed? Senator Wozniak responded that the Academic Affairs Committee would be the judge. Those courses normally associated with a science are assumed to meet the criteria; other courses would have to make their case that they use the scientific method in their course.

Senator Unruh asked about the current criteria used to judge whether another class would meet the requirements. The course could involve collection of data
analysis and refinement of models or simply could be the teaching of the methods to do such data collection or similar activities.

Senator Luscher asked for confirmation that this policy specifies what is required for B.S. science-related course requirements as opposed to actually requiring all B.S. majors to have B.S. science related course requirements. Senator Wozniak said that the B.A. does require language courses, but since the B.S. doesn’t have the language requirements and there was a need to create a category to handle the requirements for the B.S. No current program will need to change their degrees.

President Bridges noted that all current majors are in essence “grandfathered” into the current requirements. Any changes to majors or creation of new majors would be required to meet the standards of this new policy. Senator Wozniak confirmed that this would be the case.

**Wozniak/Davis moved for approval of the policy.**

Senator Unruh stated he would like to see the potential impact of the policy on his department before voting. Much discussion ensued.

**Senator Unruh moved to table this motion until the following meeting. Senator Brown seconded. Motion to table passed.**

E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: no report.

F. Academic Information and Technology Committee: no meeting.

G. Artists and Lecturers Committee: no report.

H. Athletic Committee: no report.

I. Continuing Education Committee: no report.

J. Faculty Welfare Committee: no report.

K. Grievance Committee: no report.

L. Library Committee: no report.

M. Professional Conduct Committee: no report.

N. Student Affairs Committee: no meeting.

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

A. First Year Experience Committee: no report.

Senator Kelley stated that one thing that stuck out in the report is that we will be assessing WI and CD courses and that assessment would require department specific, but universally applicable, standards.

Glen Powell confirmed that those programs must be assessed. The priority effort would be first to General Studies then to WI/CD. It is his hope is to build the plan to do both together.

Senator Young had two comments. First, feedback from students and employers indicates a lack of communication skills. There is a need for development of communication as opposed to just writing skills. Second, he questions the posting of negative information about the University on a public web site. The institution knows about the negative information and will take steps to change them but there is no need to post the information where recruits and parents will have free access. We should perhaps control access to this information.

Senator Wozniak noted that this was the last meeting of the ad hoc assessment committee.

Wozniak\Young moved to commend the members of the ad hoc assessment committee for their hard work that they have done over the years to prepare us for the North Central visit. Motion passed.

Glen Powell offered his thanks on behalf of the committee.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

A. Workload Response from SVCAA Hadley:

Senator Obermier asked that we get a dated document for the record because the submitted document was undated. (Note: Date was established as May 4, 2004)

Kelley/Lewis moved that all Deans must give current workload documents to all faculty members. Motion passed

IX. New Business (continued):

C: Constitutional Amendment-Academic Affairs Responsibility:

The following issues were raised in the discussion:
1. Many WI/CD classes are upper-level classes and not the purview of the General Studies Council
2. The Academic Affairs Committee’s workload is very high and the addition of responsibility of WI/CD may be too much to handle
3. While the Director of General Studies has release time to handle the numerous requests for WI/CD approval, no person on the Academic Affairs Committee has similar release time.
4. A new committee to handle the W. I courses may be one option. This option doesn’t handle the CD courses however.
5. A subcommittee could be created within the academic affairs committee to handle the WI/CD courses and enable selection of committee members with expertise to handle evaluation of the courses.
6. A possibility exists to allow the College Educational Policy Committees to handle the approval process.

Senators Unruh and Albrecht asked that the Executive Committee work to come up with coherent motion outlining the possible actions to handle the WI/CD course and instructor approvals and responsibility.

Darveau/Bridges moved adjournment at 9:30 pm. Motion carried.

Scott Darveau,
 Faculty Senate Secretary