I. President Kruse called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Roll Call:


Absent: Heidenreich, Kuskie, Miller, Strawhecker.

Guests: Mary Barton, SVCAASL Murray

III. Agenda was suspended in order to conduct the following business of the Oversight Committee.

Deb Bridges was elected by unanimous vote to fill the position of Senator-at-Large for Kenya Taylor, who has left the Senate to be Dean of the Graduate College.

Marc Albrecht was elected by unanimous vote to retake his seat, which had been vacated due to absences.

Claude Louishomme and Joe Benz were nominated to fill the seat of Paula Rieder, who will be leaving UNK at the end of the summer. Louishomme was elected.

Diane Wysocki and Jim Rohrer were nominated to temporarily (one year) fill the seat of Carol Lilly, who will be on a leave of absence AY 2006-07. Wysocki was elected.

Bill Wozniak was elected by unanimous vote to fill a position on the Academic Freedom and Tenure committee replacing Mary Barton, who is no longer on the Senate.

Rick Miller was elected by unanimous vote as FS Senate President-elect.

Claude Louishomme and Daryl Kelley were nominated for FS Senate Secretary.

Louishomme was elected.

Lynn Jackowiak was elected by unanimous vote as Senate Representative to the Executive Committee.

Bev Frickle was elected by unanimous vote as Parliamentarian and chair of the Oversight Committee.

Janet Trewin, Jane Strawhecker, Herbert Craig, Maha Younes and Sheryl Heidenreich were elected by unanimous vote to the Oversight Committee.
IV. Kelley/Bridges moved approval of the minutes for the Faculty Senate meeting of April 4, 2006. Minutes were approved with emendations.

V. Reports from Academic Councils:
A. Graduate Council: report was accepted with the correction that the course in Foreign Languages that had been approved was FORL 872P - Foreign Language Pedagogy.
B. General Studies Council: Senators expressed appreciation of the comment by Glen Powell that departments offering bachelors degrees, masters degrees and general studies courses had reached a level of assessment saturation; this echoes concerns expressed at the last senate meeting about the faculty work load.
C. Council on Undergraduate Education: no report was submitted.

V. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees:
A. Oversight Committee: business was conducted as above.
B. Executive Committee:
Explanation was requested of term construction manager at risk: it means that the company making the bid must not exceed the cost stated in the bid and if they do, they pick up the bill. Initial bids came in too high; the architects under estimated by $3-4 million. We have been assured that the new dorms are on the same timeline and cost-cutting measures have not affected the aesthetics of the buildings.
Administration still did not know who was the UNK representative on the University Benefits committee. President Kruse guessed it was John Lakey and Trudy de Goede. Senators noted this was a problem because important decisions were being made by that committee and we need to be represented. It was also noted that our insurance no longer covers the cost of an annual PAP smear for female faculty and there has been no one to whom this complaint can be directed.
Complaints also were made that administration answers to several questions were not adequate: saying that the rep. to Benefits committee was “not announced” does not tell us the status of this issue; it is not acceptable that the replacement of Gender Equity chair is “ongoing” since this has been left vacant for over a year; statement that “some” University programs are not being assessed does not tell us what those committees are, why they are exempt from assessment, and if they will ever be assessed. Executive committee noted that the reason for some of these answers was because the Chancellor had been absent from the meeting.
C. President’s Report:
Senators expressed appreciation of UNK’s collective bargaining process that allows us to maintain the goal of reaching the faculty salary level of our peer institutions.
It was noted that while campus snow removal was applauded, snow was not removed on West campus and there was considerable difficulty finding parking.
Senators raised concerns about the regents’ interest in moving toward standardized testing
(CLA); qualitative information over time seems a much better tool for evaluation. Observed that the inability of UN campuses to create internally a successful climate survey highlights the difficulty of such efforts and also raises questions about the viability of a one-size-fits-all kind of evaluation, such as the CLA. It was noted that security in Bruner Hall is inadequate; outside doors do not lock; every semester things are stolen from the building. Question was asked about the issue of partner benefits and where we stand on that issue. Partner benefits were raised at the NU Benefits meeting which took place during very bad weather and so did not have a quorum; efforts to change the definition of “domestic partner” were introduced and the issue became very cantankerous and messy. President Kruse sees no movement on this issue soon; it is too political and the regents are elected officials.

D. Academic Affairs: report was accepted without discussion.
E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: no report was submitted.
F. Academic Information and Technology Committee: no report was submitted
G. Artists and Lecturers Committee: no report was submitted
H. Athletic Committee: no report was submitted
I. Continuing Education Committee:
The committee was asked to include the forms for off-campus courses in the minutes or online so that the Senate can actually see them and get the word out about them. Noted that information on this form was made available to chairs over email and is available online. A question was asked about the lack of stipend money for course creation; collective bargaining is taking this up this summer but Senator Davis noted that the administration is obligated to reimburse faculty for this. He also clarified that an increase in number of online courses being offered has created some problems in finding funding. It was also noted that distance courses are our growth sector and the institution does not seem to be supporting this development.
J. Faculty Welfare Committee: no report was submitted
K. Grievance Committee: no report was submitted
L. Library Committee: no report was submitted
M. Professional Conduct Committee: no report was submitted
N. Student Affairs Committee: no report was submitted

VI. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees:
A. Assessment Committee: report was accepted without discussion.
   1. Student Assessment Committee: no report submitted
B. Affirmative Action Commission: no report submitted
C. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee: no report submitted
D. Council of Chairs: no report submitted
E. Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee: no report submitted
F. Fees Committee: no report submitted
G. First Year Experience Committee: no report was submitted
H. Gender Equity Committee: no report submitted
I. Honors Council: report was accepted without discussion.
J. International Education: no report submitted
K. Parking: no report submitted
L. Student Retention Committee: no report submitted
M. Safety Committee: no report was submitted
N. Strategic Planning: no report submitted.
O. Student Support Services Advisory Committee: no report submitted
P. Technology Advisory Committee: no report was submitted
Q. Women’s Studies Advisory Committee: no report submitted
R. Writing Center Advisory Committee: no report submitted

VII. Reports of Faculty Senate Special (Ad Hoc) Committees
A. WI/CD Committee: report was accepted without discussion.
B. Encouragement of Study of Modern Languages: no report was submitted

VIII. Unfinished Business:
A. President’s Draft Report on the Climate Survey. President Kruse asked for feedback.
   -- Suggestions were made regarding when and how often a climate survey should be conducted on campus; five years was suggested as reasonable but if students are to be included then four years might be better in order to catch every student once in their career; it was also suggested to do a follow-up survey in 2-3 years because of the problems with the recent survey and then move to every 4-5 years.
   -- It was noted that, beyond gender and minority issues, it would be beneficial to include workplace conditions in the survey.
   -- It was suggested that the report was too conciliatory in tone; while it is proper to express appreciation for the fact that the survey was done, this need not be repeated in the report; it was, after all, something required by President Milliken, even though only UNK and UNL have complied with this demand thus far.
   -- It was noted that the 63% response rate is not cause for celebration; people generally reply to a survey when they are concerned about the issue, not when they are content.
   -- President Kruse was encouraged to use stronger language, especially in stating that the current survey has already created complacency.
   -- It was suggested that there be a separate paragraph in the report addressing the need for the next survey to be prepared by experts.
   -- It was suggested that the fact that IRB suggestions were not followed should be noted in the report.
   -- It should be noted that doing the report in a hurry and trying to save money has proved
embarrassing and may have actually wasted money; the survey needs to be done correctly in the future.

B. Strategic Plan. President Kruse asked the senators to only address significant omissions in the report. She explained that there will be an opportunity to address details since Senate Standing Committees will be asked to review the plan and bring their ideas to the first Senate meeting in Fall, 2006.

-- It was noted that the statement in the SP that UNK strives to be a nationally known institution is laudable but the goals necessary to make that happen must be in congruence with accreditation agency goals for UNK.

-- A concern was raised that the plan had a grand vision but was not clear on how progress will be achieved and evaluated. Vice-Chancellor Murray commented that we should see this plan as an active process not a finished product; that prioritization and evaluation will be addressed as the plan moves forward.

C. Hamster Wheel nominations. Senator Young announced that two nominations had been received and asked for more from the floor. None were forthcoming.

IX. New Business:

A. Resolution was brought forward commending Ken Nikels for his years of service and many contributions to UNK. Wozniak/Elder moved acceptance. Passed.

Resolution was brought forward commending Marilyn Hadley for her years of service and many contributions to UNK. Elder/Young moved acceptance. Passed

B. President Kruse (happily) passed the gavel to Senator Darveau, who then took over the meeting as the new president of Faculty Senate. President Darveau passed out his Plan of Action for AY 2006-07 and requested that Senators send comments to him via email.

XI. General Faculty Comments:

Senators applauded Senator Kruse for her hard work this year as president.
Senators Kelley/Davis asked the senate to recognize the work of Glen Powell and his many contributions to UNK, especially in his capacity as director of assessment and general studies.
Senator Kruse expressed her appreciation of the work of the Executive Committee.
Senator Young’s many years of work with the Senate and the Oversight Committee was also noted and appreciated.

Kelley/Wozniak moved adjournment at 8:40 pm. Motion carried.

Paula Rieder,
Faculty Senate Secretary