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

II. Roll Call:

Present: Barton, Bridges, Brown, Craig, Damon, Darveau, Davis, Frederickson, Frickel, Fronczak, Jackowiak, Kelley, Kruse, Lewis, Lightner, Merrick, Meznarich, Miller, Moore, Nelson, Obermier, Rieder, Scantling, Snider, Strawhecker, Taylor, Young

Absent: Albrecht, Aviles, Hartman, Kuskie, Lilly, Unruh, Wozniak, Younes

Guests: Prof. Stan Dart, Registrar Kim Schipporeit, DA Glenn Powell, Student Senate Pres. and V.Pres.

III. Lightner/Frickel moved approval of the minutes for the Faculty Senate meeting of April 28. Minutes were approved without emendations.

Senators Jackowiak/Davis moved to suspend the agenda to hear a report from the Registrar, Kim Schipporeit. She reminded the Senate that in April, 2004, SVCAA Murray requested a study of summer school. The committee assigned to that task reported in April, 2005. One of the outcomes was a pilot activity asking students what summer school courses they would like to see offered. Students will be allowed to vote for classes on webEASI between Sept. 6 and October 10. The timing was determined to give the students a long enough period in which to post responses and also giving department chairs and faculty time to adjust their summer offerings according to student feedback. Students will be notified of this project via email, postcards, and information tents around campus. Students can vote multiple times but duplicate classes will only be counted once per student. Feedback to chairs will include courses and student demographics. This process has been tried at other institutions successfully, but the key was actually offering the courses for which the students voted. This requires cooperation from the administration, especially in terms of financial support, as well as faculty and department chairs. Hopefully, students will take Fall and Spring offerings currently or soon to be available on the WEB into account when they vote.

In response to questions from Senators, Schipporeit made a number clarifications. Even though allowing the students to vote before publication of the Spring schedule may cause confusion, it was thought desirable to give the students an extended period in which to vote. Students will not be able to indicate any preference for the term in which a course will be offered. They can vote for five classes at a time. This effort involves undergraduates and only those graduate students currently enrolled in classes. Money from summer school may or may not come back to departments depending on the new tuition-linked budget under consideration by the BOR. However, part of the directive to work on summer school at this time was based on the need to
generate tuition on our campus. Senator Miller expressed skepticism regarding the methodology of the project: the sample of students who vote may not actually be those who take classes and many students do not know six months ahead of time what they will actually do in the summer. Schipporeit responded that summer school numbers are falling and this idea, with its flaws, seemed worth trying because it has worked in other places. She also noted that this is not the only thing the committee suggested. Senator Miller responded that summer school classes are full; budget is the problem not student interest or faculty availability. Schipporeit responded that she asked the administration specifically about budget and was told that every effort would be made to provide funding for classes that students request. One of the first recommendations of the committee was the creation of a summer school budget as well as a marketing plan. Faculty who want to teach should be allowed to actually do so and not be prohibited because of pay schedules. She concluded that this is a multifaceted problem and this project may not work but, since it is costing the campus nothing, it seemed worth trying.

IV. Reports from Academic Councils:

A. Graduate Council: The minutes of the April 21, 2005, meeting were reviewed and accepted without comment.
B. General Studies Council: no report submitted
C. Council on Undergraduate Education: no report submitted.

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

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

VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees:

A. Oversight Committee: no report submitted.
B. Executive Committee: The minutes from August 31 meeting with the Administration were reviewed. Senator Kelley asked about the 18/21 workload policies from COE. Senator Kruse explained that this was an attempt by the SVCAA to ensure uniformity in campus guidelines for scholarly release and that he has assured her that nothing will be implemented without comment and review by the FS since this policy has a direct impact on faculty. Senator Davis asked about priority funds, the budget cutting process, and the report on how priority monies have been spent. Davis urged the Senate to be aggressive on the
issue of reviewing priority program spending rather than let BOR issue a general statement; they must provide a specific breakdown of how every penny has been spent. Davis/Kelley put forth a motion charging the Exec committee to ensure that the upcoming review of priority programs include a detailed account of how priorities monies have been spent and that the information be made available to FS. Motion passed.

Senator Young noted the perception that priority programs have not received other kinds of funding because of their priority status. He asked if this perception was accurate. Comments from senators both supported and refuted the perception. Senator Miller also pointed out that the upcoming conference on undergraduate research will actually be on how to do research in a primarily undergraduate institution rather than on undergraduate research per se. Senator Miller also stated that he was unaware of the 18/21 workload. Senators Bridges and Darveau stated that it has been shared with the college Deans and at college meetings. Bridges also stated that this is an on-going discussion and we should expect further discussion of it in FS.

C. President’s Report: The minutes from BOR meeting June 10. Senator Kruse took this opportunity to report on the Hergert situation. She stated that she has been approached by a reporter from the Omaha World Herald who told her that he is writing a story about Hergert mentioning UNK and he asked why we did not go along with a statement on Hergert issued by UNL. Kruse explained to us that the FS presidents from all campuses had met and discussed the issue and that only UNL decided to make a statement. The UNK Executive committee has seen this statement, which emphasized integrity and supports the investigation, but felt it would be inappropriate to comment while the investigation is in progress. Kruse reminded senators that if they are approached by the press and make comments, they should be made as personal comments and not those of FS as a whole.

D. Academic Affairs: Minutes from the April 21 meeting were reviewed and accepted without comment.

E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: no report submitted.

F. Academic Information and Technology Committee: no report submitted.

G. Artists and Lecturers Committee: no report submitted.

H. Athletic Committee: no report submitted.

I. Continuing Education Committee: no report submitted.

J. Faculty Welfare Committee: no report submitted.

K. Grievance Committee: no report submitted.

L. Library Committee: no report submitted.

M. Professional Conduct Committee: Minutes from July 25 meeting were reviewed and accepted without comment.
N. Student Affairs Committee: no report submitted.

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

A. First Year Experience Committee: no report submitted.

B. Assessment Committee: no report submitted

C. WI/CD Committee: The minutes of the WI/CD meetings of March 9, May 4, August 16, and spring 2005 were all reviewed. Senator Kelley commented that the minutes of the August 16 meeting were very brief and was assured by Senator Moore that more information would be forthcoming.

VIII. Unfinished Business: none.

IX. New Business:

Senator Kruse reported that Chancellor Kristensen has requested that the FS to establish a committee, headed by SVCAA Murray and Dean Flagstad, to assist students affected by Hurricane Katrina and who might chose to come to UNK. The following Senators volunteered to serve: Merrick, Frickel, Jackowiak, Scantling, Taylor, Fronczak, Miller, Davis. It was also noted that Professor Scott Unruh and Interim VCUR Kathy Smith have initiated a local fundraising effort through the Red Cross.

Senator Young explained the new forms for FS Standing Committee elections. The greatest change is that the form includes space for nominees signatures, assuring that no one is nominated without his/her consent.

Professor Stan Dart spoke to the Senate concerning the process for getting curriculum changes for his department through the process for approval. He noted the importance of curriculum to our responsibilities as faculty and his frustration with the slow pace of the current process. Lengthy discussion followed.

- Problems noted:
  - the time between meeting dates of the various committees slows things down
  - college Ed. Policy committees that do not meet regularly and the failure of AA to meet regularly are problematic
  - the current forms are obtuse and unhelpful
  - the Registrar’s rule that courses cannot get into the catalogue until the minutes of AA are approved at the next Senate meeting also causes delays.

- Suggested solutions:
  - have AA meetings over the summer
  - give department chairs a time limit (e.g., 10 days) within which to respond and indicate that they have been informed of changes (their approval is not necessary)
  - more use of electronic forms and processes
  - require chairs who are requesting changes to attend their college Ed. Policy meeting
  - more and better communication between departments and committees, especially in terms of answering small questions quickly.
Responses to these suggestions/problems:
- there are already forms are on-line for simple changes
- college committees and AA do not meet if they have no business
- summer meetings of college committees or AA is not possible because of our nine-month contract and the constitution of the committees
- department chairs need to take responsibility to make sure forms are filled out correctly and in a timely manner

Senator Obermier/Merrick made a motion that the FS Academic Affairs committee be directed to develop a system in cooperation with the Registrar’s office to process all academic program changes electronically in sixty academic calendar days or less and to report this to FS in November. After discussion the motion passed with some objections but without need of a hand vote.

Senator Kruse also promised to contact the Deans concerning the college Ed Policy committees.

Senator Miller/Frickel put forth a motion that FS appoint 2 or 3 senators to work with the Registrar, the SVCAA, and AA to look at all aspects of the process for making changes to academic programs in order to determine how the process might be streamlined. Motion passed.

X. General Faculty Comments:
Thanks to Student President Bohn for attending the meeting and for the Loper Kick-off. Thanks, also, for summer commencement, which was a success. Further comments on summer commencement should be directed to Interim VCUR Kathy Smith.

Bridges/Darveau moved adjournment at 8:46 pm. Motion carried.

Paula Rieder
Faculty Senate Secretary