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

II. Roll Call:

**Present:** Albrecht, Barton, Brown, Craig, Damon, Darveau, Davis, Frickel, Fronczak, Hartman, Jackowiak, Kelley, Kruse, Lewis, Lightner, Lilly, Meznarich, Moore, Obermier, Rieder, Scantling, Snider, Strawhecker, Taylor, Unruh, Wozniak, Young, Younes

**Absent:** Aviles, Bridges, Frederickson, Merrick, Miller, Nelson

**Guests:** SVC Murray, VC Haack, Captain Bryan Patterson of the Kearney Police, Michelle Hamaker, and Kurt Siedschlaw

III. Kelly/Davis moved approval of the minutes for the Faculty Senate meeting of September 1. Minutes were approved with emendations.

IV. Reports from Academic Councils:

A. **Graduate Council:** Senator Davis raised a concern about stipends for GA in priority programs. Davis/Lilly offered a motion that the FS Executive Committee request from the SVCAA the original request for additional GA positions for priority programs; and request from the SVCAA and the Graduate Dean information on how positions became stipends and request for the rational used for the disproportionate GA salaries.

SVCAA Murray offered the clarification that priority funding monies had been requested and used to raise stipends for GAs in priority programs to the level considered competitive with our peer institutions and that this freed up other monies that were then used to raises the stipends for GAs in non-priority programs. Other comments:
- an expression of appreciation to the SVCAA for his effort to increase quality of graduate programs by increasing GA stipends; a concern that this will help recruitment in priority programs but not others
- a concern that this may set a precedent whereby faculty in priority programs will be paid more than faculty in non-priority programs;
- a comment that we need a discussion of priority programs in general.

Senator Kuskie called the question.

The motion passed by a hand vote: 13 yes, 9 no, 5 abstentions.

B. **General Studies Council:** no report submitted

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

V. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees:
A. Oversight Committee: The slate of nominees for FS representatives on FS Standing committees was presented to the Senate and accepted by unanimous vote. Those elected were: Mary Barton to Academic Freedom and Tenure; Marc Albrecht to Academic Information and Technology; Jane Strawhecker, Nita Unruh, and Sam Lopez to Athletics; Theresa Watkins to Artists & Lecturers; Scott Fredrickson to Continuing Education; Herbert Craig to Professional Conduct.
Two college representatives to FS Standing committees were also elected to serve one-year terms at the end of which permanent representatives can be elected by the college. Nita Unruh was elected as a substitute for Senator Frederickson through the Fall semester.

B. Executive Committee: Senator Davis/Lewis offered a motion that the FS Executive Committee request a copy of the Chartwells contract for review for possible ways to encourage the re-establishment of Sandhills service. Discussion included:
- the assurance by VC Haack and members of the Executive committee that the Sandhills room could still be reserved for situations such as interviewing job candidates
- concerns about the economic loss of running the Sandhills Room and the obligation of Chartwells to offer services to the campus even though they might be a financial loss to the company.
Motion failed.
The Executive Committee was asked to continue monitoring the situation with the Sandhills Room and keep the Senate informed.

Senator Davis/Kelley offered a motion that the FS request through the Executive Committee a total report of all monies spent in the priority funding allocated to departments, emphasizing a report in detail down to the departmental and program level and that this report be made available to the campus. Discussion included:
- the need for transparency and accountability in the spending of priority funds money because of the controversial nature of priority funds on this campus
- clarification of the process required of priority programs: funds are requested and approved for specific projects and are not given to the programs to spend in any way that they want
- assurance that priority programs are held accountable and that non-priority programs do not understand how the process works and a suggestion that perhaps the Deans should file reports to make the process clearer
- a concern that the list of priority program spending provided to the Senators was not detailed enough
- a concern that the level of detail being requested was too nit-picky; a plea that we all get along because this issue was not important enough to cause this much tension
- an observation that priority program money has done a great deal of good but that $1 million in one year is a big deal
- a concern that a report of this type would fall on the shoulders of already over-worked department secretaries
- a statement from VC Haack that the information is already available in his office but that assembling it would be an intensive task
- a suggestion to have the report include totals of sub accounts rather than details of every single purchase.
Senator Kuskie called the question.
Motion failed.

Further discussion of the Executive Committee report included Senator Lilly’s observation that the administration’s sense that a review of priority programs was not likely in the near future was a matter of concern but also pointed out that the Strategic Framework published by Varner Hall indicates that priority programs must be assessed and appropriate revisions, if any, be made.

VC Haack, Captain Bryan Patterson of the Kearney Police, and Michelle Hamaker made a presentation on the recent assaults and the actions of Public Safety in response to them. VC Haack admitted that Public Safety had made some mistakes in handling the situation but assured the Senate that things would be done differently in the future. He promised to email faculty members safety information and phone numbers that faculty to pass on to their students. He indicated that there has been some discussion of setting up surveillance cameras in the parking lots. Mr. Patterson described the status of the on-going police investigation and the efforts and concerns of Kearney PD; there are still no leads on the perpetrators. Concerns about other safety issues on campus were raised, especially the presence of hazardous materials in Bruner Hall and the art department, and the late hours of those who work and study in the library at night. It was pointed out that funding of safety measures sometimes fell to departments and that this should be a campus-wide, perhaps a university-wide concern. Michelle Hamaker described the regular safety measures and checks that are already being done on campus. She also described the limitations of public safety in terms of staffing. There seems to be a need for better communication about what is already being done. In the case of assaults or a threat of violence, we were advised to call 911 first, not campus police. We were also reminded that safety must be a matter of everyone’s personal concern and awareness.

Senator Wozniak requested the Executive Committee to ask about the source of funding for 0.7 FTE position of Coordinator of the 1-2-1 program.

Senator Davis asked Executive Committee to find out if there are any plans to have a CUR meeting on campus anytime soon.

C. President’s Report: The issue of P-16 initiative was raised. Senator Davis/Young offered a motion that the FS Executive Committee consult with the Executive Committees of the Senates of UNO, UNL and UNMC to develop a proposal for University faculty representation on the P-16 Steering Committee, or, to develop a proposal for a University faculty monitoring committee to monitor and report on a regular basis on the work of the P-16 Committee. Discussion included:
- a concern that the P-16 initiative wants to make colleges more like high schools
- a call for involvement on the P-16 commission by educators from all levels and an observation that to worry about the quality of education only at the high school level is waiting too long since, by that time, it is already too late
- observation that in Nebraska the colleges are driving this initiative which is not the case across the nation and, therefore, we have the chance to make a difference in how the initiative proceeds in our state.

Motion passed.

D. Academic Affairs: Presentation by Kurt Siedschlaw on the Ethnic Studies Minor Program. Copies of the proposed program were distributed to the senators. Questions about the intersection of this program with the current CD requirements on campus and a concern that the program is more narrow than the current requirements were raised. Prof. Siedschlaw replied that the program was in response to faculty request and a belief that what we are already doing is not enough. This program could bring more international and minority students to campus which would also enrich the campus. The program is trying to enhance other programs and will operate like the WS program with courses offered from other departments. Prof. Siedschlaw described the process the committee has made in trying to explain and gain support for the program across campus. Because of a lack of clarity on what, if any, role the Senate has in accepting this program and the fact that senators had not seen the proposal before the meeting, the question of the Ethnic Studies program was tabled until the next senate meeting.

In regards to the resolution passed at the September meeting to streamline the process for approving changes to the curriculum: Senator Obermier pointed out that it was not the intention of the Faculty Senate to bypass faculty committees entirely; he also noted that the report on this issue from the Academic Affairs committee makes no mention of an electronic process (rather than only having forms on line) and that this was a specific request of the Senate. Senator Kruse assured him that this was being addressed.

E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: no report submitted
F. Academic Information and Technology Committee: no report submitted
G. Artists and Lecturers Committee: report was accepted without discussion.
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: report was accepted without discussion.
N. Student Affairs Committee: no report submitted

VI. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees:
A. Assessment Committee: report from Data Analysis committee was accepted with no discussion.
B. Honors Council: report accepted without discussion
C. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee:
D. Gender Equity Committee: no report submitted
E. Parking Advisory Committee: no report submitted
F. Safety Committee: no report submitted
VII. Reports of Faculty Senate Special (Ad Hoc) Committees
   A. First Year Experience Committee: no report submitted
   B. Encouragement of the Study of Modern Languages: no report submitted
   C. WI/CD Committee: Senator Kelley asked about the request to have international experience count for CD credit which was rejected; it was clarified that it did not go through the General Studies council but it will be revisited.

VIII. Unfinished Business: Senator Kruse reported that the committee working to streamline the process of approving changes to the curriculum has been and is continuing to make progress. The issue of an electronic process has been raised and work is being done on that. She will keep the Senate informed.

IX. New Business: Senators were reminded that faculty must have their new ID cards by October 31. Consequences of failing to do so were not clear.

XI. General Faculty Comments:
   Senator Lewis appealed to the Senate for the United Way Campaign.
   Senator Wozniak asked about the removal of trees because of construction of the new residence halls. He asked if the administration was concerned about the beauty of the campus. Members of the Executive Committee assured him that the Chancellor was also concerned about this.
   Senator Obermier asked for clarification about the status of improvements for Otto Olson; SVC Murray clarified that Otto Olson is still on the top of the queue for capital improvements in a bill before the state legislature and that the Chancellor is taking every opportunity to secure funding for OTOL and other projects on campus through the state budgeting system.

Kelley/Davis moved adjournment at 9:25 pm. Motion carried

Paula Rieder,
Faculty Senate Secretary