UNK FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
APPROVED December 1, 2005
Thursday, November 3, 2005

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

II. Roll Call:


Absent: Aviles, Davis, Lewis, Merrick, Snider, Strawhecker,

Guests: John Horvath, Kim Schipporeit, Kurt Siedschlaw

Bridges/Darveau moved to suspend agenda for housekeeping. Senator Young conducted a vote to have Senator Aviles replaced for the remainder of the Fall, 2005, semester by Claude Louishomme. Vote was approved unanimous ballot.

III. Kelly/Brown moved approval of the minutes for the Faculty Senate meeting of October 2. Minutes were approved with emendations.

Presentation on Distance Education by John Horvath and, via the distance education network, Tom Roth at the offices of NET. They explained the current program for expanding the network to cover the entire state by 2009. This would allow all high school districts in the state to be united by network to one another and to other sites in their districts. This will make us the second state in the nation to accomplish this; Utah is first. It would also allow community and state colleges to connect with the University of Nebraska. Discussion followed concerning the advantages to this project, such as getting educational opportunities into rural areas and this uses of this as a recruiting tool, and the disadvantages, such as recognizing that teaching distance education classes takes much more time than ordinary classroom instruction. The dangers of accepting high school classes for college credit was also raised and the Senate was assured this was not happening, although we are using distance education to offer UNK courses, taught by UNK faculty, in high schools.

IV. Reports from Academic Councils:
   A. Graduate Council: no report submitted
   B. General Studies Council: report was accepted without discussion.
   C. Council on Undergraduate Education: no report submitted

V. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees:
A. Oversight Committee: Senator Young conducted an election for a one-year term on the Grievance Committee. Steven Glaser was nominated by the Oversight Committee; Albrecht/Miller nominated Jim Roark. Jim Roark was elected by hand vote (14 to 3).

B. Executive Committee: President Kruse clarified that the position of the Director of the 1-2-1 Program is being funded as a temporary position by the office of SVCAA. Questions were raised about who was on the Site Committee mentioned by VCBF Haack or what the charge of this committee might be. The Executive Committee did not have information about the Site Committee or how long it has been in place; they will seek clarification. Senator Lilly felt we were given an inadequate response to the Senate’s question regarding whether the contract with Chartwells requires them to continue to offer a service even if that service is losing money. Executive Committee seems to have misunderstood the charge they were given at the last meeting and will look into the matter. Senator Miller questioned the administration’s report that there was little grumbling from students regarding housing issues; based on a survey in his department, this is not his perception. It was suggested that the Executive Committee take this information to Dean Flagstad.

C. President’s Report: Senator Young questioned what President Milliken meant when he said that he welcomed involvement of faculty on the steering committee for the P-16 initiative. Senator Kruse could not clarify but reported that other issues regarding diversity on the steering committee had been raised and that we would be hearing more about this issue.

D. Academic Affairs: report was accepted without discussion.
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: Senator Bridges pointed out that the Library Committee minutes listed Senator Miller as a member of the Executive Committee. Senator Brown stated that she had missed the meeting, which probably led to this error. Senator Barton will see to the correction of the committee minutes.

M. Professional Conduct Committee: Louishomme/Bridges moved to approve the report on the University’s Alcohol Policy. After some discussion for clarification, the report was approved. Minutes of the October 24 meeting were approved without comment.
N. Student Affairs Committee: no report submitted

VI. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees:
A. Assessment Committee: no report submitted
   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. Gender Equity Committee: no report submitted
G. Fees Committee: no report submitted
H. Honors Council: no report submitted
I. International Education: no report submitted
J. Parking: no report submitted
K. Student Retention Committee: no report submitted
L. Safety Committee: no report submitted
M. Strategic Planning: Questions were asked regarding the connection of the material presented to the Senate to the mission statement we have already seen as well as a concern about assessment. Senators Kruse and Bridges explained that it is still a work in progress. More campus forums will be held and faculty will have opportunities to see the mission statement again before anything is finalized.
N. Student Support Services Advisory Committee: no report submitted
O. Technology Advisory Committee: no report submitted
P. Women’s Studies Advisory Committee: no report submitted
Q. Writing Center Advisory 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: Minutes of October 19 meeting approved without comment.
   Discussion of the Report by the WI/CD Report followed.
   Young/Miller moved approval of the recommendations that the CD requirements remain at current 6 hours with no changes in the way courses are approved for CD credit. Approved.

Lightner/Louishomme moved approval of recommendation that a new General Studies course required of all students devoted to diversity issues be created. The reason for the recommendation was a perceived need to address globalization and to ensure students make connections between their CD classes and their own personal and professional development. Discussion followed: why only one course; who will offer this course; how does this fit into the current discussions regarding General Studies; why not create guidelines to meet this need within current courses rather than a new course; concern that this will add more hours to current GS requirements; concern that if this was passed it would have to be seriously considered for implementation into the current GS program. Miller/Darveau called the question. Motion failed.
Recommendation that if globalization is the issue, it should be stated as a separate proposal.

Craig/Scott Unruh moved to discuss the changes to the WI program. Discussion followed. There was general agreement with the recommendation to lower the required number of WI credits and interest in the recommendation that departments take on the responsibility to develop writing within their disciplines. However, many questions were raised: why not do away with WI altogether; why require two classes instead of three; how would this be assessed; how will class limits of 25 students be controlled; many departments already have a writing component in their major. Senators felt it was important to take this back to the faculty before acting to either approve or decline the
recommendations. The question was called and the motion to approve the recommendations as they are stated failed (8 yes, 14 no, 3 abstentions). Darveau/Miller then moved to continue the discussion at the next meeting and, in the meantime, present the recommendations to the faculty. This motion was approved by a voice vote. Recommendation that members of the WI/CD committee be invited to the next Senate meeting and that faculty questions/concerns be emailed to Kate Heelan in the meantime.

D. Encouragement of Study of Modern Languages: no report submitted

VIII. Unfinished Business:
President Kruse reported on progress being made by the Academic Affairs Task Force. Efforts to streamline the process of approving new courses is moving along.

Senator Young presented changes to the Senate By-Laws that would remove the Director of CTE from the Academic Information and Technology committee. Louishomme/Taylor moved approval. Passed.

Wozniak/Louishomme moved the Senate endorse the Ethnic Studies proposal. Discussion followed: concern that scholarship in ethnic studies be expected from the director of the program; questions about whether courses in the minor need to be focused in the United States or globally and the response that the program is generally focused on the US but final decisions will be made by the committee as it considers course proposals on a case by case basis; concern that the director needs more than a 3-hour release to avoid the problems now faced by the Director of Women’s Studies. Younes/Frickle called the question. Motion passed.

Miller/Kelly recommended that the Director of the Ethnics Studies program be a full-time position and that the director be of national prominence. Motion passed by a hand vote (12/10). Louishomme/Miller recommended that the description for the position of director include scholarship. Motion passed.

IX. New Business:
President Kruse presented a request from SVCAA Murray for volunteers to serve on the search committee for the Dean of Graduate Studies. Bridges, Lilly, and Scott Unruh volunteered.

Wozniak/Miller moved acceptance of a Resolution that Faculty Senate urge the administration to reconsider the planned location of the new residence halls and to consider moving the site to a location that minimizes damage to the established flora of the campus. Motion passed.

X. General Faculty Comments:
Lightner/Darveau moved adjournment at 9:45pm. Motion carried

Paula Rieder,
Faculty Senate Secretary