I) Call to order: President Darveau called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II) Roll Call


Absent: Lightner, Wysocki

Guests: Faculty Assistant to the SVC Debbie Bridges, Student Body President Mike Eiberger, University President J. B. Millikan, Director of Assessment Jeanne Butler, Graduate Assistant Bethany Albrecht

III) Approval of Agenda:

The minutes of 1/29/07 meeting of the Council for Undergraduate Education were added to agenda. President Darveau asked the Senate to add the election of a new secretary to the beginning of the agenda. Senator Kelley (Davis) moved for the approval of the agenda. Motion passed. Senator Davis (Fredrickson) nominated Senator Wozniak for the position of Senate Secretary for the remainder of the term. Senator Wozniak was elected by a voice vote.

IV) Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of December 7, 2006:

Senator Davis (Tidwell) moved for approval of the December 7, 2006 minutes. Senator Brown requested that a statement she made in Item VI-c be corrected to read, “Senator Brown asked if the practice appointment policy was discussed by the Board of Regents…” Senator Kruse said that the Faculty Senate does not approve minutes for non-Senate committees. President Darveau requested that the motion approved under item X-a be clearly stated. The motion stated in the first sentence was approved, not the one stated later in the paragraph.

V) Guest Speaker: NU President Milliken

First, President Milliken thanked and congratulated the UNK faculty for their part in getting the campus back on its feet after the ice storms. President Milliken then stated that enrollment is a major concern for him and, he hopes, a major concern for all in the University system. Everyone should be working on the goal of increasing enrollments, especially students from regions outside of Nebraska. Student numbers are important in generating revenue for the University, but more importantly, a diversity of students enriches campus life for everyone. The University had a goal of increasing enrollment by 1.5% per year over the last two years. The system increased its enrollment last year by 1%, UNK by 0.5%. UNK, however, has experienced a decline in first-time first-year students. On the other hand, UNK lead the system in increasing the number of non-resident students. The number of minority students has increased by 5% in the system, by 5.3% at UNK. UNK has students from 44 states and 41 countries. UNK leads the system in the increase in non-resident students. UNK has clearly done a good job of recruiting students from outside of Nebraska. President Milliken especially appreciated the NCS program, which has attracted a large number of Japanese students to UNK.

President Milliken reported that with the passage of LB 605, every campus will get some much-needed renovation, for UNK, this means the Bruner Hall of Science renovation. The Board of Regents also approved the wireless networking plan. Other developments such as the new residence halls and Board approval of the Facilities Development Plan will increase the quality of the student experience in the residential setting. President Milliken reported that the Foundation raised a record $127 million last year, half of the donations coming from outside of the state. Some have suggested that a large endowment could help offset the increases in the operating costs. However, Milliken reported that approximately 97-98% of the endowment is restricted. Even so, those funds do have an effect on operating expenses through scholarships, endowed chairs, and other educational projects.

President Milliken pointed out that the demographics of the student population are rapidly changing, especially for Hispanics. Our challenge is to figure out how we can take advantage of all of the talent that’s here. The UNK Academy program at North Platte and the UNL Academy Program at Grand Island are excellent examples of how we can reach students in their educational careers and tell them of the opportunities available to them at the University.
Other good news. Initiative 423 was soundly defeated by the voters last fall. Over the last two years the University had received the needed budget increases (13%), which look very good in the face of what has been proposed for the next 2 years—3%. The proposed budget would include the third lowest increase in the last 40 years. This highlights the need for us to communicate the message that higher education is an investment in the future of the state. This year in the legislature will be an interesting one with 22 new legislators, some of whom want to have a quick impact and not wait for their agendas to be considered.

President Milliken thanked the Senate for their comments on the strategic framework. He encouraged more comments either during this meeting or directly to him at president@nebraska.edu. The framework was initially developed by the Chancellors at a meeting wherein each Chancellor was instructed to bring their own campus plan. The Framework was developed as an umbrella that would include the basic tenants of each plan, yet would allow each campus to maintain their individual plans.

President Milliken then took questions. Senator McCarty said that there are persons in Grand Island who suspect that the UNL Academy Program in Grand Island is infringing on UNK’s territory. President Milliken responded by saying each campus was given a degree of autonomy in developing these programs in order to encourage campus entrepreneurship. The Grand Island program is a small pilot program by UNL and not part of a system-wide plan regarding territory. President Milliken has no qualms about programs such as these, regardless of the location.

Senator Louishomme asked the President what he thought a reasonable compromise with the Governor would be with regard to the budget. President Milliken responded by saying that the Governor has proposed a 1.1% increase followed by a 2.2% increase. Given the demands placed on the University budget by salary increases, utility increases, and other costs such as new building opening costs, the University will ask for a bigger increase. The negotiations have only begun.

Senator Albrecht asked what specific areas of the budget are pushing the costs up. President Milliken responded by saying personnel. 80% of the state-aided budget ($650 million—$450 general fund and $200 million from tuition- of the total $1.3 billion) is devoted to personnel costs including health insurance. He said that a 1% increase in salary results in more than a 1% increased cost for the state-aided budget. For more detail, he referred to the budget figures in the Senators’ packets.

Senator Albrecht asked what the President would like to see as a priority at UNK in the future. President Milliken said the UNK community should determine their priorities. In the larger picture, UNK should accentuate its distinctiveness within the system as a place where students have an opportunity to have a richer residential education experience by taking advantage of the unique resources that UNK has.

President Darveau thanked President Milliken for his time.

VI) Guest Speaker: UNK Student Body President Mike Eiberger

President Eiberger presented a student government parking proposal to the Senate for consideration. The demolition of Case and Ludden Hall and the building of three new residence halls will result in the need from between 105 and 184 student parking stalls. In summary, the proposal includes the following changes:

Lot 32—portion directly north of MSAB: change from commuter to visitor parking including 3 loading and 3 handicap stalls
Lot 9—northeast of Cushing: change from half commuter, half faculty/staff to entirely faculty/staff.
Lot 6—north of Martin: change from commuter parking to resident parking
Lot 4—north of the Union: change from faculty/staff to commuter parking

The net gain for student resident parking would be 89 stalls and the net loss for faculty/staff parking would be 56 stalls. The change in Lot 4 would encourage commuter students to use the Student Union. The plan would require the use of portable signs for use in Lot 4 when there are special events at the Student Union. The visitors lot near the MSAB would help with recruiting. Special events could be a problem, but a shuttle service could reduce the congestion.

Senator Davis complimented President Eiberger on a well-done presentation. Senator Unruh voiced concern that commuters also use the Cushing facility, the busiest building on campus, and that changing Lot 9 would discourage them from using facilities that their fees paid for. Senator Elder said that parking in Lot 4 is important for faculty from West Center who have to attend meetings at the Union. There is not enough time to walk the distance. Further it is not clear where the staff at the Union would park. There seems to be nothing reasonably close.

Senator White said that the proposed visitors lot would be difficult to find, especially for people unfamiliar with Kearney. Lot 8 or Lot 3 may be better for visitors to the campus. Senator Miller suggested that Lot 8 may be better for visitors, especially with the new archway. Senator Thompson asked if the stalls to the east of Founders...
Hall were for visitors. President Darveau said those stalls were for 30-minute parking. He also indicated that Staff Senate may have problems with the changes to Lot 4. Senator Fredrickson said that he likes the location of the visitor parking, but pointed out that visitors with a visitors’ permit can park anywhere. He also pointed out that we are a bit spoiled at UNK since at other campuses parking spaces are further away and rarer, plus permits can run into $400-500 per year. He suggested that permit prices vary with the distance of the lot from the campus. Senator Foradori echoed the observation that visitor permits allow parking anywhere on campus. She also mentioned that many students park in Lot 10 because it is parking for so many special events and the parking rules are not enforced there. Finally Senator Foradori expressed amusement at some of the comments in Rick Larsen’s letter. Senator Miller pointed out that these may be better called “Guest Permits,” because most visitors, like potential students and their parents, won’t know to pick up a visitor permit. Senator Frickel said that the proposed visitor lot seems well positioned. There may be a problem with Lot 4 in that there are many noon meetings and other events at the Union. This may need to be discussed further with the Union Director. Wozniak asked if it is a reasonable assumption that each student will require a parking stall for their car. Also it is possible that some students may not use their car every day and may wish to have a secure place to park their car for weekly use. Maybe a more distant secure lot could be provided for students. As an incentive, the parking fee could be less. Senator Trewin remarked that at Michigan State commuters lots were far away, at least a mile, and students had to walk a long way to class or take a shuttle. Perhaps Lot 29 should be considered. Senator Frickel asked if the authors of the proposal considered the equity of parking charges. For example, the possibility that there should be a charge for parking at sporting events, shuttle. Perhaps Lot 29 should be considered. Senator Foradori asked if the authors of the proposal considered the Michigan State commuters lots were far away, at least a mile, and students had to walk a long way to class or take a shuttle. Perhaps Lot 29 should be considered. Senator Frickel asked if the authors of the proposal considered the equity of parking charges. For example, the possibility that there should be a charge for parking at sporting events, maybe a dollar per car. What proposal written to consider equity and generating revenue? President Eibeiger said it was not. Charging for parking would seem to make the campus a less welcome place. Dr Bridges indicated that at Wyoming and at Washington State, the parking fee was graduated by location. Furthermore, no distinction was made between faculty and students in who gets which permits. Senator Elder said that since we are touting ourselves as a residential campus, we should give some priority to residential students. Senator Kelley (Fredrickson) moved that the Faculty Senate support the plan. Senator Elder spoke against the plan because there has been no input from the Staff Senate or the Union administration. There may be issues we are not aware of. Senator Louishomme indicated that faculty have excellent access to the buildings and perhaps faculty should be willing to share more of the burden with students. Senator Albrecht said that elements of the plan are good, but Larsen’s letter is somewhat “snooty,” and doesn’t speak well to the resolution. Senator Tidwell is uneasy about the proposal because it is not clear how often Lot 10 will be affected by special events. He is also concerned by the observation that most of the time Lot 10 is only half full—he disagrees. The motion failed (9 for, 13 against.)

President Darveau thanked President Eibeiger for his time. He also said that the failure of the motion was not necessarily opposition but may simply be due to the need for more information.

VII) Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees
A) Oversight Committee:
   Senator Frickel reported that Dr. Bridges’ Senator-at-Large position is open and the Oversight Committee nominated Tommy Hansen to fill the position for the remainder of this academic year. Motion passed. Senator Younes is out this semester for medical leave. The Oversight Committee nominates Suzanne Maughan. Senator Miller (Wozniak) moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion passed. The Oversight Committee also nominated Maughan to take Younes place on the Oversight Committee. Motion passed.
B) Senator Fredrickson (Snider) moved to suspend the agenda in order to allow other guest speakers to come before the Senate. Motion passed.
   Dr. Jeanne Butler, Director of Assessment, gave a status report of assessment activities on campus. She handed out an abbreviated report and offered to return to the next meeting to give more information. In preparation for the NCA Focused Visit in April, 2008, the areas for evaluation are: 1. Faculty commitment to assessment; 2. Stable infrastructure to support assessment; 3. Assessment of distance learning; 4. Assessment of General Studies; 5. Assessment of Writing Intensive; 6. Assessment of Cultural Diversity; and 7. Recognition for exemplary assessment practices. She briefly reviewed progress on each category. In particular, the assessment of WI has made good progress, but some issues concerning governance are not yet resolved. Assessment of Cultural Diversity courses seems to need work. Senator Snider pointed out that WI and CD courses no longer fall under the purview of the General Studies Council. The handout also summarizes the comments from the last NCA review. Department reports are 100% handed in. All departments have received feedback from the Coordinator concerning their reports. Sarah Von Schrader has been doing an excellent job in this regard. The responses from the departments have been very good. The Assessment Luncheon is on Tuesday, February 6. The luncheon is intended to say thank you for outstanding work in assessment. Senator Miller asked who is collecting data concerning CD courses. Senator Snider reported that some data are being
Dr. Bridges said that the WI/CD Committee was formed as an ad hoc committee of the Senate and was not given the mandate to assess CD courses in the original charge to the committee. Senator Craig indicated that his department has a CD course and has provided assessment information of that course in their annual assessment report.

Bethany Albrecht, graduate assistant for General Studies and Assessment, reported on the work of the Student Assessment Committee. In 2005, they conducted a survey assessment of General Studies. In 2006, an advising assessment was conducted. A follow up to the General Studies Student Review was conducted this year and she handed out a summary of some of the data. She pointed out areas where the students think there might be room for improvement: Expression of goals for the program, student understanding of the program, coherence within the program, and image of the program. She also pointed out perceived strengths: teaching values and social responsibility, attention to the global perspective, faculty understanding of student experiences, faculty addressing student differences, completion of course evaluations, and faculty experience.

C) Executive Committee: January 24, 2007 Report. Senator Davis asked if the Bylaws were also approved with the Constitution. President Darveau said that the Constitution and Bylaws were approved.

D) President's Report: January 19, 2007 Report. Received without comment.

E) Academic Affairs: November 16, 2006 Minutes. Received without comment.

F) Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: no report submitted

G) Academic Information and Technology Committee: December 6, 2006 Minutes. Senator Davis pointed out that the minutes indicated that there was a need for greater collaboration between ITS and the College IT persons. Was there any response? President Darveau did not know and will inquire.

H) Artists and Lecturers Committee: no report submitted

I) Athletic Committee: December 1, 2006 Minutes. Received without comment.

J) Continuing Education Committee: no report submitted

K) Faculty Welfare Committee: no report submitted

L) Grievance Committee: no report submitted

M) Library Committee: no report submitted

N) Professional Conduct Committee: no report submitted

O) Student Affairs Committee: January 10, 2007 Report. No comments offered. But comments on the strategic plan were discussed already and will be forwarded to President.

VIII) Reports of Faculty Senate Special (ad hoc) Committees

A) Writing Intensive / Cultural Diversity Committee: December 13, 2006 and January 17, 2007: President Darveau indicated that committee has promised to present a proposal concerning governance of WI and CD courses by the next meeting of the Senate. As the governance document is received, the proposal will be distributed immediately to Senators so they have time to review the materials.

B) General Studies Roundtable: January 11, 2007 Notes. Received without comment.

IX) Reports from Academic Councils

A) Graduate Council: no report submitted

B) General Studies Council: November 2, 2006 Minutes. Received without comment.

C) Council on Undergraduate Education: January 29, 2007 Minutes. Received at the beginning of the meeting, will be placed on next month’s agenda.

X) Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

A) Assessment Committee: January 11, 2007 Minutes. Received without comment

1) Student Assessment Committee: Bethany Albrecht presentation

B) Data analysis Committee: January 16, 2007 Minutes. Senator Davis for clarification on whether this is a subcommittee of the Assessment Committee. Senator Miller indicated that this committee is separate was initially called the Benchmarking Committee. Each group, the Assessment Committee and the Data Analysis Committee are broken into two working groups. Senator Davis showed that each organization seems to have the same chairs and same membership.

C) Affirmative Action Commission: no report submitted

D) Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee: no report submitted

E) Council of Chairs: no report submitted

F) Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee: no report submitted

G) Gender Equity Committee: October 24 and November 28, 2006 Reports: Received without comment

H) Fees Committee: no report submitted

I) First Year Experience Committee: no report submitted

J) Honors Council: no report submitted
K) International Education: no report submitted
L) Parking: no report submitted
M) Student Retention Committee: no report submitted
N) Safety Committee: no report submitted
O) Strategic Planning: no report submitted
P) Student Support Services Advisory Committee: no report submitted
Q) Technology Advisory Committee: no report submitted
R) Women’s Studies Advisory Committee: November 8, 2006 Minutes. Received without comment
S) Writing Center Advisory Committee: no report submitted
XI) Unfinished Business: No unfinished business
XII) New Business: No New business
XIII) For Information Only:
   A) WI/CD Governance. Scheduled for the next meeting
   B) UNMC Faculty November Senate minutes & December Agenda
XIV) General Faculty Comments: No Comments offered.
XV) Adjournment. Senator Elder (Maughan) moved for adjournment. Motion passed at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Wozniak
Secretary
UNK Faculty Senate