April 26, 2007
Ockinga Conference Room

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

II) Roll Call

Present:
At-Large Senators: Davis, Wozniak
CBT Senators: Frickel, Eshleman, Trewin
COE Senators: Fredrickson, Lewis, Jackowiak, McCarty, Young, Unruh
CFAH Senators: Brown, Craig, White, Dimock, P. Smith
CNSS Senators: Aviles, Miller, Younes, Darveau, Maughan (for Younes), Thompson, Kelley, Rohrer, Benz
Absent: Agrawal, Foradori, Hall, Hansen, Hartman, Heidenreich, Kuskie, Mollenkopf, K. Smith, Snider

Guests: There were no guests.

III) Approval of Agenda:

Senator Davis (Kelley) moved for the approval of the agenda. Motion passed.

IV) Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of March 1, 2007:

Senator Fredrickson (Brown) moved for approval of the April 4, 2007 minutes. President Darveau had some minor changes. Motion passed.

V) Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A) Oversight Committee: Report – April 20, 2007: Senator Frickel announced that this is the last chance for the nominations for the Hamster Wheel Award. She also said that the Oversight Committee brings forward the following moved and seconded slate for the 2007-2008 Oversight Committee: Senators Craig, Heidenreich, Aviles, Trewin, and McCarty. Senator Kelley (Davis) moved that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate. Motion passed. The Oversight Committee presented a moved and seconded slate for open offices on the Executive Committee: Senate President-elect – Senator Daren Snider, Secretary – Senator Daryl Kelley, and Senate Representative – Senator Tommy Hansen. Senator Davis (Jackowiak) moved that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate. Motion passed. President Darveau indicated that all newly-elected senators are listed in the Oversight Committee Report. President Darveau expressed thanks to all new Senators, continuing Senators, and exiting Senators. Senator Miller reminded Senators of the attendance policy—for any Senator, three absences during the next academic year and a replacement will be elected.

B) Executive Committee: Minutes – April 18, 2007: Senator Davis asked, with regard to personnel changes, in particular Associate SVC Nikels who is retiring and who will not be replaced, how will his responsibilities be reallocated to other administrators and how will they be compensated for those extra duties? President Darveau said that those questions were not addressed at the meeting. Senator Davis suggested that we look into this reassignment, given that Nikels’ responsibilities are important to the functioning of the University. These responsibilities should be handled carefully. Senator Miller said that the Senate EC will investigate.

C) President's Report: April 20, 2007 Report – From the BOR meeting. Senator Davis suggested that the EC sends a letter to the UNL Faculty Senate congratulating them (also Kudos and Welcome Aboard) on changing their structure on April 20 from an Academic Senate to a Faculty Senate.

D) Academic Affairs: Minutes March 22 and April 19, 2007. Kelley asked for background concerning the motion made by Wozniak. Senator Wozniak said that the Academic Affairs Committee was sent a recommendation from the CNSS Educational Policy Committee that the University Policy concerning maximum overlap of 6 hours between a major a minor be eliminated. The problem stems from a problem in the Biology program, wherein so many Chemistry hours are prerequisites for some Biology major programs (18 hours prerequisite Chemistry) but only 6 may count toward a Chemistry minor. This makes it very difficult for a Biology major to get a Chemistry minor—they ultimately will take many more hours and have to earn a double major. In light of this problem, the recommendation was that the overlap rule be eliminated or that the wording be changed to state that a major and a minor from different disciplines be
required. Senator Wozniak said that other suggestions were sent to academic affairs that he could not remember. He said that the recommendation was rejected out of hand. Senator Kelley indicated this is an important issue that seems to restrict the department in making decisions about required courses. Senator Jackowiak indicated that the Academic Affairs did not lightly reject the recommendation, they discussed the proposal at length. The Committee also asked for feedback from the colleges education policy committees and only one responded. This seemed to be a lack of support for the proposal across the campus. Senator Craig spoke in favor of the policy change if the major and minor were from different departments, but felt the existing policy seemed generally appropriate. Senator Unruh indicated that a major and minor from the same department may be appropriate, such as a recreation major with a minor in coaching. President Darveau responded that the proposal was meant to address overlap of majors and minor from different departments. Senator Fredrickson asked Senator Jackowiak about the three colleges who didn’t respond to Academic Affairs inquiry. Senator Jackowiak received feedback from only one college. Senator Fredrickson said that no response may indicate no negative comments rather than no support. Senator Jackowiak said that given no feedback from the other colleges may indicate that the problem is a local one (i.e., Biology’s) and not one for the entire campus. Senator White responded that the issue may boil down to two basic philosophies of higher education—focused professional training versus liberal arts education. He saw the rule as one that forces students to get broad experiences—consistent with a liberal education. Senator Wozniak indicated that the author of the rule (Mike Schuyler) was asked about the writing of the rule. Among other things, the rule was intended to prevent empire building by departments and to avoid having students apply for both a major and a minor in a specific area. President Darveau passed the gavel to Senator Miller and commented on item #118 (April 19 minutes—Alter course title from MLSC 302, “Small Unit Tactics and Communications” to “Leadership and Ethics”) and asked whether the course is only a renamed course or a new course. He asked whether it should have been submitted as a new course. Senator Jackowiak said the Registrar indicated approval as a new course was not needed since it is a reactivated course. President Darveau disagreed. Senator Dimock agreed and would like some explanation concerning the content of the course. Senator Fredrickson said it is difficult to judge the course content without seeing more information. Senator Davis hopes that the EC feels empowered by the Senate to discuss this program with the local administration and Varner Hall about the nature of this program and in particular these courses. Davis (Lewis) moved that the EC have a dialogue with the administration about the program and in particular about the content of these courses. Lewis said that the program was not favored initially by the Senate and felt that the program was rammed down our throats. Wozniak asked who initiated the course proposal (Who acted as Chair of the program?) and how the CBT Educational Policy Committee addressed the proposal. Senator Dimock asked some questions concerning the course content of all of the Military Science course changes in the minutes, especially with regard to leadership. Senator Miller said that course titles should mean something—this does seem to be a change in content—especially with regard to transfer credit. Senator Craig said that it is important to understand the course title in the context of Military Science. Senator Dimock said that the title is more general and seems to address leadership more generally. He asked if the change is designed to be more appealing to all students. Senator Jackowiak said the GOLD program is not the same program we had problems with before. President Darveau said he had no problem with the other courses (# 116 and 117), but he has a major problem with 118. Benz (Unruh) moved the question. Motion passed. Initial motion passed. Darveau (Davis) moved that the Academic Affairs Committee reconsider and clarify item 118 in the April 19 minutes given the sense of the Senate is that the course involves a content change. Senator Davis had some concerns about the initial proposal of the GOLD program from Varner Hall. He felt that it is important that the Senate initiate discussion and dialogue concerning the GOLD program. President Darveau disagreed and dais the GOLD program was initiated locally. Senator Davis said he had information otherwise. Senator McCarty asked if we would we have the same conversation if the course were not from Military Science and asked if it was already approved. Senator Fredrickson said that the Senate’s general charge is to look at the academic environment on this campus. Senator Miller also indicated Academic Affairs in a Senate Committee and we can address issues within their meeting. Senator Dimock also raised concerns about the content of the course generally, and not only in reference to the military. Senator Wozniak said that courses are approved at the college level. Academic Affairs and Faculty Senate accept the proposals and the Senate receives the minutes. President Darveau indicated that the Registrar will not act on the proposal until the Senate receives the minutes and forwards the minutes on to the administration. Senator Benz asked what happens if a course is not “approved” by the Academic Affairs. Senator Wozniak said that disapproval by Academic Affairs and/or the Senate would be a dilemma
for the SVC because, by BOR Bylaws, the Colleges are autonomous. So far, the Colleges have respected the views of the Academic Affairs Committee and the Senate. But in a sense, it would be legal for a College to set up their own General Studies Program. Senator Wozniak speculated on how the SVC would deal with a College violating the existing “treaty,” perhaps reducing the college’s budget so they couldn’t buy a tank of gas. But he reported that UNK has not faced such a problem. President Darveau indicated that the Registrar’s Policies (as per SVC policy) are the course will not move forward until our review is complete and we have accepted the minutes. Senator Fredrickson asked about catalog copy—if a new course needs to be proposed then a new course number might need to be assigned—and perhaps that would not be possible. Senator Jackowiak asked what impact the motion would have on the committee. Senator Miller said the motion concerns only item #118. Motion passed. President Darveau said that the Academic Affairs committee minutes indicated that item #161 was sent back to the department for some paperwork changes. The committee has subsequently accepted those changes and requested that the changes be accepted by the Senate. Miller (Benz) moved to accept #161 in addition to the minutes. The motion will allow the change to be implemented in the fall and will allow the Senate to avoid an extra meeting in the summer. Motion passed.

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: Minutes – March 2 and April 6, 2007. Received without comment.
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: no report submitted
N) Student Affairs Committee: no report submitted
VI) Reports of Faculty Senate Special (ad hoc) Committees
A) Writing Intensive / Cultural Diversity Committee: no report submitted
B) General Studies Roundtable: Notes – Mar 30 and April 13, 2007: President Darveau said that the Faculty Forums have been held and feedback was received and noted by the Roundtable members.

VII) Reports from Academic Councils
A) Graduate Council: no report submitted
B) General Studies Council: Minutes – February 7 and March 1, 2007. Received without comment
C) Council on Undergraduate Education: no report submitted

VIII) Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees
A) Assessment Committee: no report submitted
  1) Data Analysis 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) First Year Experience Committee: no report submitted
J) International Education: no report submitted
K) Parking: no report submitted
L) Student Retention Committee: no report submitted
M) Safety Committee: no report submitted
N) Strategic Planning: no report submitted
O) Student Support Services Advisory Committee: no report submitted
P) Technology Advisory Committee: no report submitted
Q) Women’s Studies Advisory Committee: Minutes – March 7 and April 4, 2007. Received without comment.
R) Writing Center Advisory Committee: no report submitted

IX) Unfinished Business:
X) New Business:
A) Faculty Senate Plan of Action for AY 2007-2008. President Darveau passed the gavel to Senator Miller. President Darveau thanked all of the members of the EC and the Senate for a very good year. President Miller expressed appreciation to Past President Darveau. There was spontaneous applause for Darveau. **Senator Wozniak (Davis) moved ratification of the Senate Plan of Action for 2007-2008.** Senator Wozniak asked about the UNK/UNO joint program in a Bachelors in General Studies Program. He requested that questions concerning this specific program be raised, e.g., Who initiated it? Is it really a joint program? He felt that these questions could be raised in the context of Initiative 1, under Continuing Education, Joint Programs, Dual Credit, and eCampus. President Miller asked if Academic Affairs had addressed this program. Senator Jackowiak said that Academic Affairs had recently discontinued our Bachelor of General Studies Program. Senator Kelley said that Sociology is offering an on-line course to support the UNO program. President Miller than suggested that the article was merely using some editorial license to describe the program. Senator Davis asked about the 8 implementation plans of the Strategic Plan, where are they? President Miller said they are available on the web. Senator Darveau said that the implementation plans are in a wide range of formats. Senator Fredrickson said that the document, in Initiative 1, under Continuing Education, Joint Programs, Dual Credit, and eCampus, implied that on-line courses do not meet same standards as on-campus courses. Senator Darveau suggested the following change “… dual credit and off-campus continuing education credits continue to meet the same high standards…” President Miller said the statement originated from the NCA site visit observation that on-line courses were not approved by NCA--On-line courses were grandfathered in and NCA will not allow that. Senator Fredrickson was also concerned about the last line of the paragraph concerning on-line and on campus courses. That seems to be inconsistent with our mission statement – where reference is made to being a residential campus. President Miller explained that the intention of the statement was to address academic goals not residential goals. The statement was written in the context of inquiries that some local businesses have made that requested UNK offer some vocational courses specifically to train their work force. President Miller wanted to be sure that the Senate examined any programs that develop out of that inquiry. Senator Lewis presented a question concerning different approval process for distance classes—how will the process change? President Miller said the problem with the approval process was that NCA was not in the loop. NCA wanted to look at whether the same standards are being applied for on-line courses. Senator Lewis said that assessment data should assist in addressing that concern. Senator McCarty presented a friendly amendment to remove paragraph on parking. Wozniak and Davis accepted that amendment. **Amended motion passed.**

XI) General Faculty Comments: Senator McCarty wanted to mention and promote the Midwest Consortium Conference for Service Learning, which will meet on the UNK campus, Sept 27-28. More information is available on the Web. Senator Brown seconded that recommendation since her students presented last year and it was a very good experience for them. Senator Lewis said that UNK will host the Duke University Talent Identification Program recognition ceremony on May 14. Gifted seventh-graders from across the state will be recognized for outstanding performance on the ACT. Senator Davis commended the EC concerning governance—for fostering discussion with the administration and with the Senate. He observed that the Senate meetings were a safe zone for free discussion of possibly contentious issues. It is important that the Senate be THE voice of the faculty in this sort of environment.

XII) Adjournment. **Senator Wozniak (Davis) moved for adjournment. Motion passed at 8:05 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Wozniak
Secretary
UNK Faculty Senate