I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

At Large Senators: Present: Wozniak, Frickel, Davis;

CBT Senators: Present: Agrawal, Amundson, Moore, Trewin, Taylor, Meznarich;

COE Senators: Present: Kritzer, Montgomery, Fredrickson, Lewis, Mollenkopf, Unruh; Absent: Moore,

CFAH Senators: Present: Burbul, Kruse, Flood, White, Dimock, Chavez, Hartman; Absent: Fronczak

CNSS Senators: Darveau, Biggs, Lilly, Miller, Carlson, Ericson, Trantham, Stevens; Absent: Benz, Combs,

Library Senator: Present: Mueller.

III. Approval of Agenda

White (Amundson). Moved approval. Motion passed.

IV. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of December 2, 2010

Biggs (Wozniak). Moved approval. Motion passed. (1 Correction: Amundsen changed to Amundson)

V. Special Presentations

President Moore expression our appreciation to the UNK peoplesoft implementation team and presented them with the following resolution:

Whereas
• The University of Nebraska at Kearney has been part of the state university and state college implementation of the PeopleSoft system
• The process involved many hours of travel and problem-solving above and beyond the normal expectations of personnel responsibilities and duties
• The initial phases of implementation met proposed deadlines many believed to be unrealistic
• The UNK team members remained transparent and helpful to faculty during the difficult transition period
• The UNK team remains dedicated to continued implementation and problem-solving during the upcoming semesters

Be it resolved
• The UNK Faculty Senate acknowledges the difficult and time consuming work of all the personnel who contributed to this effort. In particular, it extends its gratitude and appreciation for a job well done to the SIS Project Team:
VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Oversight Committee:

B. Executive Committee: **Minutes of January 19, 2011**

Senator Wozniak, President of UNKEA requested a volunteer from the faculty senate to serve on a joint steering committee to plan a demonstration of our appreciation of UNK staff during staff appreciation week, April 25-29. Senator Trantham volunteered to represent the Senate on the joint committee.

Senator Kruse expressed concern that the inflexibility of the WI model mentioned in the minutes were presented to the Administration as a senate position. The minutes have been clarified to represent that the issues were discussed and no specific position was taken. The revised minutes have been posted on the Senate Website.

Based on a demonstration provided at the meeting, Vice Chancellor Carlson assures us that he will be continuing his efforts to block the “google ads” that popup on UNK’s website.

C. President’s Report:

President Moore reported on the most recent BOR meeting. LB372 deals with who can offer certificate programs for credit and will allow us to legally participate in offering such programs. Room and board rates were approved and we will now offer a 10 meal program. Concern was expressed by how little difference there was between the 15 and 21 meal plan. Senator White explained that cost/benefit ratio of having the food available for the full meal plan.

President Moore pointed out that the balanced budget being proposed is balanced by (1) pulling from cash reserves and (2) providing flat operating funds, which will not cover inflationary increases and will result in about a 15% decrease in purchasing power. 13.2 million is the new projected shortfall and there will likely be a tuition increase to help cover this shortfall. The budget is expected to go the floor of the legislature in late April and be debated in May and probably not finalized until early June.

DOE and UN are partnering in developing a virtual high school program. Paid internships for college students is being proposed where a company would provide ½ of the cost of the internship and state would provide the other ½. The target is developing internships in rural areas. Need based financial aid is being increased.

Graduation rates were discussed at the BOR meeting using a 2003 cohort and comparisons were made between the UN campuses and with our peer groups. We are doing better than our peers. A concern was expressed by Senator Darveau that recruitment pressures may negatively affect graduation rates as may the amount of time that our students work, which increases over their time with us.

A voluntary separation (early retirement) program for faculty members 62 years of age or older will be implemented at UNK, without a salary cap. Some of the money saved at UNK will go into paying for new hires. Criteria for participation are to be announced in the near future.
The Senate Presidents met with the University of Nebraska Benefits Director and the UN Budget Director. We will be participating in a benefits audit. The company has guaranteed that the system will save at least enough to cover the cost of the audit, although they expect the savings will be more. Senator Taylor pointed out that the expense is a one time charge but the savings will continue over time. Only faculty members with dependents are to participate in this audit. Birth certificates of children and marriage certificates will be required. A period of amnesty will be offered for faculty to remove dependents who are not eligible from their policies. The audit will only review the eligibility of those on the insurance rolls. Members of the Senate requested that a report be made available on how many people were eliminated from the rolls and for what types of reasons. Senator Davis pointed out that disciplinary action may be taken against those who claim ineligible dependents. President Moore pointed out that UNK has not participated in the past two years at the annual meeting of the UN Benefits committee. Senator Darveau pointed out that according to the BOR dashboard, salaries at UNK are 3.2% lower than our peers, which may be why some are thinking of changing our peer group. He also expressed concern about the way external grant funding is being calculated, which does not accurately reflect the growth we have experienced in this area. He pointed out UNK has fewer faculty in the tenure/tenure-track category than we had 10 years ago, which is different than our sister campuses.

D. Academic Affairs: Minutes of January 20, 2011

E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee:

F. Academic Information and Technology Committee: Minutes of December 10, 2010

G. Artists and Lecturers Committee:

H. Athletic Committee: Minutes of December 10, 2010

President Moore requested a clarification of the minutes so that they not suggest that a faculty member no longer employed at UNK was a participant.

I. e-campus Committee:

J. Faculty Welfare Committee:

K. Grievance Committee:

L. Library Committee:

M. Professional Conduct Committee:

N. Student Affairs Committee:

O. Faculty Senate/General Studies Joint Committee:

VII. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

A. Assessment Committee:

B. Affirmative Action Commission:

C. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee: Minutes of January 26, 2011

D. Council of Chairs:
E. Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee: Minutes of December 9, 2010
F. Fees Committee:
G. First Year Advisory Council:
H. Gender Equity Committee:
I. Honors Council: Minutes of December 1, 2010
K. Parking:
L. Student Retention Committee:
M. Safety Committee:
N. Strategic Planning:
O. Student Support Services Advisory Committee:
P. Technology Advisory Committee:
Q. Women’s & Gender Studies Advisory Council: Minutes of December 8, 2010
R. WI/CD Committee: Minutes of November 9 & December 14, 2010

Senator Amundson noted that currently, the only assessment of the success of the WI program is compliance with the stated criteria. The committee is requesting the most recent syllabi by WI instructors so as to review whether there is continuing compliance with the criteria. This may create the grounds for developing a new, de-centralized process that is not university-wide but places greater responsibility on departments and colleges. The Senate also discussed the findings reported in the book: Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses and how those findings might relate to our efforts to improve student learning outcomes.

VIII. Reports from Academic Councils
   A. Graduate Council:
   B. General Studies Council:
   C. Council on Undergraduate Education:

IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business

Red Balloon Project: Senator Davis discussed the Red Balloon project, which is an initiative of AASCU to re-design undergraduate education which includes curricular changes, course design changes, enrollment management, etc. We are a member of this project dating back to September. Senator Davis recommended that we become acquainted with the project as portrayed on the web. To clarify what it means to participate in this project, Senator Miller suggested that the Senate EC discuss the project and our role within it with the Sr. Vice Chancellor.

Student Evaluations: Senator Kritzer expressed concern that student evaluations are not being made available to faculty on a timely basis and as a result changes may not be made based on the
students’ input. The EC agreed to express this concern to the Administration. Senator Miller pointed out the value of conducting mid-term evaluations in providing formative evaluation data. President Moore pointed out that the online evaluation forms are not particularly useful to us as faculty, especially since the return rate is typically very low. Alternatives to the scanned forms currently being used were discussed as were alternatives in getting timely feedback. Concern was expressed that we not overwhelm the staff. Senator Biggs was tasked to provide a CTE event to address this issue.

XI. General Faculty Comments

Senator Wozniak asked about the repeated e-mails we have received directing us to change one’s password. A general discussion of IT ensued. President Moore suggested that the concerns be directed to the Information Technology Committee. Senator Fredrickson agreed to convey the concerns.

XII. Adjournment

    Darveau (Wozniak) moved to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

    Rick Miller, Secretary