UNK FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2011

Faculty Senate Website: http://www.unk.edu/committees/facultysenate/

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

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

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

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

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

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

Library Senator: Present: Mueller.

III. Approval of Agenda

Amundson (Fredrickson). Moved approval. Motion passed.

IV. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes of February 3, 2011

Mueller (Meznarich). Moved approval. Motion passed.

V. Special Presentations

VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Oversight Committee:

The Oversight Committee set forth a new apportionment plan that reflects changes in the number of full-time faculty in each college, as provided by the Dean’s secretaries. NSS will now have 9 senators, a loss of one. B&T will have 7 senators, a gain of one. COE and FAH numbers will remain the same as before.

Apportionment plan approved unanimously.

B. Executive Committee:

It was noted that Office of University Relations is still working on removing Google ads from our UNK website. Concern was expressed about our limited representation on the SIS U-wide committee. Concern was also expressed about the real scope of the Red Balloon Project and what our actual level of involvement in the project should be and who should take the lead in organizing our participation. Senator Miller indicated that the Sr. VCAA hopes that the Faculty Senate will take the lead on what initiatives we want to be involved in.

C. President’s Report:
BOR had not met since last Senate meeting so nothing to report there. The budget shows signs of improvement due to sales tax revenue. The Chancellor will speak at the next Senate meeting about budget planning. Also, a representative of the First Year program will speak to indicate how that program is evolving.

D. Academic Affairs:

Mary Daake reviewed the proposed New Academic Standing Policy that makes the standards for probation and suspension more rigorous so that low grades will result in quicker action on the part of the university, as is the case at our sister campuses. The idea is to provide interventions earlier than in the past. It was pointed out that students whose GPA is below standard can only improve their GPA by taking courses at UNK or another campus in the NU system.

**Amundson (Kruse). Moved approval of the Academic Standing Policy. Motion passed unanimously.**

E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee:

F. Academic Information and Technology Committee:

G. Artists and Lecturers Committee:

H. Athletic Committee:

I. e-campus Committee:

Senator Fredrickson pointed out that tuition differential is now called tuition variance and that those funds can be carried over beyond the biennium.

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:

D. Council of Chairs:

E. Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee:

F. Fees Committee:

G. First Year Advisory Council:

H. Gender Equity Committee:
I. Honors Council:
J. International Studies Advisory Council:
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:
R. WI/CD Committee:

Senator Amundson noted that a significant number of WI courses have been dropped.

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

IX. Unfinished Business
X. New Business
XI. General Faculty Comments

Senator Amundson expressed concern that students can drop a course, online, without the instructor’s awareness, as recommended by the Academic Deans Retreat. This policy can result in a student dropping a course based on a misunderstanding of their academic standing in the course. It can also happen that a student can be inadvertently dropped from a course in MyBlue and must then be re-instated. Another issue has to do with the difference between a list of students in Blackboard and the list of students in MyBlue. Senator Benz also noted that a student who has been found to engage in academic dishonesty and may face failure in the course as a result, can go online and drop the course with no consequences. Senator Amundson agreed to talk with the Dean of Students about this issue.

Amundson (Fredrickson) moved to ask the Executive Committee to take the issue to the Administration and to recommend that instructor’s be notified (perhaps electronically), whenever a student asks to drop their course. Motion passed unanimously.

Senator Kritzer asked why it is that faculty can’t remove a student from their class. President Moore indicated that paid tuition creates a contract so that UNK policy doesn’t allow faculty to drop students. Senator Dimock noted that in some schools, students can be dropped in the first week if they don’t show up to class.

Senator Kritzer moved that the UNK Faculty Senate pass a resolution to support the teachers in Wisconsin. Senator Unruh raised the issue of the legality of lobbying. It was pointed out that the limitation is on state employees lobbying in our state. Motion died for lack of a second.
Senator White informed us that NASM has informed the Department of Music that the US Government wants to define a credit hour as equal to a contact hour and that course numbers not be repeated. Problems with these initiatives were noted.

Senator Wozniak noted that the ratification of the contract would take place next week. The salary pool for the next two years will be 1% each year. The official title of the CIR was attempted by several members of the Senate. The move in the Legislature to eliminate the CIR and its resultant affects on collective bargaining was discussed.

XII. Adjournment

Wozniak (Trantham) moved to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Miller, Secretary