I. Call to order

II. Roll Call 04APR2013

At Large Senators: Present: Davis, Frickel, Wozniak
Absent: none

CBT Senators: Present: Amundson, Barry, Messersmith, Moore, T., Taylor, Trewin
Absent: Agrawal

COE Senators: Present: Brown, Lewis, Mollenkopf, Moore, J.
Absent: Kracl, Kritzer, McKelvey

CFAH Senators: Present: Dimock, Flood, Rogoff
Absent: Chavez, Ficociello, Fronczak, Hartman, White

CNSS Senators: Present: Biggs, Campbell, Darveau, Freeman, Miller, Neal, Trantham
Absent: Carlson, Ericson

Library Senator: Present: Mueller

III. Approval of Agenda

Senator Trantham (Messersmith) moves to approve agenda.

The agenda is approved.

IV. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes: 07MAR2013

Senator Trewin (Miller) moves to approve March Faculty Senate Minutes.

Minutes Approved

Senator Darveau (Miller) moves to suspend the rules to allow a special election to reseat Senator Biggs.

Motion passes.

Senator Darveau (Miller) moves to reinstate seat vacated by Doug Biggs and nominates Doug Biggs to fill the seat. The floor is opened for additional nominations.

No other nominations are made.

Motion passes, Senator Biggs is reinstated.

V. Special Presentation
Outgoing and incoming representatives from Student Senate reported the recommendations that were jointly approved by Student Senate and the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee regarding Blackboard utilization and opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Wozniak noted that faculty should find these guidelines to be useful, but also noted that students should be expected to check their e-mail and Blackboard regularly. Better communication works both ways and both groups (faculty and students) should work to ensure that they are utilizing these mediums to communicate effectively.

Outgoing Student Body President Cam Deter noted that the results of the recent survey of students noted that students do regularly check Blackboard at least 2-4 times a week and many students check it daily, but also noted that those that do not need to be responsible for doing so on their own.

Senator Biggs inquired if there is a way to encourage the small percentage of students who are not checking their e-mail or Blackboard regularly to do so?

Student Body President Moses Moxey and outgoing Student Body Vice President Brock Drudik noted that we need to give students a reason to care about accessing these tools by regularly posting information and assignments, but that ultimately it is the responsibility of each student to stay informed.

Senator Tami Moore noted that Blackboard tracks logins, so it’s relatively easy for faculty to get a sense for whether or not students are accessing the site and that as faculty we need to regularly post information to Blackboard to ensure that students continue to stay engaged.

Senator Dimock discussed the Student Affairs Committee overview of these recommendations and noted that students really want to see Blackboard used as a means to provide feedback on grades on a quarterly basis at minimum. Students want and expect timely feedback on their grades and this is something that faculty should be willing to provide.

Senator Frickel inquired about the level of detail expected in these quarterly reports. She noted that her practice is to post the scores, but she expects the students to do the math to figure out what their exact grade is in the class during the course of the semester. Frickel also noted that it would be helpful if students would come to class when assignments are passed back, so they know what scores they have received.

Deter responded that the students are happy to do the computations as long as the scores are posted.

Darveau (Biggs) moves to endorse all 5 recommendations in the report.

- Faculty will provide regular feedback to students on their grades and progress on approximately a quarterly basis or every 4 weeks in a 16 week semester.
- Faculty will discuss with students at the start of the term how feedback on grades and progress will be given, so that students know to check Blackboard, meet with instructors, or use some other means of tracking their progress. Such information could be posted on Blackboard or included in the syllabus as well.
- Course syllabi and schedules should be made available on Blackboard.
- Assignment requirements should be made available on Blackboard.
Handouts, readings, or other materials instructors are willing to share electronically should be made available on Blackboard.

Senator Wozniak – I hope that it is implicit that uploading grade information and other files to Blackboard is the responsibility of the faculty and not departmental administrative assistants.

Motion passes.

VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees (Date included in bold for each committee that submitted minutes)

A. Oversight Committee: 29MAR2013

Senator Darveau reminded senators from CFAH that there are currently 5 open seats from that college and only 1 nomination. Please talk to your fellow faculty members about participating in Faculty Senate.

Proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution were discussed in Old Business.

B. Executive Committee: 27MAR2013

Senator Rogoff – question on advising item, does this pertain to the intake model?

Senator Trantham – No, this discussion item simply notes that advising is at the attention of the Board of Regents and UNK administration, as advising plays a part in graduation and retention rates. Questions are being asked as to how do we advise well and how do we value good advising as an institution.

Senator Wozniak – what is this comment about what’s special about MWF class for an hour all about?

President Mollenkopf noted that this was a rhetorical question posed during an open discussion of how educational material can be delivered and learned given changes in technology. It was not a literal discussion, but rather was an allusion to the potential changing nature of higher education delivery models.

C. President’s Report: 27MAR2013

President Mollenkopf discussed the recent Board of Regents meeting. She noted that the Regents discussed the current legislative debates that are likely to affect the university system. Mollenkopf also noted that there are some concerns regarding the federal government’s sequestration, which may affect research funds and student financial aid. She also noted that the Regents discussed and approved the development of the new Health Sciences Complex.

President Mollenkopf also reviewed her end of the year report including the accomplishments of the senate, the ongoing activities of the senate, and the handy binder she’s putting together to be used in the knowledge transfer process for future presidents.

D. Academic Affairs: 28MAR2013

Reviewed without comment.

E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: 18MAR2013

Senator Lewis inquired as to whether or not there are department level P&T committees.
Senator Darveau noted that every department has such a committee, but some use different nomenclature.

Senator Davis noted a concern that was brought to his attention regarding procedural steps and deadlines – is there any language anywhere regarding the enforcement of the deadlines, what if deadlines are not met, should we include some language to enforce that?

Senators Darveau and Trewin noted that the deadlines remain the same and any break from the P&T process would be grounds for a grievance to be filed.

Senator Trantham – these are written as recommendations, how should we best proceed with these recommendations?

Senator Davis – I believe that the committee’s understanding was to form these as recommendations. Upon the Faculty Senate’s general approval of the recommendations the appropriate changes would be proposed to the current documentation.

Senator Miller (Mueller) moves to direct the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee to modify the Faculty Handbook regarding the post-tenure review process based upon the previous recommendations of this (AFT) committee. The changes will then be reviewed by the Faculty Senate for formal approval.

Senator Wozniak notes as a point of information that this is a “meet and agree” issue. As such, any faculty handbook approvals, once formalized by the Faculty Senate, would have to also go through UNKEA and the SVCASA’s office.

Motion passes.

F. Academic Information and Technology Committee: 01MAR2013

President Mollenkopf reviewed the report from the AIT committee regarding the utilization of different components of information technology in the classroom by faculty at UNK. Mollenkopf noted that the request for this information came from VCBF Johnson, so the information was forwarded on to her office for review.

Several senators discussed the new lecture capture software, its current limitations in the Mac environment and the pilot group that is testing the new tools available with this technology. The goal is for instructors to be able to teach how they would normally teach and the system would then capture both the audio and the video.

G. Artists and Lecturers Committee: 06MAR2013

Reviewed without comment

H. Athletic Committee:

I. e-campus Committee:

J. Faculty Welfare Committee:

K. Grievance Committee:

L. Library Committee: 14MAR2013
Senator Brown offered his compliments to all involved in creating and awarding the first library award for undergraduate research, which was presented that day at UNK’s Student Research Day.

M. Professional Conduct Committee:

N. Student Affairs Committee: 12MAR2013

Senator Dimock noted that the committee has been tasked with looking for ways in which advising can be improved at UNK. He requests that any ideas in this regard be forwarded on to him.

Senator Frickel applauded the new changes in DegreeWorks – well done!

VII. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

A. Assessment Committee (Mueller, Wozniak):

B. Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee:

C. Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee (Mollenkopf):

D. Fees Committee (Trantham):

E. Gender Equity Committee:

F. Honors Council (Frickel):

G. International Studies Advisory Council (Amundson): 07MAR2013

Reviewed without comment.

H. Parking (Wozniak):

I. Safetey Committee:

J. Women & Gender Studies Advisory Committee (Kracl, Campbell): 13MAR2013

Reviewed without comment

VIII. Reports from Academic Councils

A. Graduate Council: 14MAR2013

Reviewed without comment

B. General Studies Council:

C. Council on Undergraduate Education:

D. Student Success Council (Moore, T.):

IX. Old Business

A. Report on Post-tenure review policy: Academic Freedom and Tenure
Information covered during committee report.

B. Report on technology use and needs of faculty related to bookstore procurement: AIT
Information covered during committee report.

C. Updates to the Faculty Senate Constitution
President Mollenkopf opened the floor for senators to report back on any of the feedback they received regarding the proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution, and most notably the means by which Faculty Senators will be selected.

Several senators noted their discussions with members of departments who have not historically sent representatives to the senate. The general sense from most of these discussions is that these departments will be hesitant to send senate representatives in the future based upon scheduling conflicts in the department, faculty who do not live in Kearney, or departmental size. Senator Lewis noted that this may cause COE to lose representation, because departments that have historically sent several reps will only be able to send one and those departments not participating may continue to not participate. Senator Miller added that changing to a department structure may change the culture and get people to be more involved if they know that they are representing their department. That is the hope underscoring this proposal.

The second general discussion point coming from several senators is the perception that the Faculty Senate is ineffectual and is unable to do significant work at the university. This critique was heard by several senators. Senator Taylor added to this point that some of the people that he heard from believe that changes need to be made to the senate to make it more efficient (i.e., limit meetings to 90 minutes, change the start time, etc.), but that many he talked to did not feel that the department representation model was the way to solve the issue. Senator Dimock rebutted this theme to suggest that while the senate is not a policy making body, it is a powerful information conduit, which is one of the reasons why a departmental representation model makes sense to him.

The third general theme centered around the changing culture on campus and the move to a greater emphasis on research and teaching and a de-emphasis on service.

At the conclusion of this discussion Senator Darveau noted that the key issue for the Faculty Senate to decide tonight is whether or not to move forward with the proposal for the departmental representation model as all of the other changes cascade from there. He also noted that a small change needs to be made to define departments as those recognized by the Board of Regents.

**Senator Biggs (Miller) moves to forward on the entire document of revisions to the faculty for review.**

Senator Rogoff referencing lines 94-95 on the marked copy of the document inquired about the intent of this line – should senators represent the interests of their departments or the university as a whole?

Senator Darveau noted that the intent is that senators will be elected from departments, but are still expected to keep the best interests of the university in mind when making decisions. He also noted that as senators we tend to be better at speaking for our departments than for our colleges. Darveau indicated that he would work to clarify the language in that section prior to the public hearing.

**President Mollenkopf calls the question on Senator Biggs’ motion.**

**Motion passes.**
The proposed changes will be read at the public hearing on 4/18 and voted on by the Faculty Senate on 4/25. Outgoing senators are encouraged to speak with incoming senators about these proposed changes.

X. New Business

A. Future initiatives/items for President-elect Trantham to consider

President-elect Trantham expressed his interest in receiving feedback from senators on larger projects to work on over the upcoming year.

Senator Neal suggested that we look for best practices in advising and ways to reward good advisors.

Senator Biggs noted that student life would really like more participation to get faculty involved with the welcome week events. Also, the first year program would like some type of an academic component in the first year program – they would really like some faculty participation. This may be a fruitful avenue for the senate to invest its time.

Senator Miller noted that summer school is a key to helping to improve 4 year graduation rates, but that summer school offerings are being reduced. This reflects a disconnect with the philosophy and goals behind the 120 credit requirements. This issue should be examined.

Senator Taylor noted that he would like to look at things we can do structurally, like developing some principles of shared governance, that might provide people with more of a reason to serve on the Faculty Senate. At present, we do not have shared principles to guide the purposes of the senate.

Senator Darveau stated that many of the discussions of the senate this year have boiled down to a set of basic questions – as full time faculty what are our rights and responsibilities both to students and to one another? This is reflected in office hour discussions, service discussions, and more. Maybe we should look at defining this more closely.

Senator Wozniak added that residency is becoming an issue – how much should a faculty member be on campus? For a premiere residential university, doesn’t that mean that there’s a responsibility for faculty to be on campus? He also noted that we don’t really know what faculty do for service, maybe we should do an inventory, as it might be an eye-opening experience to help us better understand the minimum expectations and requirements for service and how these might differ across colleges.

Senator Amundson stressed that we need to emphasize the responsibility and accountability of students. We keep coming up with more ways to “hold hands”, when we should instead be looking for ways to model responsibility and accountability.

President-elect Trantham wrapped up the discussion and noted that any faculty members who have additional ideas or comments should e-mail him. Also, if you have any ideas about how the Faculty Senate retreat should be structured please e-mail him.

B. Hamster Wheel award – call for nominations
The nomination form is in the packet, please take a look and nominate a senator if you think that he/she is deserving.

XI. General Faculty Comments

Senator Wozniak, in his role as President of UNKEA, encouraged faculty not to sign the new code of conduct document that is being circulated to some faculty members around campus. More needs to be learned about how this was developed and how it will be used, so at this time he cautions faculty to avoid signing the document.

XII. Adjournment

Senator Biggs (Moore) moves to adjourn.

The meeting is adjourned.