UNK FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 2012
Ockinga
Faculty Senate Website: http://www.unk.edu/committees/facultysenate/

I. Call to order
President Mollenkopf called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call 01NOV12
At Large Senators: Present: Davis, Frickel, Wozniak
Absent: none

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

COE Senators: Present: Brown, Kracl, Kritzer, Lewis McKelvey, Mollenkopf, Moore, J.
Absent: none

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

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

Library Senator: Present: Mueller

III. Approval of Agenda
Senator Lewis (Miller) moves to approve the agenda
Agenda approved

IV. Action on Faculty Senate Minutes: 04OCT2012
Senator Mueller (Miller) moves to approve the October Minutes as corrected.
Minutes approved.

V. Special Presentation
- Updates from the Athletic Committee: Scott Unruh (Faculty Athletic Representative)

Unruh noted that in his role as FAR he represents the Chancellor on oversight as required by the NCAA. He serves as the liaison between athletics and the academy and vice versa. Scott also serves on the FS Athletic Committee. Unruh noted that the athletic committee will complete an institutional self-study this year as required by the NCAA every 5 years.
Unruh discussed the main issue that the FS Athletic Committee worked through last spring, which was to help define the standards for the eligibility of athletes based upon academic performance. Previous changes to the undergraduate catalog increased the GPA standard for avoiding academic probation to 2.0 (1.8 was the previous standard). This led to more athletes than usual being placed on academic probation last spring, which produced many questions regarding the eligibility of athletes to compete during the spring term. Some ambiguity existed within the language of the catalog causing confusion regarding the eligibility of athletes who were on academic probation. Unruh and the FS Athletic Committee worked to clarify the standard and defined the words “in good standing” in the current undergraduate catalog. Now the policy establishes a clear requirement that a student-athlete must maintain a 2.0 to remain in good standing with the university and eligible to participate in athletics.

Senator Darveau inquired about who approved the 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 catalog changes? Did academic affairs review this?

Senator Neal noted that the changed did go through academic affairs in 2010.

Senator Frickel noted that it would be helpful to have athletic travel schedules provided earlier and maybe have the schedules posted in a centralized location.

Unruh noted that every year faculty on the FS Athletic committee remind athletics of this issue. Athletic department has improved in communication about absences, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to make faculty aware of absences in a timely fashion.

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

A. Oversight Committee:

Darveau handed out the committee’s report, discussed that charges were given to many of the committees, but noted that there may be more charges to come.

Darveau noted that Scott Frederickson resigned from Senate and announced the need to elect a temporary representative.

**Greg Brown was nominated (Darveau, Miller second)**

Greg Brown elected to serve as temporary replacement.

B. Executive Committee: 17OCT2012

President Mollenkopf reviewed the report included in the November packet. Mollenkopf also relayed that Dr. Bicak selected Noah Rogoff to represent the Faculty Senate on the Graduation Task Force from a list of volunteers provided by the Executive Committee.

Mollenkopf discussed the representatives on the new committee on student travel established by Dean Oravecz.
Senator Wozniak noted that Dean Oravecz has a different definition of what a discipline is, as this is not really a multi-disciplinary team as generally defined by the faculty.

Senator Darveau inquired as to why no faculty members were included on the committee.

C. President’s Report: 28OCT2012

President Mollenkopf reviewed the report. Mollenkopf noted that the Regents are looking to clarify the metrics used to measure graduation rates and will likely have different metrics and goals for the different campuses.

Senator Darveau mentioned that both central administration and the research enterprise at UNK are getting involved with UARC and that UNK will be involved with this initiative.

Senator Miller noted that the Psychology department is naming the new Nikels Lab, not HPERLS.

D. Academic Affairs: 18OCT2012

Reviewed without comment.

E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee:

F. Academic Information and Technology Committee:

G. Artists and Lecturers Committee: 26SEPT2012, 22OCT2012

Senator Trantham noted that it would be nice if in the next set of Artists/Lecturers’ Minutes to see how the money is being distributed this term.

H. Athletic Committee:

I. e-campus Committee: 18OCT2012

Senator Miller inquired as to why two departments were turned down for programs in the Online World Wide (OWW) program, because a concerted effort was not made to collaborate with other campuses - what is meant by a “concerted effort”? Senator Frickel also questioned who gets to determine whether or not a “concerted effort” has been made?

Senator McKelvey noted that the other two campuses were approached and initially agreed to collaborate on the new MAE program in Spanish Education, but the other two institutions backed out. A concerted effort was certainly made in the minds of the faculty at UNK.

Senator Davis noted that it is ultimately the chief academic officer who makes a determination as to whether a program is included in the OWW program. This is a significant issue, because it raises a concern as to the role that academic officers at other campuses have in approving UNK programs. The FS needs to be involved to ensure that transparency exists, so that departments know who is approving/rejecting their proposed programs.

Senator Amundson expressed concern over the issue of “state authorization” for online programs.

Senator Davis noted that the NU system is obligated to meet the requirements of the Midwest Higher Education Compact. Senator Davis encouraged senators to
educate themselves on this compact as it has a number of potential implications for online courses.

Senator Freeman noted that most states have no problem with the NU system offering classes in their state. Freeman noted that the state authorization issue was established by a federal law to help control for-profit universities, but it does have implications for non-profit universities as well.

J. Faculty Welfare Committee: **OCT2012**
Reviewed without comment
K. Grievance Committee:
L. Library Committee:
M. Professional Conduct Committee:
N. Student Affairs Committee:

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): **02OCT2012**
Reviewed without comment
D. Fees Committee (Trantham):
E. Gender Equity Committee:
F. Honors Council (Frickel):
G. International Studies Advisory Council (Amundson): **04OCT2012**
Reviewed without comment
H. Parking (Wozniak):
I. Safety Committee:
J. Women & Gender Studies Advisory Committee (Kracl, Campbell): **10OCT2012**
Reviewed without comment
K. WI/CD Committee (Amundson):

VIII. Reports from Academic Councils
A. Graduate Council: **13SEPT2012**
   Senator Davis inquired as whether or not there be a report coming back from university-wide graduate workshop?
   President Mollenkopf noted that many individuals from UNK would be attending the workshop.
B. General Studies Council:
C. Council on Undergraduate Education:
D. Student Success Council (Moore, T.):

IX. Old Business

A. Office hours report: Faculty Welfare committee (included in minutes)

The report from the Faculty Welfare Committee on office hour requirements was discussed. Many Senators noted the variance in requirements for office hours across campus and a lack of a clear campus-wide standard. Senators discussed the changing nature of office hours and the methods in which students now receive help and information from faculty. Senators also discussed the importance of being available to one’s colleagues and not just students. Senators also reflected on what it means to be a full time faculty in-residence in an era in which many faculty members are teaching online more-and-more. The senate agrees that this is a challenging issue and a discussion in which the FS should take the lead as this issue will arise as the Board of Regents begins work on defining new metrics to measure productivity on the campus.

A general consensus was formed that a standardized, uniform policy for all departments across UNK would not work well given the differing natures of the programs on campus. Senator Miller recommended that the Faculty Welfare Committee be directed to establish a set of principles for office hours and professional responsibility, which can be differentially applied by colleges and departments given the variance in requirements across disparate programs. The Faculty Senate generally agreed with this position. No motion is necessary at this time since the FW Committee has already begun this discussion - we are simply asking them to continue their work in this area.

B. Report on Academic dishonesty: Student Affairs

Senator Dimock reported that the committee met on 10/29 and did discuss both items within the charge. Dimock noted that the committee discussed the main pieces of information that should be on the form that gets filed with Dr. Bicak’s office. The committee also noted that the form would indicate that faculty members reserve the right to levy steeper penalties, if it is discovered that a student has been found guilty of academic dishonesty in previous classes at UNK. The committee plans to have a form ready for the FS to review at the December meeting.

Dimock also noted that the question of where the form will be stored and in what form is being discussed by the committee. The committee feels that it would be optimal to have a web-based form that is stored somewhere within the student information system. Until this is made possible a paper file may be utilized.

C. Report on Incompletes: Student Affairs

Senator Dimock noted that the committee did begin discussion of the topic of incompletes. The committee feels that all incompletes should have a contract as a standard operating procedure with a default length of one year to completion unless otherwise agreed upon by the student and the faculty member.
The FS discussed the issue with debate centering around which policy should be binding – the one year policy (i.e., if not completed within one year it turns into an F) or the agreed upon contract. Faculty agree that the contract should be binding, but there needs to be some clarification made within the process and communicated to administration and the Registrar’s office.

Senator Dimock noted that the committee will work to recommend that faculty can give a grade based on the established contract, not based on the one year policy, provided that both students and faculty agree with a upon timeline to completion. Copies of the agreement should be given the student, the faculty member and the department. Dimock also mentioned that the student senate has been asked to examine this issue as well.

Senators Amundson and Rogoff noted that this policy should be clarified in the catalog or the student handbook to avoid confusion, as the current policy is ambiguous and could be interpreted as allowing students one year to complete the course.

D. Report on Post-tenure review policy: Academic Freedom and Tenure
   The committee met yesterday (10/31) and is planning to work on the issue.

X. New Business
   A. None

XI. General Faculty Comments
   Senator Darveau noted that he would like feedback from faculty members regarding the upcoming negotiation between the UNKEA and the Board of Regents.

   President Mollenkopf announced that the Faculty/Staff club is being hosted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, please stop by from 4:00 – 6:00 on 11/2.

XII. Adjournment –
   Miller (Darveau) motions adjournment.
   Meeting adjourned.