I. Call to order

II. Roll Call: 4DEC2014

At Large Senators: Present: Kelley
Absent: Biggs

CBT Senators: Present: Konecny, Moore, Taylor, Tenkorang
Absent: Porter, Trewin

COE Senators: Present: Gaskill, Hoehner
Absent: Brown, Mims, Moore

CFAH Senators: Present: Burbul, Chavez, Jiang, Rogoff, Van Renen
Absent:

CNSS Senators: Present: Davis, Harms, Jhi, Louishomme, Pattabiraman, Reichart, Sogar, Wozniak
Absent: Hossain, Trantham

Library Senator: Present: Mueller

III. Approval of Agenda

Senator Davis (Mueller) moved to adopt the agenda. The agenda was adopted.

IV. Action on the Faculty Senate Minutes: 4DEC2014

Senator Wozniak (Davis) moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

V. Special Presentations

There were no special presentations.

VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

All reports distributed in VI. Reports of Faculty Non-Senate Committees were approved without discussion.
VII. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

No reports were submitted.

VIII. Reports from Academic Councils

All reports distributed in VIII. Reports from Academic Councils were approved without discussion.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Faculty Welfare [Morale] Survey Update

President Taylor – Results are in and analysis has started. The Executive Committee had a nice meeting with the administration talking about the survey results in preliminary terms—where to distribute it and by what means. What can be improved on campus and how? We ask for your patience as we work at it. We should have results in the near future.

Senator Harms – Is there a timeline?

Parliamentarian Wozniak – Quantitative data has been prepared and will be released on campus. Some comments are problematic due to pointed nature. We want to think through how it will be used and are considering how to do q-sorts on the data. How does it break out in terms of variables? Years of service? We are concerned about not having the data mining looking like a witch hunt. How we ask the questions might imply what we might be looking for. So the timeline is sometime this semester for data.

X. New Business

A. MOOC Ad-Hoc Committee Report

Senator Davis – You have the report. The Committee did a lot of work on it. MOOCs are a moving target. When we started MOOC analysis a year ago, they were the rage. It has moved very fast. It has morphed. The MOOC was initially met with massive anticipation, but the reality of business models has caught up with it. Now we are seeing the demise of MOOCs, but the attention on them has remained. There are countless possibilities that online opens up for creating a wide-ranging pedagogy and a whole environment of students that is really different from face-to-face. This could be an opportunity, a threat, a challenge for faculty. I took the UNMC online health literacy course with 5000 enrolled. It got rave
reviews. Many would say it is not a MOOC. But it proves we have the capacity to bring in large numbers of students. We allow auditing on campus. Online, we have the opportunity to have a class with a large number of students one third of whom pay tuition, one third of whom pay the platform provider, and one third of whom do not pay. Coursera, our MOOC partner, gives certificates. Auditors can come by and see what is going on and check it out. The core of the report is that there was a thing once called MOOCs. It has morphed into the opportunity to expand online education into broader dimensions. It is real right now. As faculty, do you want to become more involved or less involved? We have faculty on this campus who want to teach and Coursera says no at this point. The report addresses these issues.

President Taylor – Are you looking for Senate action here?

Senator Davis – Yes. The Board of Regents creates the Faculty Senate. Faculty Senates are empowered under state law. It is part of a collaboration—the faculty input.

President Taylor – What is the next step?

Senator Davis – There is the question of how does this relate to our current course load. Let’s say your department wants to have a class of 500 students. We have the advantage of the partnership with Coursera to make this happen. Not all systems have this. UNMC is getting involved and is having great success. Do we as a campus want to get involved or not?

Senator Konecny – The cost per course is $50,000 of computing capacity from Amazon Web Services. Are we obligated to make sure it is funded? Where does the funding come from?

Senator Davis – I don’t know. We don’t have a lot of answers because we haven’t done it yet. There would need to be contact with eCampus and the administration.

Senator Reichart – For the course you took, do you know who took it for the certificate versus college credit? As a business, I wouldn’t hire someone who only has the certificate.

Senator Davis – I didn’t see that information. I didn’t seek it. But we could request it. We could ask for the data. The early MOOC model was having huge numbers signing up and dropping out. That model is gone. If we toss the word MOOC away, we see the next evolution of online. Put a course out there and allow three categories to pursue it. It is a frontier. We all need to learn more about it.

Senator Harms – Who does the grading? What is the incentive to the department? With online, we get differential money. What happens here?
Senator Pattabiraman – How different is it from traditional online courses? What kind of student population are we looking at? Is it viable? Should we think about going completely online for large courses?

Senator Davis – You are the person who is going to decide these issues as a member of the UNK faculty. You tell us.

Senator Pattabiraman – It seems to be going too far in the sciences. The extent to which we offer online right now is enough.

Senator Davis – This is the start of the dialogue. The thing is out there. The report says this is a reality and we are on the cusp of it.

Senator Mueller – The Library point of view is covered in the report. We are looking at resources. The Library can’t support 5,000 new students. It is a question of how can we support and provide instruction on the use of instructional materials.

President Taylor – This is an important decision and we need to spend more time considering this.

Senator Harms – If the Senate voted and said no, could the administration say we are going to do this anyway?

President Taylor – Yes. And they have a right to make these decisions.

Senator Davis – I agree. We may want to have a Senate sponsored forum and encourage many people to attend a roundtable chat about what is real and what is in place—the Coursera contract, for example. There are things to take advantage of or not. There could be opportunities to invite departments and individual faculty, also the Deans Council. We must have this dialogue before decisions are made so we have a good sense about what direction we are moving in.

President Taylor – We are here to ask questions. We are not in a hurry. Thanks for the questions and discussion. The Executive Committee is discussing ideas to have forums for discussion on big topics, such as MOOCs. If we can have a turnout of ten to twenty people, that would be great.

_____________________________

The setting of committee meeting times takes a lot of time. I would like to have set meeting times for Faculty Senate committees. This would make everything so much easier to have a time reserved for meetings.
The Student Military Absence Policy has been moved forward by SVCASA Bicak to the Academic Affairs Committee.

I have invited the Chancellor Kristensen to our April meeting. NU President Bounds has expressed interested in attending UNK Faculty Senate this semester.

HR Director Petroski is enthusiastic about the support she has gotten from faculty to participate in the SaVE Act/Title IX Committee. Senators helped get the word out following her presentation. You may still ask her to be involved if you are interested.

Regarding the Board of Regents meeting, I asked to be able to distribute information presented on accountability and performance measures. I have those on the computer if we want to look at them. I can put it on our Blackboard site. Interesting information included that 81% of budgets go towards salary.

Senator Louishomme – What is the average administrator/executive salary?

Senator Taylor – At UNK, our administrator salary is below our peer group average. We are fiscally responsible here. I have been asking for CUPA data to compare to peer institutions. I need a better basis of comparison to answer your question better. VC Johnson was not able to release that information. I talked to her at the Board of Regents meeting and asked if I could escalate it. I talked with NU Provost Fritz about it. We would like to have access to the data to see the story it tells. We all want the same thing: for people to be paid fairly. Provost Fritz was surprised to find out we didn’t have access to the data. She had no specific objection to us gaining access. She referred me to the head of human resources for the NU system. I am still pursuing it and trying to get an answer. I would like to see the data or a good reason for not being able to see it.

The Board of Regents discussed the four year guarantee. Some students don’t know about it and Regent Hawks thought this was a travesty.

March 3 is the Appropriations Committee meeting.

There is a new web site at transfer.nebraska.edu where students can look at courses and see how they would transfer in.

Senator Tami Moore – How does this work—are we in control of the curriculum?

President-Elect Kelley – The chairs get the information and make the judgment. This goes through the departments.

Senator Harms – My guess is that if there is an articulation agreement, it appears here.
President Taylor – We can look into it further.

XI. General Faculty Comments

Senator Mueller – The Library Collection Development Committee works to develop the collections that the Library is responsible for. When a new course or program is considered, is there a means of communicating this to the Library so that they will be able to support that course or program? I haven’t found this to the be case at UNK. We recently heard there was a major in Astronomy. Does the Library have the materials to support this? We are here to help and serve and cannot do so if we don’t know about it. Please submit your requests for materials. We are not getting the volume of orders we are accustomed to seeing and would like to help ensure you have the items you need for your teaching and research.

Parliamentarian Wozniak – Rochelle Krueger is the Library representative on the Academic Affairs Committee, which could handle this issue with a change to their forms.

Senator Mueller – Other institutions have a line on the forms where the dean of the library signs off on it.

Senator Louishomme – The Ethnic Studies Program is hosting a presentation by Dr. Grace Hale (University of Virginia) titled “Making Whiteness” on March 9 at 7 PM in the NSU Ponderosa Room. It will be well-publicized and is a public event.


Secretary Rogoff – I was asked to present a concern that a faculty member felt pressured by Athletics to make presentations to athletes during non-normal working hours.

Senator Konecny – Our department was asked and if you don’t want to do it, say no. Athletics has been pretty good. If you can’t do it, don’t.

Senator Reichart – Dusty Newton asked for “volunteers” [quote from the correspondence] on Saturdays and on the MLK holiday.

Senator Davis – I suggest we have a Faculty Senate sponsored forum on academic citizenship. There are some in the administration who have a visual sense that part of academic citizenship is that you are in your office, your door is open, and you are available. From a faculty point of view, just because we are not here does not mean we aren’t doing our work or aren’t engaged. It might be an opportunity to use the forum to chat about
academic citizenship, office hours and honest expectations. What is appropriate here? If we chatted about some of these things, we can demonstrate to the administration that we understand their concerns and may allay them by articulating what faculty are about, particularly as we do more work online.

Senator Harms – Our department faculty handbook was changed regarding rank and tenure and other policies. These revisions have sat in SVCASA Bicak’s office for almost two years. It is not fair to faculty. The deans have been asking for updates. He hasn’t given them a good response. I would ask the Executive Committee to address this issue with the administration.

Parliamentarian Wozniak – The next step in the approval of the department guidelines is for the UNKEA Executive Committee to meet and deliberate on the changes. If there are any questions regarding rank and tenure, you would need to go with the College-level policies. You may use the old guidelines if they are more strict.

Sigma Xi is hosting Faculty-Staff Club tomorrow, Friday, April 6.

XI. Adjournment

Secretary Rogoff (Sogar) moved for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah Rogoff

Secretary