UNK FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
October 2, 2014
Ockinga Auditorium

Faculty Senate Website: http://www.unk.edu/committees/faculty_senate/index.php

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call: 4SEP2014

At Large Senators: Present: Kelley
Absent: Biggs

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

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

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

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

Library Senator: Present: Mueller

III. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved. A Consent Agenda was distributed and followed as noted below.

Past President Trantham (Chavez) moved that minutes of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee [VI.E] be moved to the Discussion Agenda. This change was made.

IV. Action on the Faculty Senate Minutes: 4SEP2014

Senator Davis (Trewin) moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

V. Special Presentations

In deference to the Senate’s guest, Parish presented first.

B. Lisa Reese Parish – Executive Director, United Way of the Kearney Area

Ms. Parish – The mission of this presentation is to preview information coming out on campus. Your help encourages others on campus to support the campaign. The United Way in Kearney has been established for fifty years. UNK has supported those in need in the community. The Kearney area includes six counties, and we would like to see everyone have access to good education and a sufficient income to support a stable and healthy
lifestyle. Kyle Means (UNK Director of Marketing) is one of two chairs (Josh Jelden being the other) for the UNK drive.

Kyle Means – UNK Director of Marketing

Mr. Means – We are working develop a new brand and identity for UNK that shows we care for one another in the UNK community. There is a great sense of togetherness on campus. There are 20 agencies associated with United Way of the Kearney Area, and 99% of donations stay in this market and region. There is a sense of urgency: people are out there who are in need of help. There is no better time than right now to give back. Thank you for letting us come and visit.

Ms. Parish – We have a pledge card. Please consider making a gift—payroll deduction is an option. We have a new giver drawing for an iPad mini for donations of $25 or more. For $52 or more, there is a drawing for a table for ten at the Younes Conference Center New Year’s Eve. For $125 or more, there is drawing for a trip to Nashville. We give to make change in people’s lives. Drawings will be in December to reward those generous people. The campaign goal is $540,000, and the local office number is (308) 237-6840.

[Video was played featuring local agencies and people impacted by the United Way of the Kearney Area]

President Taylor – UNK personnel could be more generous supporting the United Way. It is a non-partisan charity with no political agenda. Please consider helping.

Senator Reichart – I am glad to hear that 99% of donations support the Kearney region.

Ms. Parish – Our region has 3% unemployment but 16% poverty rate. It is a paradox.

B. Scott Unruh – Faculty Athletic Representative

Professor Unruh – I appreciate this opportunity to address the Senate. This is my ninth year as the Faculty Athletics Representative [FAR]. The role of the FAR is different on every campus. I answer to the Chancellor on matters relating to faculty and athletics. I represent the faculty, and at other time I represent athletics. As FAR I am a voting member in the MIAA Conference. We are a voice protective of student time and missed class time. What are we doing to notify faculty of absences? We have been more proactive having coaches speak with players about speaking with faculty. As an example, about 70% of faculty participated in helping our baseball team with an unusual ten day absence by using technology. Coaches and athletics are trying to do their best. I talked with SVCASA Bicak about what an excused absence means [the “Student Attendance Policy Statement” was distributed]. Over the last three years, we have over 100 new faculty. Many times faculty are supportive when I discuss the issue of absences. I try to help students solve
problems with faculty members. What is an “excused absence?” Every student that is involved in official UNK business is excused and they cannot be treated in a prejudicial fashion. We can work out about 90% of cases related to athlete absences.

Senator Brown – There is a lot of variability from one team to the next. Some coaches are great about taking care of this. Other coaches submit this info on travel the day before. Sometimes it is submitted by students only. Is there a unified policy coaches are supposed to follow?

Professor Unruh – Many teams do things ahead of time. We are trying to work a week out. There are situations like injuries where new players are coming onto the roster. In 99.9% of cases, coaches make a letter to inform faculty. If this doesn’t happen, then I think the athlete has a problem. For situations where the bus leaves at 4 PM but the student says they need to be gone from a 1 PM class, there a situations were a team wants to practice. This is a conversation they have a right to have. But if there is a project/test in class that day, they need to do it on that day.

President Taylor – The day before the event, the athlete is notified. I faced one of these situations where the coach said the student had to be excused. Athletic Director Jon McBride upheld my decision on this. He knew he would get a zero if he missed that class.

Senator Porter – I have a major problem with getting letters the day before. We had a situation where the team traveled during Dead Week and missed something that had been assigned for four weeks.

Professor Unruh – Coaches are told that they must take care of this. It was an unusual situation with the Dead Week travel schedule. But I met with Women’s Basketball to discuss these issues.

Senator Konecny – What about travel during Finals Week? Is there a policy on this?

Professor Unruh – For conference tournaments, this can be a problem. This goes to what options the conference has. Typically we encounter a back-end of Dead Week travel schedule, but this will be avoided at all costs.

Senator Tami Moore – Attendance by athletes has been great this semester, but one sport’s team members aren’t doing any assignments. It is not enough just to be there.

Senator Pattabiraman – I am lenient with my students. Other than excusing them from missed classes, do I have any other responsibility to them? Do I need to make sure they are instructed on the material they have missed?
Professor Unruh – Students are responsible for notes and the materials. If you have a video portion, could they watch it later? Could they FaceTime in? If they can work with you, it is a positive thing. It’s about how you deal with that. It is up to you.

President Taylor – Thanks for your presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA
VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees
   A. Oversight Committee: **23SEP14**
   D. Academic Affairs: **18SEP14**
   O. Mooc Ad-Hoc Committee: **8SEP14**

VII. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees
   G. International Studies Advisory Council: **18SEP14**
   L. World Affairs Conference Committee: **28AUG14**

VIII. Reports from Academic Councils
   A. Graduate Council: **11SEP14**
   B. General Studies Council: **3APR14, 24APR14, 4SEP14**

DISCUSSION AGENDA
VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees
   E. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: **19SEP14**

President Taylor – There was something in the minutes that looked like it needed Faculty Senate to act upon—the question of when committee assignments begin and end?

Parliamentarian Wozniak – The issue came when a Senate representative on the AFT Committee was voted off Senate. The term continues until the October meeting of the Senate. We can make it a procedural point that the term goes from October to following October unless you leave UNK or formally resign. The Executive Committee will call the first meetings of the standing committees, and this is among the points to stress upon convening the committees.

Past President Trantham – I believe the procedural point is sufficient on this.

IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business
   A. Senate Committee Elections

Parliamentarian Wozniak – Please see the updated list of Senators [copies distributed] and bring any issues to me. The positions with names in red need to be elected tonight.
President-Elect Kelley – Student representation is in process. Contact me when the first meeting of your committee is decided. Student Senate wants to know when the first meeting so they can arrange for representation. Please keep me informed.

Academic Affairs Committee (Senator to replace Senator Barry) – Senator Chavez is nominated. Trantham (Trewin) moves that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Chavez.

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (Replacements for Senators Kritzer, David, and Jan Moore) – Senator Davis nominated Senator Mims. Senator Jan Moore nominated herself. Senator Trewin nominated herself. This slate to fill the vacant seats on AFT was approved.

Athletic Committee – (One female and two male vacancies) – Parliamentarian Wozniak reported that Lecturer Terese Sheridan, Senator Chavez, and Professor Duane Bierman nominate themselves. Trantham (Trewin) moves that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate.

eCampus Committee – (Seat of Senator Davis) – Senator Davis nominated himself. Trantham (Trewin) moves that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Senator Davis.

Food Service – (Three faculty nominees) – Senator Davis nominated himself. Senator Chavez nominated himself. These names will be put forward.

B. Resolution: Modifications to the University of Nebraska Health Care Benefit

Senator Harms (Chavez) moved to approve the resolution.

Senator Harms – We don’t have medical coverage in Kearney or Grand Island for health care through Blue Cross/Blue Shield. There is an expectation that we have this. I had been asked to write a resolution stating our concern on this issue. I am totally open to ideas or watering it down. One example is digital mammography. I want to make sure I can get that screening instead of driving to Hastings or Holdrege. There are many other services that are not available to us.

Senator Davis – Any resolution has its shortcomings in terms of the two big players, CHI and BCBS. Voice is really important here. It is significant to put a voice out there that this is something significant to us saying that something should be done if it can be done.

The motion to approve the resolution carries, with minor tweaks not affecting the meaning possible as the resolution moves to the administrative level.

XI. General Faculty Comments

President Taylor – From discussions I have had at Board of Regents meetings with other Faculty Senate people across the system, the topic of Blackboard is coming up. Our Academic Information Technology Committee is handling a Request for Information. The Senate Presidents don’t want us to do a resolution on this matter at this time. We know we have a big investment in Blackboard. We don’t want to give Blackboard more negotiating power. Let negotiations proceed.

Interim NU President James Linder will be visiting UNK on Monday, October 13. He presents in this room at 4 PM. The event will be hosted by Faculty Senate along with Student Senate with a reception afterwards. Questions you would like to be addressed may be forwarded to him.
Faculty-Staff Club on Friday, October 3, will be hosted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Senator Konecny – Advising is coming up soon. I have had a longing question. The policy on registration, that students need to register based on their student ID number. They are given goofy time slots. We don’t limit MyBlue or email based on this, so the system has the bandwidth. Are there any ideas why this is still done?

President Taylor – This is something the Academic Information Technology Committee can inquire about.

Senator Davis – Regarding the Blackboard issue, we understand that the contract is coming to renegotiation. There are numerous campuses that have migrated off of Blackboard. We can investigate the issues here independently or we can have AIT review case studies of other campuses and look at what we can learn for when that time comes. It might be a good idea for AIT to do this.

Senator Taylor – I will see that this suggestion is forwarded. I have heard of issues with the Campus Bookstore, and its manager would be interested in hearing about any issues you have experienced.

Senator Davis – We are sending out a note inquiring about faculty involvement and interest in MOOC offerings. A proposal may follow by the end of the semester.

Senator Harms – Is there any update on the Faculty Morale Survey?

Senator Wozniak – There is a meeting next week to finalize this after having shown it to SVCASA Bicak.

XI. Adjournment

Past President Trantham (Jan Moore) moved adjournment. The meeting adjourned at about 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah Rogoff

Secretary