UNK FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2016
Ockinga Conference Room
Faculty Senate Website: http://www.unk.edu/committees/faculty_senate/index.php

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call: 7APR2016

At Large Senators: Present: Kelley, Trantham

CBT Senators: Present: Porter, Taylor
Absent: Konecny (proxy: Palmer), Tami Moore, Tenkorang, Trewin

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

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

CNSS Senators: Present: Davis, Weiss, Louishomme, Pattabiraman, Reichart, Strain, Wulf-Ludden, Dillon
Absent: Harms (proxy: Alavi), Powell, Sogar (proxy: Malczyk)

Library Senator: Present: Mueller

III. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Rogoff (Louishomme). Agenda approved

IV. Action on the Faculty Senate Minutes: 07APR16
Sen. Reichart asked that it be noted that she had Carmen Panaitof serve as proxy when she was absent at the last meeting. Senator Louishomme (Rogoff) moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The minutes were approved.

V. Special Presentation – Interim VC Jane Sheldon and Lee McQueen on the State of the Campus
University Village – Infrastructure in place (Sewer, etc.) Paving will begin next. Next phase will develop median on Highway 30. The first footprint will be new housing to replace University Heights. Bids have been advertised and will be reviewed the end of this month. Discussion on new buildings to replace Otto Olson have begun. They are in the process of completing the next
10 year plan for the campus. Plans are available on the Facilities website. The landscape master plan is also available.

Pres. Kelley asked about 9th Avenue being closed at Highway 30. Mr. McQueen responded about the plans for the curve have been in the past and where it is now. Currently, turning left onto Highway 30 would not be allowed.

Working on consistent interior signage throughout campus. Other work includes deferred maintenance. ADA modification for restrooms in the West Center is under way. Some work in the residence halls, student union, and lighting with LED throughout campus.

Sen. Davis asked about restroom signage and LGBT issues. Mr. McQueen said it is being discussed on this campus. One of the discussions is the actual wordage on the restrooms. Also there will be an inventory done on where there are only two restrooms and the need for a third. Sen. Davis also asked if the Health Holiday Funds will be used for these projects. VC Sheldon said yes, they will.

Sen. Louishomme asked for more details on the Otto Olson project. He wanted to know how much was asked for the project, how much did we get, where will the new building be placed, etc. Mr. McQueen replied that it is too early for details at this time. Sen. Pattabiraman asked how much emphasis is put on energy efficiency when building new buildings. Mr. McQueen replied that the Regents asked us to follow LEED standards, so we are LEED certifiable. Sen. Pattabiraman asked if we will see any solar panels or any more modern aspects in new buildings. Mr. McQueen talked about having a heat pump system. Sen. Porter asked if the process for the building is Design-Bid-Build. Mr. McQueen answered that yes we do use that process. Sen. Porter asked if there will there 100% DDs by the end of the month. Mr. McQueen said they have the plans, 100% DDs now. Sen. Porter also asked about demolition of the University Heights buildings or are there plans to sell that building. Mr. McQueen said we do not have demolition of University Heights tied to the building of the new space. We have no plans at the moment for the old University Heights.

VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

B. Executive Committee: No minutes were available due to the short time span since the meeting with the Administration.

C. President’s Report: 30MAR16 – Pres. Kelley expanded briefly on his minutes. Kelly Bartling reported on the use of logos and that the logo is for the campus to use. If you have any questions please contact her.
D. Academic Affairs: 17MAR16 — no comments

H. Athletic Committee: 4DEC15, 26FEB16 – Sen. Rogoff asked if there is any action items in this. Pres. Kelly said he didn’t see anything. Sen. Reichart reported that in the second set of minutes that Scott Unruh will be speaking to VC Bicak before any recommendations go forward.

I. E-Campus Committee: 14MAR16 – no comments

J. Faculty Welfare Committee: 26MAR16 – Pres. Kelley said that it’s not really a recommendation but rather a sentiment. Sen. Davis questioned the format of the minutes and wondered who was on the committee. Pres. Kelley said that it was originally to be a part of his report. He then recited who was on the committee. George Lawson, Jeff Kritzer, Ron Wirtz, Dave Palmer, Jeremy Dillon, Daryl Kelley, and Kim Carlson. He then called for a motion to endorse this report. Sen. May (Chavez) moved to endorse. The motion passed.

N. Student Affairs Committee: 29FEB16 – Sen. Rogoff talked about the finals week policy in the minutes. There is a proposal to change the policy. He called for a motion to accept these changes. Sen. Trantham moved and Sen. Davis seconded it for discussion purposes. Sen. Davis then went on to suggest that since this involved a time shift for getting this information out that it be taken back to the departments for discussion. Sen. Trantham didn’t think it was necessary to do that. We are professionals and we will have our syllabuses ready by the second week of classes already. Sen. Porter spoke up and said he would have a problem with this because his program is project based and he can’t always know when it will end or even if they will get the information to them in timely manner like the VA Hospital project. Sen. Davis didn’t see it really as a syllabus issue as much as a change from the eighth week to the second week. It would lock down the plans for the semester too early. Sen. Reichart says that the details don’t need to be in the syllabus but rather that there is a project to be completed by the end of the semester. She said she didn’t understand why it would be such an issue. Sen. Rogoff said perhaps we need more time to digest this issue. It only applies to projects that are due the last week of classes. The main focus of this policy is that not all faculty provide syllabi and he emphasized that none of the senators would be in this category. However, students are frustrated that the current policy is not being followed and would rather like to see improved communication to benefit the students understanding of their responsibilities earlier rather than later. The committee would like to see better communication about the existing policy and improve finals week for the students. Sen. Reichart said it sounded like we need to make sure the faculty are doing their jobs in getting the syllabi out rather than changing the policy. Sen. J. Moore had some concerns with the concept.
of finals week. She felt that it’s archaic. She teaches online and so some of the policy doesn’t
even apply to her class. Sen. Rogoff asked which part of the policy she is referring to and she said
it’s the part that says we have to meet physically with the students during finals week. Sen.
Brown says that we have students complaining about dead week. He said that dead week doesn’t
exist. Sen. Louishomme said it sounds like some faculty aren’t telling students what is expected
by finals week. Sen. Trantham called the question. Sen. Rogoff then asked to act as
parliamentarian. He stated that we need a supermajority to approve calling the question. Pres.
Kelley then asked the senate who is in favor of calling the question. Calling the question failed.
Sen. Davis suggested a friendly amendment to table the discussion to the next senate meeting.
There was then a vote to table the motion until the next meeting. The motion to table the motion
to the next meeting was passed.

All reports distributed in VI. Reports from Faculty Senate Standing Committees were
approved.

VII. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees

A. International Studies Advisory Council: 10MAR16 – no comments

B. Women’s & Gender Studies Advisory Council: 16SEP15, 21OCT15, 20JAN16, 17FEB16
– no comments

C. World Affairs Conference Committee: 17MAR16 – no comments

All reports distributed in VII. Reports of Senate Representatives to Non-Senate Committees
were approved.

VIII. Reports from Academic Councils

A. General Studies Council: 3MAR16 – no comments

All reports distributed in VIII. Reports from Academic Councils were approved.

IX. Unfinished Business – Professor of Practice – Pres. Kelley asked the senate to address the
issues the senate should address concerning this item. Previously in earlier meetings there seemed
to be some division on this. He asked for specific things to address, if any. Sen. Davis said if we
have these new faculty positions (Professor of Practice and Professor of Research) on campus
should have no tenure or rank. Ranking would require assessment and additional things that are
not really needed. He suggested that a dialogue be opened between the UNKEA and the Faculty
Welfare committee about this. Pres. Kelley reminded everyone that both the Professor of Practice
and the Professor of Research were mentioned in the Strategic Plan. Sen. Rogoff thought that the
issue of ranking was interesting because UNL does have ranks for this type of position. If we
don’t want this it should be clearly articulated. Pres. Kelley was asked to bring up the possibility
that the position not be renewable. That if it is a 5 year contract that it can’t be renewed. Sen.
Trantham said that if you have a good person in place you should be able to renew them and if
you don’t, you don’t have to renew it. Sen. J. Moore stated that knowing that a contract is a
specific time frame it could allow for commitments of funding. Sen. Alavi didn’t think that if the
contract was only renewed for one year you aren’t going to get people to come for short-term
contracts, unless they are retired and living in the community. Sen. Dillon asked if there is any
language that indicates who could request this position. Would it be the dean, department chair or
who? Sen. Davis responded that we are fortunate to have the UNKEA on our campus which will
create the document that will be the guiding document for this position. Between the welfare
committee and the UNKEA a document could be created that will spell out what we would like to
see in this position. **Pres. Kelley stated that Sen. Davis has made the suggestion that the two
groups get together and have a discussion about this. Do the rest of you see this as
something that Sen. Dillon and the UNKEA executive committee should setup? There was a
general consensus this should happen.** Sen. Rogoff asked to have laid out exactly what is being
expected to be met by the creation of this position and why it isn’t being met by what we have to
offer on this campus. Maybe this is obvious to those requesting it, but it isn’t obvious to me. Pres.
Kelley said he would be talking with Janet Steele, Grace Mims and Jan Moore as to exactly what
they are looking for in this position. Sen. Reichart was under the impression that such a document
was created that outlines the need and expectations of this position. Pres. Kelley said that may be
so, but he said that document has not come to Faculty Senate. Sen. Reichart asked if the union
had received this document. Sen. Davis responded that the union had heard that there was need in
the Biology department for this type of position, so they looked around to see what they could
find on this and found that UNL had this type of position. It has been looked at and discussed at
the administrative level, at that department and at the union, but nothing more. Pres. Kelley
clarified that the only document the FS Executive committee has seen is the one that came from
the Deans Council. Sen. Reichart said she will look to see if she had the document she was
referring to in her laptop. Sen. May asked if UNL has a document to define what this position is.
Sen. Davis responded by saying that the Board of Regents have a document that provides for the
creation of a Professor of Practice and a Professor of Research for the UNL campus only. They
left it up to the campus to define the particular of those ranks. UNL defined that there would be
ranks and that the positions could be renewed. However, the positions would not be tenured. We
are fortunate that we can define our positions our way to suit our needs. Sen. Hoehner said that
we have way more students than we can handle and a professor of practice would help us a great deal. Sen. Reichart said her department is searching for a Professor of Practice. Sen. Davis cautioned her about this because he wasn’t aware of the Board of Regents approving a professor of practice for the system or for this campus. This could be very complicated and in violation of the Board of Regents ruling. Pres. Kelley wanted to move on to the next agenda item.

X.  **New Business - Strategic Plan**  – Pres. Kelley said that Sen. Davis had responded in writing. Sen. Strain shared her document with her department and Prof. Wozniak sent his thoughts in writing as well. Sen. Brown thanked Sen. Davis for his comments. He said he is very opposed to any assessment of advising. Pres. Kelley asked if any departments assessing advising now. Sen. Porter responded that he supports Sen. Brown and told of his experience with advising a student on a course that he understood was being offered and then found out it wasn’t and he had to readvise the student. Sen. Mims said at the graduate level that assessment of advising is in the exit interview. Sen. Trantham said he is totally against it. Sen. Davis said that experiential learning will begin and be implemented by the EL committee. He wanted to know if anyone is on this committee. Sen. Mims was on this section on the strategic planning and said that this was suggested by her group. Sen. Davis asked if this committee has been formed. Sen. Mims said she didn’t know if it had or not. Pres. Kelley had a conversation with Neal Schnoor and he indicated that courses are already in place that would address this. Sen. Davis interrupted and asked if there was an EL committee and if the administration had put in place a mechanism to create this committee. Pres. Kelley said he would look into it. Sen. Mims thought the formation of the committee is waiting until the strategic plan is approved. Sen. Malczyk said that the department of social work generally thought this was OK but wondered what was meant by “premier”. Pres. Kelley asked if any members of the strategic planning groups could address this. He went on to state the plan is more thematic than in the past and that certain ideas repeat themselves throughout the document like collaboration. Sen. Davis spoke to 3A on “professionalism”. We really should keep an on eye on this and how are supervisors going to judge this. Pres. Kelley asked the group how they would define professionalism. Sen. Mims spoke up and said that it means displaying a professional demeanor. Sen. Louishomme spoke up and gave an example of what professionalism isn’t. Sen. Alavi referred to page one and the mention of competency of technology. However no mention of how we measure it. Sen. Porter gave an example of software that they would like to show the students, but we don’t have the power to run at full strength, so we can only show them
an outline of what the software is capable of. How is that competency of technology? Sen. Alavi felt that the students aren’t being served well by this. Sen. Palmer suggested that in a strategic plan it would be difficult to quantify that. The needs for Accounting and ITech are different. It should be taken to a lower level like a department to determine how to measure that. Sen. Alavi said that there wasn’t anything about measuring in the plan. Sen. Brown under 3C. is a good idea, but some accreditng bodies may require a specific number of students in a class which than puts pressure in a department to have parity. Pres. Kelley said that all comments can be sent directly to the strategic planning committee, but these comments gets the Faculty Senate on board with its comments. These will be picked up in the fall when the plan is reviewed for a final time.

XI. General Faculty Comments – no comments

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mueller, Secretary