Center for Teaching Excellence Committee  
Minutes of the December 10, 2007 Meeting  
Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room

Present: Chair Jeanne Butler, April Becker (GA), Karin Covalt, Roger Davis, John Falconer, Susan Honeyman, John Lillis, Julie Shaffer, Trecia Markes,

Absent: Miechelle McKelvey, Mary Rittenhouse,

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Jeanne Butler called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. in Founders Hall 1000, Warner Conference Room, on the above date.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports for Fall 2007 –

a. Event attendance

Members received a handout with attendance numbers for the six Fall CTE events. The number of attendees for Fall 2007 has exceeded the numbers from last year, and we will work to continue that trend.

Butler focused on the CTE presentation of December 5 where Brandon Benitz, Assistant to the Dean of Student Life, addressed “Coping with Misconduct in the College Classroom” UNK has changed their strategy with regard to expectations of and rules for classroom conduct. Faculty members don’t know what they can do and where to go with problems. Faculty have the right and should explain classroom conduct rules to their students. If problems arise, they should document the situation; and if problems persist, they should alert Mr. Benitz so that further measures may be initiated.

Committee member Lillis advised that Faculty Senate is working with Student Life to draft an administrative withdrawal policy that can be utilized for removing troubled students from classes or the institution in a fair and efficient manner through a well-established process.

b. Faculty funding

A breakdown of the travel funding awarded in Fall 2007 totals $5,500, i.e., $1000 for B&T; $1500 for FAH; and $3000 for NSS. All of this funding is for conference-related expenses, with no research grants requested. Much of the funding is already spoken for, so faculty are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible.
III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Spring 2008 focus on Student Engagement - Calendar of Events
   As a result of the NSSE data, all of the CTE events during Spring 2008 will focus on student engagement. The first event of the spring semester is "Engaging Students through Undergraduate Research". Each of the four UNK faculty who are presenting will invite students who have collaborated with them on a research project. They will discuss how they use undergraduate research in the classroom and the students will share what they have learned from the experience. This will provide student perceptions of these opportunities.

   The February 13th “Using the American Democracy Project to Build the Next Generation of Leaders” will feature a speaker from Ft. Hays, Dr. Chapman Rackaway, director of the American Democracy Project at the university.

   March 5 will highlight UNK faculty involved with student engagement through service learning.

   February 25, March 27 and April 16 will provide topics that are particularly relevant to new faculty, addressing how to effectively teach large classes, collaborative team uses both in and outside of class, and using assessment to engage students.

b. Student Engagement events for Fall 2008 and Conference 2009
   Fall 2008: CTE events will focus on specific strategies that can be used in the classroom in increase student engagement including class discussion, group interactions, and other techniques that rely less on lecture and more on interaction with students.

   NSSE has benchmarks for freshmen. We would like to improve those scores. Dr. Murray and Dr. Butler B will target areas and identify ways to raise the scores in those areas at UNK.

   If a new GS program is put in place, there will be a need for faculty training, and CTE will focus on presenting that information to faculty in 2008, even though the GS program would not start before 2009-2010.

   PUI Conf – April 09 – OSP and CTE will sponsor a Regional Student Engagement Conference in April 2009. Butler will participate in a Student Engagement Conference at Murray State on February 27-29, 2008. She invited other committee members to attend with her. John Mateja, who spoke at a CTE event here this fall will be one of the speakers. Butler will network to get speakers and ideas for the Spring 2009 Conference.

c. Next meeting will be held in February. A date will be set after the first of the year.