Center for Teaching Excellence Committee
Minutes of the October 13, 2008, 2008 Meeting
Founders Hall 2147, Academic Affairs Conference Room

Present: Chair Jeanne Butler, Sharon Campbell, Karin Covalt, John Falconer, Liubov Kreminska, John Lillis, Miechelle McKelvey, Mary Rittenhouse

Absent: April Becker (GA), Roger Davis

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Jeanne Butler called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. on October 13, 2008, 2008, in Founders Hall 2147, the Academic Affairs Conference Room.

She introduced the two new members to the Committee: Sharon Campbell, Music and Performing Arts; and Liubov Kreminska, Physics & Physical Science. The Committee is still waiting for the name of the new Faculty Senate representative.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Director Butler distributed information on attendance totals for Spring 2008 CTE events as well as a list of events CTE will sponsor in Fall 2008 semester. She thanked all committee members for attending and supporting CTE events, with particular thanks to those members who were participants in CTE presentations. A list of the names of new UNK faculty and their departments was also included for the information of the committee members.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Cuts for AY 2008-09:
The Center for Teaching Excellence was had $5,000 cut from the Operations portion of the budget. Even though the cuts are significant, no funds were cut from faculty stipends and funds for presentations.

b. CTE Future as Related to Other Budget Cuts
The Office of Assessment was cut $10,000. This resulted in eliminating the position of Coordinator of Assessment. Since this leaves Dr. Butler as the only assessment person and she is half-time, she is considering relinquishing the directorship of CTE and becoming Director of Assessment full-time effective in Fall 2009. If this is done, there will be a search for a new Director of CTE in Spring 2009.
c. Assignments for AY 2008-09
At Director Butler’s request, committee members suggested a diverse list of ideas for CTE programs for the future. Ideas included: WI/CD; teaching large classes and web-based classes; undergraduate research; faculty counseling and boundaries associated with students; fostering interest in graduate school; and “Women in Science”

Falconer has done work with EPSCOR and thought they may help with funding for something like “Women in Science”. He will check into that possibility.

Campbell suggested that a presentation addressing several areas where women are underrepresented could arouse more interest, i.e. NSS, FAH and B&T (particularly agri-business in B&T)

Rittenhouse felt that the international exposure of students would be a timely topic to relate to business. Butler suggested the International Education office might be involved.

McKelvey would like to see sharing of creative assessment ideas, particularly in large classes.

Lillis thought Pratt-Heins winners from each college could present individually or as a panel, giving new faculty some good ideas.

Butler further asked for volunteer committee members to contribute articles that could be used in the CTE newsletter this fall, winter and spring. Rittenhouse will contact Suzanne Hays or Susan Jensen for the winter contribution in Jan-Feb. Campbell volunteered for Spring 2009.

IV. OTHER

A Spring Conference rotates around the UN campuses to expose and explore differences in research at the undergraduate level between chapters and institutions. Falconer reminded the Committee that UNK is hosting this year. “Scholarship of Engagement” is the theme for UNK’s Spring Conference which will be held Friday, March 6, 2009, in the Nebraskan Student Union. All are encouraged to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m. There will not be a November meeting, so the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2008, at 3 p.m.