No Board of Regents meeting held since last Senate meeting.

The next BOR meeting is March 9, 2007 with a campus visit to UNK planned for March 30, 2007.

Actions taken on behalf of the Senate:

The following letter was sent to the members of the Student Affairs Committee:

Dear members of the Faculty Senate Student Affairs committee:

It has come to my attention that the Student Affairs committee has engaged in a discussion whether or not they feel it appropriate for the committee to follow the charge given it by the Faculty Senate to coordinate the initial stages of an American Democracy Project program at UNK and forwarded the following resolution:

The Student Affairs committee fully supports the establishment of a UNK chapter of the American Democracy Project and believes student participation in its formation and oversight is essential for its success. However, the Student Affairs committee does not believe it is the appropriate committee to coordinate the initial stages of this project. It recommends the establishment of an ad hoc committee of faculty, students and other interested parties to best serve ADP. It further recommends that the Student Senate and the General Studies Council be involved in the establishment of this ad hoc committee.

There are a few facts that I feel are appropriate to bring to your attention:

1. The Faculty Senate Bylaws state the following:

   **ARTICLE VII – FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES: Responsibilities and Composition**
   
   The Faculty Senate Standing Committees function as an important part of the shared governance at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and provide the Faculty Senate with information relative to their charges. These committees shall perform the charges stated below and any additional charges assigned by the Faculty Senate. (emphasis mine)
   
   Article VII.M. Student Affairs Committee
   
   Acts with respect to matters of general concern relating to student affairs, especially with regard to areas of joint student/faculty concern. (emphasis mine)
   
   COMPOSITION: Chief Student Affairs Officer, one dean selected by the Dean’s Council, one faculty member from each undergraduate college and the Library, and five students with majors in different fields selected by the Student Senate. Total: 12 members.

2. The Faculty Senate has already endorsed the American Democracy Project for UNK and has chosen the Faculty Senate Student Affairs committee to handle the initial stages only of engaging in the project. The Senate's charge to the committee was not to consider whether it should be done or whether the Student Affairs Committee should do it. The Senate's charge to the committee was to coordinate the initial steps including the campus audit. The exact charge to the committee was:

   The Faculty Senate charges the Student Affairs Committee with coordinating the initial stages of engaging in ADP according to the Tentative Schedule on Page 1 of the Appendix attached. (shown below and entire proposal and charge attached as a file.)

   **Tentative Schedule for ADP:**
   1. Faculty Senate Resolution of support (completed)
   2. SVCAA and faculty representatives tender membership
   3. Campus audit initiated (I will make sure this gets done, if need be)
   4. Attendance at ADP conference, including at least one Faculty Senate representative and one GS Council representative.
   5. Campus plan submitted for approval (to Faculty Senate and SVCAA, in that order).

3. The Faculty Senate Student Affairs committee already has faculty, administrative and student (selected by Student Senate) representation.

4. The current campus climate is one of committee overload. The creation of a new committee to handle issues that fall within the responsibility of an existing committee is not an effective use of faculty, student or staff time and resources. For these reasons, the Faculty Senate considered and rejected at its original meeting the formation of an ad hoc committee in favor of using the FS Student Affairs Committee.
I would encourage the members of the Student Affairs Committee to consider these facts and reconsider its refusal of the work assigned it by the Faculty Senate. The ADP project is a worthy undertaking, already endorsed by the Faculty Senate, and a project for which the Student Affairs committee is positioned both by membership and mission to undertake.

If you would like to discuss the matter in person, I would be willing to talk with you individually or to attend your committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Scott Darveau
Faculty Senate President