The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the administration at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2004.

Present: Chancellor Kristensen, SVCAA Hadley, VCBF Randy Haack and VCUR Lewis
        Senators Miller, Obermier, Kelley, Kruse, and Bridges

Item 1. Senator Miller asked if the Administration had ideas and/or plans for the 2004 Fall Retreat.

Chancellor Kristensen responded that the administration is beginning to think about the fall retreat, although the specifics had not yet been decided. Chancellor Kristensen continued by saying that last year’s format was helpful to him, especially the information provided in the program reviews. However, due to the number of program reviews completed this year, it would be difficult to follow the last year’s format for program review presentations at the retreat this year due to time constraints. Senator Miller responded that perhaps the programs could provide the summary information beforehand for review, and then limit the presentation to a 15 minute question and answer period. Chancellor Kristensen seemed receptive to this idea, and stressed that it is important that the new SVCAA be involved in the fall retreat.

Senator Miller stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee would be willing to help organize and plan the fall retreat. Senator Miller also presented the Faculty Senate’s ideas for tying the fall retreat to findings of the NCA visit and the start of the strategic planning process. Senator Miller explained that the fall retreat would involve more of the faculty, and provide the faculty with an overview of the findings of the NCA visitation team. Breakout sessions and working groups would then be utilized to propose recommendations to address specific areas of the NCA report, with each group reporting to the larger body later in the semester. This more extensive review and the resulting recommendations for addressing the points raised by the NCA visitation team would provide a starting point for the strategic planning process. Senator Kristensen seemed receptive to this idea and asked the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to draft a proposal for his review.

Item 2. The NCA visitation team will present an exit report to the Chancellor summarizing their findings. Senator Miller suggested that there be faculty representation, specifically the Faculty Senate President and President-Elect, when the report is presented. Chancellor Kristensen responded that he will consider the request, but ultimately it will depend on the NCA’s agenda, who sets that agenda, and who should hear the exit report as designated by the NCA. Chancellor Kristensen indicated that he felt very strongly that the incoming SVCAA should also be present to hear NCA’s report.

Item 3. Senator Miller inquired about the current Student Tech Fee Expenditure Plan/Priorities. Senator Miller indicated that there appeared to be little to no flexibility in the use of these funds and expressed a concern about the ability of departments and/or units to apply for funds to implement initiatives as they have in the past.

SVCAA Hadley responded that there were no funds currently available. Senator Miller then inquired who was responsible for determining where the funds would be spent and who sets the priorities? SVCAA Hadley responded the Tech Fee Committee makes the recommendations. SVCAA Hadley continued by explaining that strategic plans will be made next year when the labs come up for renewal (estimated that in 2006 the labs will
account for one-half of the tech fee). SVCAA Hadley continued by saying that the amount of funds available in the future will really depend on how funding for the labs are determined. SVCAA Hadley continued by saying that the current commitments for using the tech fees are such that there are no funds remaining for discretionary uses; thus there is a need for UNK to set up a long-term strategy for the use of the tech fee funds.

Item 4. Senator Miller raised the issue of reinstating Summer Commencement and the Faculty Senate’s support for this action.

Chancellor Kristensen replied that the process of reinstating summer commencement had been started. The proposal has been turned over to the Commencement Committee, who will then bring it before the Administrative council.

Item 5. Senator Miller asked for an update on the following searches:

a) **Dean of Library:** Chancellor Kristensen responded that the search is close to conclusion, but not completed. Please stay tuned.

b) **CTE Director/Coordinator of Assessment:** Chancellor Kristensen and SVCAA Hadley responded that the search has been completed. A formal announcement will be forthcoming.

c) **Faculty Assistant to the SVCAA:** SVCAA Hadley responded that the initial review of the applicant files is underway and that a final decision should be made within the next couple of weeks.

Item 6. Senator Miller requested an update on the report from the committee examining compensation for Chairs, Directors and Associate Deans.

SVCAA Hadley responded that the committee had completed its initial draft of the report and was presented to SVCAA Hadley at the Council of Chairs.

Item 7. Senator Miller requested an update on the expected budget reduction.

Chancellor Kristensen responded that the bill comes up for second round of debate tomorrow (March 30). The budget cut looks like it will be 0.5% cut which could be cash flowed until next fall, when the legislature could take up finding a solution to the budget shortfall. A crucial element of solving the budget shortfall will be what the legislature does with the K-12 levy. Chancellor Kristensen expressed his view that the budget is a high priority and that working on the solution should not be put off for an entire year.

Item 8. Senator Miller requested an update on obtaining approval for the Philosophy major.

Chancellor Kristensen responded that the proposal is on the Board of Regent’s (BOR) April meeting (which will be held at UNK). The question is whether the proposal will be on the agenda as an action item (in which case it will be voted on) or as a consent agenda item. So far, it appears that everyone is receptive to idea, but the Coordinating Commission still remains as the biggest hurdle. Chancellor Kristensen also indicated that another timely issue for the April meeting will be the Master Plan for the Residence Halls (UNK will need the BOR help in dealing with problems here on campus). Chancellor Kristensen also
indicated that he is working on developing a presentation for the BOR explaining who we (UNK) are and what makes us unique.

**Item 9.** Senator Miller inquired about the status of the Strategic Plan for Distance Education.

SVCAA Hadley responded that UNK has submitted their Strategic Plan for Distance Education and it will be incorporated into the university-wide Strategic Plan. However, the Chief Academic Officers have not yet seen the university-wide Strategic Plan for Distance Education and it is not an agenda item for the next BOR meeting. Senator Miller requested a copy of UNK’s Strategic Plan for Distance Education. SVCAA Hadley responded that a copy would be provided.

**Item 10.** Senator Miller informed the administration about two items being referred to standing Faculty Senate Committees.

a) The first item is the process/standards that should be followed and/or used when removing a faculty member from the classroom in mid-semester. Senator Miller indicated that it was his understanding that faculty assignments are made with department chair/faculty consultation, thus this same framework should be used in removing a faculty member. This matter is being referred to the Faculty Welfare committee with the charge to develop a policy statement.

Chancellor Kristensen asked if this was a situation that occurred recently or in the past. Senator Miller responded that the situation occurred in the current semester.

b) The second item are the issues brought up at the workshop discussing the NSSE data. This will be referred to the Student Affairs committee.

**Item 11.** Senator Miller inquired about the process used for evaluating a Dean’s performance.

SVCAA Hadley responded that an extensive review is conducted at 5 year intervals, and an annual review is conducted using a random sample of faculty/staff in the college.

Senator Miller then inquired about the process of requesting an intense review outside the 5 year cycle. Senator Miller stated that there had been a previous instance when the faculty of a college had begun the process of requesting a full review in preparation for a vote of no confidence, but the Dean in question left UNK for another position. SVCAA responded that he was not aware of a formal process in place, but that the faculty could request a full review of a Dean’s performance.

**Item 12.** Reports from the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors.

Chancellor Kristensen:

The upcoming NCA team visit is the number one priority. Most of the team members will be arriving on Sunday, and the majority of the logistical problems have been solved. It is not yet known who the team will want to meet with, but would like to have some time available for the team members to meet with faculty, staff and students. The new SVCAA Finney will be making a special visit to campus during the NCA visit.

Planning for spring commencement is underway, and everyone should remember that Joe MacFadden will be here for commencement.
Tuition is going to be an issue for the BOR, especially the discounts proposed for out-of-state students and those at or below 200% of poverty. The proposed changes should not really impact UNK very much (currently less than 90 students would be impacted); unless the current need based aid is taken away.

SVCAA Hadley:
Encouraged attendance at the April 8th Faculty-Student Relationship workshop, co-sponsored by SVCAA and CTE. Should be a worthwhile learning experience and lunch will be provided.

VCUR Lewis:
Ann Tillery’s office is continuing to work on topics for UNK Today. The State Economic Development Group’s visit, sponsored and hosted by Chancellor Kristensen, was a success and resulted in the possibility of the group endorsing a second interstate interchange for the city of Kearney. On April 6th, there will be a display of UNK student research at the capital building.

Chancellor Kristensen indicated that he would like to have something like this displayed when the BOR are on campus, with the addition of a brief explanation of the purpose behind undergraduate research.

VCBF Haack:
His office is finalizing the preparation of the budget request for Residence Hall Renovation Master Plan. April 16th will be Celebrating Excellence, the time we get to thank employees for their years of service. Work being planned for the summer includes the ADA restrooms in Otto Olsen, utility work, finishing work on Bruner Hall, repairing roofs, and revisiting food service with the input from student groups. Office will also be investigating an updating of the card technology in order to better respond to student needs.