The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the administration at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2004.

Present: Chancellor Kristensen, SVCAA Hadley, VCUR Lewis and Dean of Students Lois Flagstad

Senators Miller, Obermier, Kelley, Kruse, Young, and Bridges

Item 1. Senator Miller presented the Faculty Senate Executive Committee’s proposal for the Fall Retreat.

Senator Miller expressed satisfaction with last year’s format and proposed that this fall’s retreat follow a similar pattern of presentations: Departments who had their APR during the 2003-04 academic year, select special programs, and begin the process of discussing the outcomes of the NCA Review Team visit. Discussion regarding the NCA Review Team visit would begin at the retreat and then the specific issues would be given to existing committees, or newly created committees if needed, to develop possible solutions or strategies to deal with the issues. The work by individual committees would then be presented to the faculty and Administration through a series of forums.

Chancellor Kristensen responded favorably to the proposal. Chancellor Kristensen continued by saying the proposed method of engaging faculty in a discussion of NCA is good, as long as assessment is on the forefront. Dealing with the other issues identified by NCA (mission review and strategic planning) are also important, but assessment is the most important. Especially given the focused visit scheduled for 2007.

SVCAA Hadley expressed concern about the number of APR’s completed on campus last year. SVCAA Hadley continued that if each department was given thirty minutes to speak, it would make for a very long day. Senator Miller responded in agreement, and suggested that the department chairs be provided with an outline of the type of information to talk about and that the presentations are limited to 15 minutes. Senator Miller continued that this would allow for the most useful information to be disseminated to the group and leave enough time for questions.

SVCAA Hadley and Chancellor Kristensen both agreed with Senator Miller’s statement. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will work on finalizing the details of the retreat and coordinate scheduling with the Chancellor’s office.

Item 2. Senator Miller requested an update on the status of development of faculty workload policies.

SVCAA Hadley responded that both Dave Anderson and Senator Kelley attended the last Dean’s Council meeting. The Dean’s have prepared a response and SVCAA Hadley will provide his response before the end of the semester.

Item 3. Senator Miller requested that the Administration consider providing the Faculty Senate Executive Committee representation on the Chancellor’s Administrative Council and the SVCAA Deans Council.
Senator Miller explained the request originated out of the discussions the Faculty Senate Executive Committee’s meeting the NCA Review Team member, who suggested that it was a governance issue and that many other institutions utilized this practice.

Chancellor Kristensen requested that Senator Miller make a formal request in writing and provide him some time to think about it. SVCAA Hadley indicated his concern that Faculty Senate presence on the Deans Council would tend to inhibit the discussion in the meetings. SVCAA Hadley continued by stating that he was unfamiliar with other institutions engaging in this practice. Chancellor Kristensen added that although he did not see it as a governance issue, faculty presence at the Administrative Council meeting could inhibit the discussion. Senator Miller responded that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee would do some research to determine how common it is to have faculty representation on these types of committees and will submit a formal request in writing.

Item 4. Senator Miller inquired if the Chancellor has developed the process for implementing Strategic Planning.

Chancellor Kristensen responded that he plans on using the summer to begin focusing on planning. Chancellor Kristensen continued by saying that at this time the process, or structure, is not formulated. Certainly the current document will need to be reexamined, and the President’s search will impact some of the practical things we do at UNK. However, the plan is to focus on the process throughout the summer so that something is ready for fall semester. Chancellor Kristensen added that SVCAA Murray's first duty will be to help with the development of the strategic plan.

Item 5. Senator Miller inquired about the process that will be used to share the NCA Review Team’s findings with the campus community.

Chancellor Kristensen responded that he is in the process of preparing a brief statement identifying the major points of the NCA Review Team’s exit interview, which will be sent to the campus community early next week. Chancellor Kristensen added that the most important item to address is assessment and how we can increase faculty’s engagement in the assessment process. Chancellor Kristensen also noted that it would be two months before the final report will be delivered to UNK.

Senator Miller indicated that perhaps the campus did not effectively communicate to the NCA Review Team what UNK is actually doing in terms of assessment and how the results are used in curricular changes. Senator Kelley agreed and noted that great progress has been made in the last two years. Senator Young expressed a concern that we are, to some extent, over assessing some of our constituents, and that usable results diminish as we ask the same individuals to complete more and more surveys. SVCAA Hadley indicated that UNK needs to be better at articulating what we are doing in terms of assessment, in both academic and nonacademic areas. Senator Bridges added that the hiring of a Coordinator of Assessment will provide the infrastructure necessary to centralize the assessment process, thus we may be able to cut down on the number of surveys individuals complete without losing usefulness of the results. SVCAA Hadley agreed and said that greater centralization and coordination of the assessment process is close at hand.

Item 6. Senator Miller informed the Chancellor and SVCAA Hadley of two actions that will be referred to Senate Committees.
a. **Policy on Consensual Relationships:** The Professional Conduct committee will be asked to develop a policy about Consensual Relationships between Faculty/Administrators and students. The committee will also be asked to provide some practical suggestions about how to handle these types of situations, as well as stating who receives the information and the process about follow up and record keeping.

Senator Miller emphasized that a specific policy was needed rather than just trying to use existing policies. Dean Flagstad inquired where the complaints would be held and if there are questions about behavior, where do these questions go? Senator Miller responded that the usual process is for the student to go to the Department Chair, who then investigates the complaint, and from the Chair it goes to the Dean. Chancellor Kristensen commended the Senate on taking on this difficult issue. The group as a whole agreed that the committee has some very difficult questions to wrestle with in formulating this important policy.

b. **Academic Affairs Approval Process:** Academic Affairs Committee will be asked to review the approval process to determine ways to streamline the process, and educate individuals in the proper way to fill out forms so that changes in courses/programs are not delayed.

**Item 7.** Senator Miller requested an update on the future of the Priority Program Funding Designation in light of the NCA visit and the Presidential search.

Chancellor Kristensen responded that the base funding (appropriated funds budgeted to UNK) appear solid. Chancellor Kristensen continued that new dollars will depend in part on the new President, as there is some discretion in terms of deciding how to allocate the funds.

Senator Miller asked Chancellor Kristensen for his personal views on Priority Program Funds and if a change in the process is being considered? Chancellor Kristensen responded that “they are lovely” and that the Board of Regents simply wants to hear that the funds are doing good things. However, there is no real uniformity in how the funds are used, but essentially at the discretion of the campus. Chancellor Kristensen indicated that he is not totally convinced that the best interest of the campus is served by using a prorated share across all designated programs and that SVCAA Murray will have an opportunity to examine priority programs. SVCAA Hadley expressed that a reexamination of priority programs is needed, but that it is a dual-edged sword in that existing programs will have to justify retaining their designation while new programs apply for the designation. SVCAA Hadley continued by saying that perhaps it would be better to have fewer designations with more significant funding rather many designations with small awards.

**Item 8.** Senator Miller asked Senator Bridges to present the Senate Plan of Action for 2004-05.

Senator Bridges informed the group that the Senate planned on maintaining the good working relationship between the Senate and Administration, and will continue to work on strengthening Senate’s role in UNK decision making. The Senate is planning on initiating a campus-wide discussion on priority programs, and working to increase faculty ownership of the assessment process.
Item 9. Senator Miller asked Senator Kelley to present his Farewell Remarks by the Past President.

Senator Kelley made the following remarks:

**Leadership.** Two years ago, Bill Wozniak and I sat down and came up with suggestions to the Oversight Committee for Senators with outstanding leadership who comprise an EC that would have balance between veteran and younger leaders. I am please to be leaving very strong leadership on the Executive Committee and the faculty who are being recommended by the Oversight Committee will provide strong leaders and each College will be represented, if the slate is passed. I leave you in excellent hands.

**Budget Process.** Overall, the budget reduction process was solid. If we face future cuts I hope a similar process is used. The future EC and Administration may find a better process but we feel the participation remains a central component.

**Respect and Dignity.** UNK is a good place to work and learn, but there is always room for improvement. I believe students, staff, faculty, and administrators should be treated with dignity and respect. This should be an overarching goal of our community.

**Communication.** I truly appreciate how this administration has greatly improved the communication channels between yourself and the Executive Committee, and hence the Faculty Senate.

Some faculty, however, have expressed a desire for increased communication between the faculty and the Chancellor. I recommend that you consider a mechanism whereby you would increase and extend your interaction with faculty. This could be informal Q&A sessions, increase the number of emails to all employees (even if newsy), address the Faculty Senate, etc.

**Community.** The majority of us live together in a cooperative community, but there is room for improvement. We can’t go back to the past where friendship networks dominate campus.

The challenge is to form a renewed sense of community. The FS sponsored or co-sponsored retreat may be expanded to include more extensive faculty participation is a step in the right direction.

I want to live in a dedicated and supportive community of scholars in which dignity and respect is the norm. When we look to the common good, we will still fight and argue but that is the discourse of participation that unites us.

Item 10. Reports from the Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, & Dean of Students

**SVCAA Hadley:**

As this was the last meeting of the Executive Committee with SVCAA Hadley, he requested that he be able to make his farewell address. The group allowed him to do so. SVCAA Hadley stood, raised his right hand and said, “It’s been fun, goodbye.” With that, SVCAA Hadley left the room (to attend another meeting).
Chancellor Kristensen then responded that the speech was SVCAA Hadley’s finest to date.

**Chancellor Kristensen:**
It has been a very busy week, both the NCA Review Team and the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents will be on campus Friday and Saturday. UNK will be focusing on informing the Board of Regents just who we are, and what makes UNK unique. The Regents will take a tour of the residence halls, Kate Benzel will give a presentation on the First Year Experience, student research posters will be on display, and VCUR Lewis will show a video piece showcasing individual students and faculty explaining why they are at UNK. The Regents will also be presented the Master Plan for the Residence Hall. UNK has not undertaken construction of new residence halls since 1967 and even if we start today, residence halls would not have livable space until 2007. This is a major need for UNK, as our competitors are constructing residence halls, and at the present time UNK does not have a workable 10 year financial plan to accomplish the construction. Another item to be taken up at the Regents meeting is Chartwells contract. There will be some changes in the Union, which Chartwells will be paying for.

The improvements to Foster Field have been announced, and it looks like if the initial fundraising goes well, we may see the Foundation kick in for additional phases.

The spillway, while not on the priority list of UNK expenditures, will go forward. The bridge will get done this summer.

**VCUR Lewis:**
VCUR Lewis thanked Senator Kelley for his time and effort in working on behalf of UNK. VCUR Lewis said his office has been busy preparing for the Board of Regents visit to campus and getting ready for spring commencement.

**Dean of Students Flagstad:**
Dean Flagstad expressed gratitude to all UNK faculty for their efforts to encourage students to become familiar with the Student Code of Conduct and for the willingness to engage in discussions about this important document.