UNK Faculty Senate Plan of Action for 2003-2004

Goal 1: Clarify the academic responsibilities of all faculty

- Review workload issues and address compensatory and evaluation equity and clearer specification of faculty expectations concerning teaching, research, and service. Especially with regard to:
  - Scholarly reassignment.
  - Faculty who have not yet attained tenure.
  - Unique Teaching Assignments such as
    - Web-based and other distance learning activities
    - WI courses
    - 1Y@UNK courses
    - Laboratory courses
    - Other non-traditional course offerings
  - Administrative reassignments for:
    - Department Chairs
    - Program Directors
    - Associate Deans
    - And other quasi-administrative positions
  - Service Reassignments for:
    - Advising
    - Committee Work
    - Recruitment

Goal 2: Continue to strengthen UNK’s communication networks

- Within the Faculty Senate
  - Continue to improve the communication between the Senate and all faculty.
  - Utilize experienced Faculty Senators to help with the orientation of new Faculty Senators.
  - Strengthen the communication network between the Senate and non-Senate committees and councils
  - Investigate unique means, such as the UNK Web site, to improve communication.
  - Encourage the Senators from each College to meet periodically with their Dean to discuss issues.
  - Encourage Senators to talk and listen to the faculty in their Colleges.
- Across the UNK campus
  - Hold faculty forums concerning academic issues, such as General Studies, Assessment, Faculty Work Load, and the North Central Review
  - Improve the communication with the administration.
  - Plan at least one meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with the Dean’s Council to discuss relevant academic issues.
  - Encourage better student participation in Senate Committees.
  - Ensure that all administrative communication channels are open and regularly used.
  - Encourage that timely, reliable, and accurate information is provided to every member of the campus community.
  - Ensure that consistent information is given across departments and colleges.
  - Ensure that all communiqués are respectful and within the bounds of common courtesy.
- In the North Central Association Accreditation Review
  - Assist the administration in the preparation, dissemination, and commentary on the Institutional Self Study
  - Participate as one of the hosts of the spring visitation of the NCA Review team

Goal 3: Establish a stronger role for faculty in UNK decision making, working toward the goal of authentic shared governance
• Clarify the role of the Faculty Senate in all UNK decision making, especially with regard to budget formulation and technology planning
• Work to ensure that the Strategic Planning Council is formed with substantial faculty representation
• Continue to remind the administration of the defined roles of the existing Faculty Senate Committees as sources of faculty opinion in institutional decision making.
• Propose an administrative retreat hosted by the Faculty Senate in August, attended by all administrators, and occurring before the beginning of the semester. The agenda of the retreat would be written by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and focus on the academic programs of UNK and the academic mission of UNK.

Goal 4: Continue the momentum of the major initiatives from previous years

• 1Y@UNK
• Four-year Advising
• The Presence of Modern Languages in UNK Curricula
• Faculty Work Load Policies
• Campus Diversity
• Status of Women
• Assessment Activities
• Administrative Support for Faculty Senate activities

Goal 5: Promote academic quality of UNK programs in the face of threats to the budget

• Preserve the disciplinary integrity of programs that:
  o Are important for a balanced liberal education of UNK students.
  o Are necessary for the existence of an institution of higher education.
  o Have played an important traditional service role.
  o Play an important service role for a significant number of our constituents.
  o Are identified as priority programs or centers of excellence
  o Offer appropriate professional education opportunities to UNK students;
  o Offer appropriate graduate education opportunities to UNK students
• Maintain the open dialogue between faculty and administration during the determination of program changes that result from budget cuts and enhancements.
• Ensure that decision-making is done in a manner that is equitable to faculty in every College and in every Department on campus.