FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING WITH ADMINISTRATION
April 25, 2005

Present: Senators Bridges, Darveau, Kruse, Unruh
Administrators Doug Kristensen, Kathy Smith, Finnie Murray, Randy Haack,
Lois Flagstad

1. Search update -- faculty NCAA representative
   Chancellor Kristensen said the search is still pending.

2. Strategic Planning Committee update
   Chancellor Kristensen said the committee is processing the comments received via e-mail. The committee will meet May 4 to look at the input and work on a revised document. Randy Haack will lead efforts this summer to collect the necessary data. There is no time for a campus-wide forum this semester, but such a forum will be held in the fall. Then specific objectives identified in the plan will be assigned to the appropriate person(s) for further development. The constitution of next year’s SPC committee will remain largely unchanged. The Board of Regents (BOR) has asked UNK not to put out a firm statement until the announcement of its Strategic Framework.

3. Climate survey
   Chancellor Kristensen said the climate survey will be refined this summer and then circulated. A survey is likely to come from central administration as well. The chancellor asked which was preferable, a paper or electronic survey? Senators noted that each medium has benefits and drawbacks. The chancellor suggested the surveys, which will be given to faculty and staff, might be distributed and collected at department or College meetings.

4. Campus building projects
   LB 605 “will not see the light of day” this year, but is in line for next year. Thus we have one more year of delayed maintenance. Number 2 on the list is Otto Olsen, behind a UNO building.

5. Update on Director of Admissions search
   The chancellor had no new information to offer. Others at the table recalled that the position at one time had been scheduled to be searched in January 2006.

6. Policy of charging benefits to external grants
   Senator Darveau asked for clarification of policies that allow benefits to be charged to agencies making grants to faculty. Randy Haack explained that in this regard UNK’s policies are consistent with those of our sister campuses. Grants do allow for the costs of salary and benefits; benefits are not an indirect cost. In answer to the question regarding the possibility of UNK’s changing its policy to pick up all benefit costs, Haack replied that this policy change would have to come from central administration. Perhaps grant recipients need a better explanation of what is covered. Randy Haack’s and John Falconer’s offices already coordinate to make sure recipients have accurate information. This information is also on the websites of Finance and the Office of Sponsored Programs. What happens to the money that UNK saves from having external agencies picking up a faculty member’s benefit costs? Benefit funds are centralized and spent at the discretion of the chancellor.
7. Reports from Administrators:

**Chancellor Doug Kristensen** --

We must be mindful of UNO’s activities regarding residence halls. The proposal presented at the last BOR meeting would double UNO’s residence capacity. “This will impact us.” This proposal is “going down the track” and has the votes. This development makes it imperative to get moving on our residence halls. Another 1200-1500 beds at UNO is the equivalent of our entire freshman class. The chancellor noted that losing just 12 students would mean a 1% decrease in our freshman class.

Lyn Zeigenbein from the Kiewit Foundation will be Commencement speaker.

The next 10-14 days are important for our budget situation. Currently there is money to pay UNK’s negotiated salary of 4.4%; staff salaries are more uncertain.

A discussion of differential tuition, which is tied to enrollment in terms of growth, is slated to begin in June.

**SVCAASL Finnie Murray** --

There are a number of end-of-year receptions and celebrations being held.

Dr. Murray thanked FS President Deborah Bridges for leading the General Studies Round Table discussions, an act of “courage and strength.” He said this process will be very healthy for our campus. President Bridges, in turn, thanked the rest of the Executive Committee for helping implement the round table discussions.

Asked about the search for a General Studies director, Murray replied that there are several possible candidates who are considering officially applying.

**Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance Randy Haack** --

Clappers are being returned to the bell tower this week and will be ringing for commencement. Netting will be installed so that people can walk beneath the tower without being dropped on. The fountain will also be running soon.

Work is scheduled this summer for Bruner Hall, the Mary Morris Lecture Hall, the Fine Arts Building, and the Library.

A residence halls program statement is being prepared for review at the June BOR meeting. This effort, which would be financed by a $20,000,000 bond, would add 400 beds in suite-style living quarters by Fall 2007.

Fees were approved at the last BOR meeting, as was the Wells Fargo contract. Debit cards will be issued Aug. 19. Re-carding will begin this summer for staff, in Fall 2005 for students, and in September for faculty.

**Dean of Students Lois Flagstad** --

Dr. Flagstad’s office is finalizing summer housing, maintenance, and campus conferences. Plans are also underway for student activities, including Homecoming, for Fall 2005.

UNK currently has a 54% return rate in the residence halls for fall, double the industry standard.

The Chartwells surveys were very positive.

Martha Kruse, recorder