FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING WITH ADMINISTRATION
Sept. 30, 2004

Present: Bridges, Darveau, Kruse, Miller, Unruh
Chancellor Kristensen, Lois Flagstad (Dean of Students), Randy Haack VCB/F,
Finnie Murray (SVCAA&SL), Kathleen Smith (interim VCUR)

1. NCA Report – Chancellor Kristensen provided a copy of the review team’s report to North Central. Though our response section is not yet completed, the report is virtually complete and sufficient for planning purposes. The report will soon be posted on our Web site as well as linked to an e-mail message. Faculty Senators will receive a copy in their electronic packet. The Chancellor cited these sections of the report:
   * Especially impressive and complimentary is the remark on p. 17, section E1a regarding students’ feelings of connection to UNK.
   * It is time to undertake comprehensive planning.
   * We need to go slow on distance learning and be sure to put our best foot forward and offer good courses. One concern is assessment of on-line classes.
   * Some residence halls need improvement, and UNK could use more funding for crucial maintenance.

   The overall report is very complimentary. It is important to identify people and committees who helped in its production. The Chancellor cited the work of the faculty, Ken Nikels, and the self-study committee. Now it is time to start monitoring and collecting data. For example, the review team recommended a climate study to gauge cultural diversity. This study could be combined with a study on gender equity, preferably now rather than later. The Faculty Senate should read the report and think about which standing committees could address some of the issues to be dealt with. It is important that the campus pay attention to reports like this, especially regarding such matters as assessment.

2. Update on Searches – both are getting underway
   A. Dean CBT – Frank Harrold will chair; Julie Spiers will serve as outside member
   B. Dean CFAH – Ken Nikels will chair; Audrey Kauders will serve as outside member
   Staff Senate and Student Senate will also recommend committee members.

3. Workload Policy Documents – FS requests that deans provide each faculty member in their college a copy of “current workload policy” documents, including the expectations for faculty on “normal” full-load and on reassigned time. Dr. Murray said this discussion will occur.

4. Strategic Planning Committee—Chancellor Kristensen has sent a draft of the roster of committee members to the VC; members will be selected using a process similar to
that used the last time this committee was formed. The final roster should come about at about the same time as the NCA report; President Bridges will get an advance copy. On a related note, the Chancellor noted that the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee no longer exists and will be reconstituted as an outside sounding board after most of the work of the SPC is finished. There will be no “outside” people on the new SPC. President Bridges will have more information at the 10/7 FS meeting, which the Chancellor is scheduled to attend.

5. Summer School Schedule – Past President Miller noted that the Graduate Council passed a resolution that the number of credit hours for a class may not exceed the number of weeks the class meets. (For example, students cannot receive 3 credit hours for a class that meets for 2 weeks.) Now we have been informed that undergraduate classes should/must adhere to the same policy. Miller shared data from students who took an advanced Psychology class during the regular term and students who took the course in a two-week summer session. Comprehensive exams administered after the course showed no significant difference in amount of material retained and greater student satisfaction with the two-week course. So the new policy regarding undergraduate courses is inconsistent with the data.

Dr. Smith asked about the impact of these intensive short courses on students’ summer schedules. Miller replied that two-week courses are not suitable for GS courses or service courses; students in Psychology’s two-week course did not take other courses concurrently.

Dr. Murray noted that exceptions to the policy can be requested. The big issue is how to handle summer scheduling in the future, with faculty involved in the discussion.

6. Funds for Summer School – The budget for Summer 2005 appears to be the same as that for last year. Chancellor Kristensen raised the issues of tuition and profit sharing. NU President Milliken is consulting with an expert on differential tuition. Dr. Murray said there are no means to increase the summer school budget at this time.

7. Starting Date of Faculty/Staff Benefits – President Bridges said some faculty do not realize that their insurance benefits do not kick in until the beginning of September, and that their first paycheck arrives at the end of September rather than August. She suggested that confirmation of start dates for the first paycheck and for insurance benefits be included in the contract letter so that new personnel can buy gap insurance or make other arrangements for coverage. Dr. Murray agreed that such information could be included in the cover letter sent with the contract.

8. President Bridges asked what the UNK community can do to help staff members who have exhausted their crisis leave, do not have disability insurance, and face serious medical problems causing loss of income. Administrators will check to see what can be done.

9. Reports from Administration –
Chancellor Kristensen: Our enrollment numbers are good compared to those of the other NU campuses.
The 308 parents here for Parents’ Week appeared to enjoy themselves.
The Coordinating Commission seems responsive to our campus’s needs.

VC Haack: Distributed a copy of the 2005 annual Nuflex schedule. We will see a smaller rate increase this year (3-7%) depending on the plan selected. New Nuflex material will be distributed 11/12.

Dean Flagstad: The number of students using UNK services is high. Her staff is undergoing restructuring to focus more closely on retention.

VC Smith: University Relations is updating the web site and will focus on prospective students. FS Exec Committee was invited to review the site and comment. All colleges will be involved in writing copy for their programs. We have received several sizable grants (e.g. Psychology, Safety Center). The 2006 earmark process is going on now. Dedication of the bridge near the Education Building is scheduled for 10/8.

Martha Kruse, Recorder