Communication Networks:
Continue to strengthen existing communication networks within the Faculty Senate and across the UNK campus

Faculty senators are encouraged to talk and listen to the faculty within their colleges, and to bring their concerns forward to the full Senate.

The Faculty Senate web-site provides an opportunity to provide the campus community with up-to-date information about the issues facing UNK and the actions taken by the Faculty Senate. Increasing the campus community’s awareness of the web-site and the information it contains is an important element of strengthening communication on campus. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will work to inform the campus about this information resource. Additionally, the information provided on the web-site may serve as a tool for faculty involvement in the Senate.

Faculty Senate has office space in Founders Hall. Utilizing this space will provide a centralized location for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to meet. Having scheduled office hours will also provide faculty a means of contacting the Senate.

Major Initiatives:
Continue to support and aid in the implementation of major initiatives from previous years, including: First Year Experience; Four-year Advising; Assessment Activities; Campus Diversity; Status of Women; the presence of Modern Languages in the Curriculum; Faculty Workload Policies; and Administrative support for Faculty Senate Activities.

In response to feedback from the NCA Review Team, the Faculty Senate will actively promote faculty ownership of the assessment process and the utilization of assessment results in continuous improvement.

The Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of Academic Affairs presented a workshop on “Student-Faculty Relationships” in April, 2004. In response to the information presented at the workshop, the Faculty Senate is requesting that the Professional Conduct Committee develop a policy concerning consensual relationships between students and faculty and/or administrators.

Faculty's Role in Decision Making:
Continue to strengthen faculty’s role in UNK decision making and working towards the goal of authentic shared governance.

Continue to actively seek information regarding budget formulation, technology funding and planning, and making the Administration aware of the defined roles of the existing Faculty Senate Committees as sources of faculty opinion in institutional decision making.

An important component in the decision making process is the Chancellor’s Administrative Council and the SVCAA’s Dean’s Council. To strengthen the organizational link between the Faculty Senate and these Administrative Advisory Councils, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will actively seek to have representation on these Councils.

Decisions made in the nonacademic areas, such as recruiting and marketing, are important to the institution as a whole, and impact faculty in many ways. Outside consultants are often utilized in the decision making process, even though there are faculty on campus with
knowledge and expertise in the area. Faculty can also provide insights about UNK, based on years of on-campus experiences, which may add distinctiveness to recommendations and new initiatives. The Faculty Senate will actively encourage the administration to seek faculty input and utilize their expertise, when appropriate, in the decision making process.

Strategic Planning:
Actively encourage the formation of a new Strategic Planning committee with faculty representation. The Committee's charge should be linked to the outcomes of the NCA Review Team visit and specifically address the issues raised by that visit. Since pursuing strategic planning will not be feasible without the resurrection of the strategic planning committee, the proposal previously put forward by Faculty Senate will be suggested as a blueprint for committee membership, as it provides for a strong faculty voice in the development of a strategic plan for UNK.

As a starting point in the strategic planning process, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee proposes that a fall retreat be held to provide faculty with information about the NCA Review report. The faculty would then use break-out sessions to develop responses, proposed solutions to specific issues raised by the NCA report, and then come back together as a whole to discuss each group's findings. The recommendations would then be forwarded to the Administration and the Strategic Planning Committee.

Academic Responsibilities of the Faculty:
Continue working on clarifying the specific expectations of faculty concerning teaching, research, and service. Especially with regard to: administrative reassignments, service reassignments, scholarly reassignment, tenure-track faculty, and unique teaching assignments such as laboratory courses, first year experience courses, writing intensive courses, and web-based and/or other distance learning activities.

Budget Pressures:
Continue to actively promote academic quality of UNK programs in the face of budget concerns.

Continue to request that Administration maintain an open dialogue between faculty and administration during the determination of program changes that result from budget cuts and enhancements. Work to ensure that decision-making is done in a manner that is equitable to faculty in every College and Department on campus. Work to educate the faculty on budget matters, including the vocabulary used and allocation of funds.

Actively seek to engage faculty in an open discussion regarding the prioritization of academic programs. The dialogue should include how we got where we are and where our institution is headed. Outcomes of this discussion, following a Pew Roundtable framework, will be forwarded to the campus community and the Administration.