MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH ADMINISTRATION
February 22, 2006

Present:
Administration: Lois Flagstad, Kathy Smith, Doug Kristensen, Randy Haack, John Oseth, Finnie Murray
Faculty Senators: Martha Kruse, Debbie Bridges, Scott Darveau, Bob Young, Paula Rieder, Ruth Brown

1. Fall Convocation: The Fall Convocation has been a casualty of timing and budget cuts. Unless outside funding to pay for ‘significant speakers’ is obtained, there will be no functions organized.

2. Green Issues/ Campus Recycling Program: Concerns about “green” issues or recycling should be directed to the Office of VCBF Haack’s office. (They handle all green issues: money, grass, mold, etc.) The office is currently creating a summary of all current initiatives and will post the information on the UNK website soon.

3. ROTC Survey. The results of the faculty ROTC survey are not available to the Senate.
   - Other ROTC issues:
     o The ROTC program is exclusively a UNL program.
     o Any credits earned would be available to transfer to UNK just as would any other UN course. The credits would apply toward elective credits to the 125 credit requirement for the degree. No department would be required to accept credits specifically toward their degree. Any department choosing to use or allow ROTC credits in the program must use the normal academic approval process through the colleges and Senate.
     o The program would function analogous to the UNMC nursing program in that the classes are held here, but the credit is earned at a different campus.
     o Issues that must still be settled include scheduling and space allocation.
     o The process is continuing forward, with many logistical issues still outstanding.

4. Update on Searches: The searches for the Dean of Graduate Studies and Dean of COE have reached the interview stage which should be completed prior to Spring Break. The search committee for the Director of Admissions are in the process of calling references. The search committee for the VCUR position has met twice. The advertisement for the position will be listed until 3/15/06.
   The VCUR Search Committee members are: Francis Harrold (Chair), Shelly N. Urkoski, Richard Miller, Daren P. Snider, Timothy J. Burkink, Janet Wilke, Ann Tillery, Laure M. Smith, Dusty Newton, Galen Hadley, Bradley A. Bohn, Sharon Pelc, Jon Abegglen, Brenda Christensen (UNK Alumna), Edward Wimes

Reports from Administrators:
Chancellor Kristensen:
   - A response to the proposal and a plan to create a “Women’s Center” on campus is attached as Appendix A. A few summary points:
The Center will be housed in the Office of Counseling and Health Care. Its budget will be supported in part by an increase in student fees. Budget for a graduate student assistant to staff the center will be provided from the current Counseling and Health Care budget.

- The Center will serve to coordinate existing campus initiatives and procedures.
  - The campus Climate Survey is done. The report is included in the Senate Packet.
  - General impressions of the report are: that the campus climate with respect to Gender and Diversity issues is generally alright, but some localized problems are apparent; that the campus climate is thought to be better now than 5 years ago, with the exception of the outlook of the service employees.
  - There were no reports of major problems, but improvement in some areas is possible and necessary.
  - The response rate to the survey was an impressive 63%.

- The strategic planning process is proceeding well. A new draft of campus planning objectives will be released soon for campus input.

**SVC Murray:**
- A campus visit on February 21, 2006 by administrators and faculty from Mid-Plains Community College and Central Community College went extremely well. The visitors (about 65) were enthusiastic about strengthening ties with UNK.

**VCBF Haack**
- Construction Update:
  - The demolition process is nearing completion on Case and Ludden.
  - Seven contractors, about 200 sub-contractors, and the construction management class attending the pre-bid meeting with six of the seven contractors intending to submit construction bids. The bids are due March 2.
  - Reports of opening the spillway canal to kayaking are greatly exaggerated; however, NPPD is doing a feasibility study which is in a very preliminary stage at the moment.
  - Despite the laudable attempts by our students to repair the bell-tower, it will be necessary to hire an outside professional to complete the repairs. The repairs should be completed by the end of March.

**Dean Flagstad:**
- Dean Flagstad offered kudos to the faculty for the excellent support of Wednesday’s Career and Graduate Student Fairs.
- Planning for Summer Orientation is underway.

**VCUR Smith:**
- The UN system’s Legislative Dinner is scheduled for Thursday (February 23, 2006). The focus will be to create support for LB605 which would pay for deferred maintenance and capital construction project. Utilities work on the UNK campus and renovation of Bruner Hall are included in the bill.
- A birthday party for Nebraska will be held in the Union and will be attended by area elementary students.
- UNK is hosting one of the three statewide events for the rollout of the Nebraska state quarter on April 7, 2006.
To: Carol Lilly/HISTORY/UNK/UNEBR@University of Nebraska

From: Douglas A. Kristensen

Subject: e-copy of Women's Center Plan

To: Women's Studies Program, the UNK Counseling Center, and the S.A.F.E. Center

Re: A Women's Center on the University of Nebraska at Kearney Campus

Colleagues:

The UNK administrative team and I have now had an opportunity to review the proposal to establish a Women's Center at UNK. We have also comprehensively evaluated our organizational structure, personnel strengths and assignments, funding, physical space, and programming on issues the proposal addresses. We have also reviewed approaches that institutions similar to UNK have taken on these matters. In general we have concluded that the proposal has pointed us in a very good direction, and I want just to outline the major features of our approach going forward.

First, I should explain that -- as the proposal notes -- it is clear that our campus has done and is doing a great deal to address climate, safety, health, and other issues that particularly concern women on our campus. On the administrative side, Counseling and Health Care, Public Safety, Career Services, and the Office of Residential and Greek Life routinely conduct programs serving women or promoting awareness of and educating the campus about women's issues. They also are fully trained and prepared to help individuals in emergency circumstances or in particular cases needing special professional attention. For cases in which violations of UNK policy may be involved, the AA/EEO Office, the Affirmative Action Commission, and UNK grievance procedures provide established remedies, and the Ombuds Office is available for individuals who may want to seek extraordinary help. Moreover, on the academic side, as the proposal also notes, the Women's Studies Program has provided valuable "extra-mile" assistance and guidance for students on an individual basis.

Just the reciting of those diverse capabilities and activities, which have multiplied in recent years, highlights the importance of strategic coordination and collaboration across organizational boundaries to promote common goals and to ensure coverage of needs. We need a focal point for advice to students and others about resources, programs and services. We need a systematic source of operational energy and expertise. And we need an institutional entity that can help us assemble a comprehensive view of goals, programmatic activity, and opportunity. These seem to be areas in which we can improve, and we believe -- as the proposal suggests -- all members of the UNK community would benefit from establishment of a Women's Center to perform these functions.

Accordingly, we intend to take the following steps:

We will establish a Women's Center housed in the Office of Counseling and Health Care. This organizational approach will take advantage of a wealth of expertise and current operational momentum in that office. Its personnel have academic degrees in counseling and the health professions, and each has specific training and direct experience in serving women across a spectrum of needs from health care to legal/ethical and reporting issues including law enforcement implications. Counseling Care in particular has three full-time personal counselors who are nationally accredited and state-licensed as mental health professionals. They are intricately networked into Kearney and campus resources for women. Health Care staff are similarly credentialed, systematically networked with local physicians through Kearney Clinic, and the office director has 15 years first-hand experience handling women's health matters and working directly with medical, law enforcement and judicial authorities on- and off-campus on both emergencies and sustained service and educational programs. The office also conducts a variety of service and educational outreach programs, through the Health Care Educator and our Peer Health educators.
APPENDIX A: Women’s Center Response and Plan

We will name the unit the UNK Women’s Center, rather than a more focused title, because its concerns will range beyond, for instance, women's resources and safety.

We do not envision that the Center will take over responsibility formally assigned to other staff elements. Nor will it either direct or displace activity undertaken by other units on campus. Rather, its role will be to augment our current capability by promoting a central administrative consciousness of programmatic needs and opportunity, by encouraging and enhancing the visibility of programs addressing women's issues, and by providing a focal point for education, service/assistance for individuals, and expert referral.

The Director of Counseling and Health Care will oversee the Center’s budget and programming. Specific responsibility to direct the Center will be assigned to a counseling professional in that office. We will fund a graduate assistant position to help with campus-wide programming initiatives, oversee daily services, and provide a first-point-of-contact and referral for individuals seeking assistance.

The center will occupy space in the Counseling office. At present, we envision that will include an office occupied by the graduate assistant and a meeting/library room. Over the next several years we hope to renovate and reconfigure the memorial Student Affairs Building, as we can find the funds to do so. In that process we expect to make other physical space arrangements for the Center that are not possible at present.

Funding for the new graduate assistant position can be provided within the existing budget for the Office of Counseling and Health Care. In addition, we envision assigning to the Center an annual resource/operating budget comparable to other Student Life offices (approximately $4,500), which we will fund by an increase in student fees.

We are working on implementing this blueprint now. We need a bit more time to make the necessary funding, personnel, work assignment, and physical space arrangements, and I want to be sure these things are in place before we formally announce the initiative. However, I wanted to let you know ahead of time that preparations are underway.

Thank you very much for your concern and counsel about these matters. I think your perspective will help us move UNK to a better place, for all members of our community.

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