FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING WITH ADMINISTRATION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

Present: Senators Bridges, Brown, Darveau, Kruse, Rieder, Young
Administrators Doug Kristensen, Kathy Smith, Finnie Murray, Randy Haack,

1. Status of Sandhills Room:
The question of why the Sandhills Dining Room has been closed since it serves as the lone semi-private dining space for faculty on campus was posed. The Sandhills Room served a crucial purpose as a place to take guests and faculty recruits. VC Haack responded that the closing was a business decision with weekly sales of only $437 versus costs of ~$600. The possibility of opening the room at special request with 3 days notice to Chartwells was given. Additional options of limiting the days that the room is open among others will be explored.

2. Request for Report on Priority Program Spending:
An initial report of the priority funding allocated to departments will be given to the Senate at the October meeting. A total report of every spending item would be extensive (likely well over 100 pages). While the report would be possible to create, it would be an intensive task. A request was made of the Senate to clarify exactly what level of detail should be in the report.

A discussion at the Council of Senate Presidents concerning review of priority program status has happened. There was no sense from the administration that a review is likely to happen in the near future.

Only a limited number of priority programs on each campus actually receive Programs of Excellence funding. There exists strong support from the Board of Regents for the Programs of Excellence.

3. Safety Alerts--Notification of Faculty and Staff:
VC Haack admitted that the level of communication during the incident was not at the level that it should have been. Posters were placed in residences quickly, but did not show up in other buildings until much later. While unfortunate, this incident will lead to an improved level of communication in the future. He stressed that there is a good working relationship with the Kearney Police Department. The level of police patrols around campus have been increased in response to the current situation. KPD and Public Safety may give a brief presentation on safety issues and inter-departmental cooperation at the October Senate meeting.

4. Status of working relationship of NU Foundation with grant-seeking with other Foundations:
A question was raised whether the NU Foundation was interfering with the application process seeking funds from other foundations by campus units (especially at UNK and UNO) has been raised. SVC Murray is investigating this potential problem and there
likely will be a proposal from the Council of Chief Academic Officers to the NU President for a discussion with the foundation.

5. Faculty Service Requirements:
   A discussion concerning faculty service promoted the necessity of early and ongoing service by faculty in all stages of their careers. The amount of service expected from the faculty body has increased and all faculty must do their share in order not to overly burden a few with a disproportionate share of the load. In the end, an ethic of service across campus must be built in addition to our dedication to teaching and scholarship.

6. Criteria for limiting utility services to building on nights and weekends:
   VC Haack did agree that energy costs are much higher than the prior year and conservation is necessary, but functions supporting research and teaching must be maintained. They are beginning the process of planning for handling the increased costs. SVC Murray stated that in his experience, plans similar to the UNL proposal saved no money and only created more problems. In response to higher energy costs, reimbursement levels for travel have increased and motor pool charges are also up. A deficit request from the Legislature to cover part of the cost is likely.

7. Announcements:
   The following announcements were made without discussion:
   a. Faculty Senate is working on ways to create a streamlined approval process for academic course and program changes.
   b. The General Studies Roundtable process is continuing with the next Phase 1 Roundtable meeting October 7.
   c. Faculty Senate is working on updating the current website.
   d. The Faculty Senate Presidents will be meeting with President Millikan next month and will raise issues of offering benefits to domestic partners of faculty (and possibly staff) and will inquire about the strategic planning framework.

8. Reports from Administrators:
   Chancellor Doug Kristensen –
   - The strategic planning committee is back up and working toward creating a set of objectives and goals. These will be released to campus for input and discussion
   - Planning for the residence hall construction is moving forward. The letting of $20 million in bonds for construction has been approved. Site surveys and planning are ongoing.
   - Two major gifts were made to UNK this homecoming week. News about the gifts will be released soon.
   - The Chancellor thanked faculty for their attendance at the many Centennial and Homecoming events in the past week.

   SVC Finnie Murray –
   - He mentioned the successful Conference on Research at Principally Undergraduate Institutions held at UNK. The conference was excellent and could make possible the hosting of CUR conferences here in the future.
• The re-organization of Academic Affairs is continuing. He announced the retirement of Dean Ken Nikels who will go on phased retirement in the role of Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. He will handle routine duties not requiring the direct attention of the SVC. The transfer of these duties will allow for the full retirement of Dave Anderson, Special Assistant to the Senior VCAASL.
  o A new position of Associate Dean of the Graduate Studies and Research will be created. Responsibilities of the position will include handling of the Institutional Review Board. Governance of continuing education and distance education will initially reside in this office but will eventually move to the Academic Affairs office. This position will be filled by an internal search.
  o A search for a new Dean of the Graduate School & Research and Sponsored programs will happen soon, concluding by mid to late summer.
  o Reorganization of the staff within the office is also continuing.
• The colleges were spared some of the budget axe and took only half of the originally proposed cuts. The remaining cuts were taken elsewhere in the academic affairs budget.
• A delegation is traveling to China on October 12th to continue the discussion that will create a 1-2-1 program. Additionally the possibility exists for 25 to 30 students coming for a full four year program.

VCBF Randy Haack—
• Another “tabletop” drill of an emergency incident will happen on November 5 and will simulate a Biological Incident. Last year’s exercise simulated the collapse of the Kingsley Dam (Lake McConaughy Dam).
• LB605 which is a capital spending bill is progressing in the Legislature. Some of the focus has gone beyond deferred maintenance and will include projects that could enhance economic developments. Improvements to Bruner Hall of Science and the campus utilities infrastructure are the UNK priorities in the bill.

VCUR Kathy Smith –
• Publication of the Centennial book has been delayed, but should be completed in the next two weeks.
• Work on the 2007 earmark funding in the U.S. Congress is beginning with several campus proposals being created.

Scott Darveau, Recorder