Present: Chancellor Kristensen, VCBF Haack, Dean of Students Flagstad, FS President Kruse, Senator Brown, Senator Rieder, Senator Young, and Senator Bridges (recorder)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the Administration on October 28, 2005 and discussed the following items:

1. Any clarification necessary regarding the bump in stipends for graduate assistants in priority programs?

   Chancellor Kristensen indicated that SVCAA Murray has the information on this item. President Kruse indicated that she would contact SVCAA Murray for the appropriate information. Once the information is available, the FSEC will provide it to Senate.

   President Kruse has spoken with Ken Nikels regarding the GA stipends and this information appears in the President's Report.

   The discussion that followed focused on priority programs in general. Chancellor Kristensen noted that priority programs remain important to the Board of Regents, as the Legislature did not provide funds for priority programs in the last budget. Chancellor Kristensen also noted that although the process of allocating those priority program funds differ across the campuses in the UN system, each campus is dealing with issues regarding priority program funds. President Kruse also noted that President Milliken is aware of the issues and concerns regarding priority programs.

2. Continued interest in the Sandhills Room / faculty dining space.

   The consensus of the room was, “There it is.” President Kruse expressed appreciation for the information regarding how to reserve the Sandhills Room for functions and also noted that there are faculty and/or campus groups that will make use of the facility.

3. Source of funding for the 0.7 FTE position of Coordinator of the 1-2-1 program?

   Information was not available at the time of the meeting. Chancellor Kristensen indicated that he inform President Kruse when the information becomes available.

4. International students’ concerns over housing after Case and Ludden are razed.

   Dean Flagstad indicated that alternative accommodations for all but 3 students have been made (those 3 are still deciding what to do). Most of the concern seemed to be regarding whether the alternative accommodations would have the same amenities as their original rooms (e.g., single room, kitchen facilities, and break housing). Dean Flagstad indicated that all of the students’ concerns were being taken seriously and Student Life was doing all they could to minimize dissatisfaction. Overall there has been very little grumbling about the changes that are taking place.

5. Reports from administrators:

   Chancellor Kristensen:

   a) There was a special Board of Regents meeting a week ago concerning the land transfers in Omaha. UNO is acquiring a substantial amount of land (> 400 acres)
within Omaha. UNO also presented their plan for doubling the size of the residence halls (an increase of about 1,200 beds). Chancellor Kristensen predicts that UNO will receive some authority to increase bed space, but it is unclear how much. Currently there is discussion underway to determine if this item will be placed on the agenda for the November Board of Regents meeting. Chancellor Kristensen emphasized that this is an important issue for UNK to keep track of as it represents a change in mission for UNO. Although UNO views this plan as harmless for UNK, the fact remains that if 12 people stay in Omaha instead of coming to UNK then UNK’s enrollment effectively declines by 1%. Thus, UNO’s plan will only be harmless for UNK if they do not take students from the other UN campuses

b) President Milliken, State Legislature Staff, BOR members, and members of the President’s Advisory Council were on campus this week for a tour of the residence halls and utilities infrastructure. The tour was given in conjunction with LB605. The group was shown the needs for utilities and the point was well taken by the group.

c) Asking for patience as the campus begins construction of the new residence halls. Right now plans for landscaping are underway but very soon machinery will be on campus. It was noted that the immediate impact on parking would be felt by the Administrators in Founders Hall. (The rest of the group felt great sympathy.)

VBF Randy Haack:

a) The investigation regarding the sexual assault is ongoing.

b) James Paul, from the Culinary Arts Institute from Atlanta, Georgia is the new Food Service Director. Word is that he makes audacious deserts.

c) Site Advisory Committee includes Steve Rothenberger. The committee is in the process of determining which trees can and/or will be saved during the construction process on the new residence halls. The Site Advisory Committee is also working on a landscaping plan.

Dean of Students Lois Flagstad:

a) The number of students seeking tutoring, especially in math and science, has increased over last year. President Kruse mentioned that the Writing Center in the Library is only able to operate as long as the funds to pay tutors are available. With the increase in use, additional support could be used. Dean Flagstad indicated she would look into the situation.

b) There are more wireless connections in the residence halls and student lounges. This is appreciated by students.