Meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with the UNK Administration  
April 18, 2007               Warner Conference Room                1:15 - 2:21 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:   President Darveau, Senators Jackowiak, Wozniak, Kruse, Frickel, and Miller, Chancellor Kristensen, Sr. Vice Chancellor Murray, VCBF Johnson, VCUR Carlson, Dean of Students Flagstad

Absent:

Agenda Items:

1. Expense Reimbursement Policies and Procedure. President Darveau expressed the desire, shared by many faculty, that the policies and requirements for reimbursement for travel and other expenses be more transparent and better communicated to faculty and staff. Several examples of reimbursement problems were provided. Vice Chancellor Johnson promised to review the situation and to provide the Senate with some solutions to the problems described. Senator Jackowiak pointed out that several responsibilities, previous undertaken by administrative staff, have been re-allocated to departmental secretaries and that their workload was becoming burdensome. President Darveau noted that an example was the role of the departmental secretaries in managing arrangement for job candidates.

2. Campus Security. Dean of Students Flagstad indicated that our students' reaction to the tragedy at Virginia Tech was one of bewilderment and concern as to how such an event would affect our campus but also noted that students were not necessarily fearful that it could happen here. She mentioned both the prayer vigil and the candlelight vigil that were held in response to the tragedy. She also noted that in the case of students who exhibit behavior that might cause concern, there is a clear policy and procedure outlined in the student handbook for dealing with such cases. UNK can, if warranted, mandate counseling and ultimately expel a student who may be deemed dangerous. Records of student behavioral incidents are kept at the counseling center and are reviewed to ascertain if a student is exhibiting a pattern of behavior. A discussion ensured on what information can be shared and with whom. The administration indicated that FERPA limits what we can say about students to people external to the campus, it does not prevent faculty and staff from discussing student behaviors among ourselves. Vice Chancellor Johnson indicated that she had met with members of her staff to review the emergency plan and the plan for communicating with the campus. These plans are subject to ongoing annual review. Chancellor Kristensen suggested that a thorough discussion of how we might respond to various scenarios would be best done after people have had time to grieve and the situation is not as raw. Vice Chancellor Carlson noted that these situations engender significant media interest and that he had already given four interviews on the subject.
3. **Senate Plan of Action and Fall Retreat.** President-elect Miller thanked members of the administration for meeting with him and talking about upcoming issues on which the Senate and the Administration can collaborate. He indicated that several of those will be included in his 2007-08 Plan of Action. He also suggested that the Fall Retreat be conducted in the manner of a "fishbowl" with an inner circle of policy makers and presenters and an outer circle of interested parties and stakeholders and that we expand that list to include members of the Faculty Senate, representatives from each department not represented on the Senate, and Chair's of Senate Committees. The agenda for the meeting will include presentations on the budget, academic program reviews, NCA visit, facilities update, strategic plan, assessment, and general studies.

**Reports from the Administration:**

**Chancellor's Report.**

1. **Budget** Chancellor Kristensen that the Appropriations Committee has reported the budget to the legislature with no changes in their recommendation of 4%. The legislature as a whole does not typically cut items from their recommendation although sometimes items are added. It is almost certain that the Governor will line-item veto the budget for the University and our efforts will be centered on encouraging the legislators to override his veto. All of this is not likely to be completed before the third week of May.

2. **UN Foundation Grants.** We have outlined our requests to the Foundation, which were well received, but no feedback has been provided as to the funding decisions.

3. **UNO Chancellor Search** has been narrowed to four candidates. The decision is of some importance to us because of the residential campus issue.

4. **Strategic Plan.** Presentations are being made to the Strategic Planning Committee that outline implementing plans for a wide range of strategic objectives. President-elect Miller and Chancellor Kristensen have agreed to involve the Senate in providing advice on the prioritization of those plans.

5. **Personal Notes.** Earlier in the meeting, the Chancellor indicated that he found the Senate Fall Retreat to be "helpful, informative, and often enjoyable." He also took a moment to thank President Darveau for his hard work this year as President, a thought also expressed by Sr. Vice Chancellor Murray. Chancellor Kristensen also announced that this year's Spring commencement speaker will be Regent Kent Schroeder. Senator Wozniak asked about summer commencement and the Chancellor indicated that the summer commencement speaker would again be a UNK student.

**Sr. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Life's Report.**

1. **Program of Excellence.** The report on funding programs of excellence is posted on the UNK website. The proposal for new funding is being given to the Provost on May 15. Because the initial proposals last year were all denied, money for 1-time
expenditures was available and has been provided to the units selected. The provost has decided that all future proposals must be robust, scholarly presentations; similar to an external grant request, and that they much address important issues of broad interest. Across the university, 3 million is being allocated to fund programs of excellence. This money will not be provided for 1-time expenditures and the priorities for received funding are public health, agriculture, biological sciences and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

2. **Personnel Changes.** Associate VC Nikels will be retiring in May. There are not sufficient funds available to replace him. The responsibilities inherent in the position will be re-allocated to others.

**Vice Chancellor for University Relations Report.**

1. **Searches.** The search for a new Director of Marketing has been completed and Dwann Holmes-Olsen has accepted the position. The Media position has also been filled by Randy Merton.

2. **Marketing Campaign.** Vice Chancellor Carlson indicated that one final ad campaign will be mounted in May. Not related to marketing directly, but of interest, the Vice Chancellor has been appointed to the United Way Board and to the Kearney Business Community Initiative.

**Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Report.**

1. **Year-end Activities.** VCBF Johnson reminded everyone that since funds do not roll over, units need to complete their year-end budget activities on a timely basis. She also noted that staff evaluations are due May 1.

2. **Parking.** VCBF Johnson is reviewing the parking recommendations that will look at the Fall, 2007, Fall 2008, and long term. Her report will go first to Chancellor Kristensen and then on to the Senate.

**Dean of Students Report**

1. **Dean of Students Flagstad outlined plans for completing the semester with a variety of events and celebrations and plans for a busy summer with classes and camps. She noted that her staff was preparing for the arrival of international students and that progress was being made in getting the first residence hall ready for Fall, including the ordering of furniture. So far, the project is ahead of schedule and under budget.**