Faculty Senate Executive Committee & Administration Meeting
September 26, 2007
Warner Conference Room, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Present: Chancellor Kristensen, SVC Murray, VC Johnson, VC Carlson, Interim Dean Longo, President Miller, Senators Snider, Darveau, Kelley, Hansen, Frickel

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Faculty involvement in Summer Orientation
   Faculty should have greater involvement in planning summer orientation in order to bridge the gap with Student Services. There should also be an evaluation of the effectiveness of orientation. SVC Murray: Dusty Newton can inform on how to increase faculty involvement.

2. Communication of policy changes
   There should be a systematized way of informing people about proposed policy changes. VC Carlson: Randy Mertens is over internal communications and will publicize policy changes whenever he’s notified about them.

3. Flexibility in adjunct salaries
   SVC Murray: Deans have flexibility if a department has difficulty finding an adjunct to cover a class. The SVC budget may be able to help cover some adjunct cost.

4. Changes to policy documents
   Organizations producing a changed document need to provide a guide to specific changes that were made. SVC Murray: Kim Elliott is also compiling a list of policies for easy reference.

5. Healthcare costs for retired faculty
   Cost of continuing health coverage for non-Medicare eligible retirees is high. VC Johnson: A significant increase in prescription drug use has raised coverage rates. If more money is put into covering non-Medicare eligible retirees, the cost to active employees goes up. SVC Murray: UNK pays the major share for non-Medical eligible retirees. Chancellor Kristensen: healthcare cost is currently being discussed by central administration, and there is a strong desire to keep retirees in the pool.

6. Status of revised rank and tenure guidelines
   SVC Murray: There is one remaining item (in Section 10) to be revised. Then the document goes to Faculty Senate, the colleges, and UNKEA for review. Finalized Guidelines would not go into force until the next bargaining session.

7. Faculty development leave
   There appears to be very few leaves. Also, can criteria for obtaining leave include development activities relating to the mission of a teaching institution? SVC Murray: Virtually no applicant has been turned down, and leave can be granted for teaching development. Most leaves are for a semester, and faculty should explore external funding to take a two semester leave.
8. Senate meetings and actions
a. Faculty Welfare Committee is working to clarify workload policies for non-teaching activities.
b. Continuing Education Committee is working to increase the number of online students who provide course evaluations (currently about 20%).
c. Student Affairs Committee is reviewing the process for administrative withdrawal of a student. Existing policies are vague.
d. Reports at upcoming Faculty Senate meetings:
   • Retention and Recruitment committees – Dean Scantling, Interim Dean Longo
   • Parking – VC Johnson
   • Diversity Study – Cheryl Bressington

9. Reports from the Administration
Chancellor Kristensen
a. The Recruitment and Retention committees will give a status report to the Strategic Planning Committee in November.
b. UNK should become informed about the voluntary assessment initiatives such as that being developed by National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. NU will likely be involved at some point.
c. There will be budget cuts in the current 2-year cycle, and the appropriate approach will be vertical rather than across the board. In past cuts, non-academic areas absorbed the biggest share, but that won’t be possible in the next round of cuts. Central administration is reevaluating the allocation of money to campuses, which would help UNK.

Senior Vice Chancellor Murray
a. Vendor support for SIS will end in 2011, and transition to a new system takes 3 years. A consultant will be hired in October to guide us through the transition. This will be a complex, extensive project.
b. Action plans for the academic enhancement component of the Strategic Plan should be out by spring.
c. Technology Committee will evaluate the use of campus technology money and will meet soon.
d. As part of the American Democracy Project, John Anderson is preparing a report on how involved our students are in democracy-related activities.
e. We’ve bought assessment software called WEAVEonline, which should be in place by spring semester. It will simplify assessment.
f. We have a vendor to supply 24/7 support to online learners through a combination of software and phone consultation.

Vice Chancellor Johnson
a. Construction of the central utility plant will be in phases: 1) demolition, 2) construction by NPPD, 3) construction of UNK’s portion. A ditch will traverse central campus during installation of the distribution system. In summer 2008 there will be three days without electricity at UNK. This will impact food storage, lab animals, summer school, etc. Building managers are communicating with building users to discover what challenges this may pose.
b. The fence around Bruner goes up in November or December. Bruner and Thomas Hall parking will then be gone for good. Demolition of Mary Morse is in December or January, weather permitting.
c. Loper Hall is progressing on schedule.
d. Plans for Otto Olsen are being reworked because they were not detailed enough.
e. Plans for more parking on east campus are being discussed.
f. Plans for renovating older residential halls are being discussed. Fire sprinklers for those buildings will cost $13 million.
g. UNK has emergency plans for situations such as at Virginia Tech.
h. The Strategic Plan does not include a financial component to carry out the plan. A financial component is being developed.
i. Food services will be reviewed, to include asking faculty/staff what kinds of service they would like available.
j. A section of trade books (non-academic) may be installed in the bookstore, but would require active faculty support to make it sustainable.

Vice Chancellor Carlson
a. Identity branding by Malcolm Greer will be unveiled October 10, 3:30 p.m., Warner Conference Room.
b. Drawings of the new planetarium will be presented at a press conference in the lobby of Mary Morse on October 28, 2 p.m.
c. Today (9/26) begins a series of visits to campus by local state legislators to build closer relationships with UNK.
d. UNK will survey businesses and faculty/staff to identify ways to work together on mutual interests.
e. Central heating and cooling will be installed in the Frank House. The site will become more available to the public, including the second floor.

Interim Dean Longo
a. We’re organizing Friday afternoon faculty/student sessions in the residence halls to encourage discussion about values.
b. Dean Harrold is working to make scholarships a better recruitment tool. Anyone who oversees a scholarship fund should tell Judy Spellman.
c. Gail Zeller’s committee revised a section of the Student Code and will soon disseminate it on campus.
d. Brandon Benitz has been assigned to oversee programs for students who are returning veterans.

Respectfully submitted,
Daren Snider