Present: Chancellor Kristensen, SVCAA Murray, VCUR Carlson, VCBF Johnson, Dean of Student Life Zeller, FS President Snider, Senators Benz, Dimock, Frickel, Miller and Summar.

Agenda Items

1) Deferred Maintenance. What issues of deferred maintenance exist on campus? What is the plan for addressing them?

Health and safety issues always have the highest priority. There is a new process that has been put in place for facilities work. Deans and Directors are compiling a list to be forwarded to VCBF Johnson and then to Facilities Director McQueen. This list is due by the end of September. As a side note, VC Johnson asks that faculty not paint their own offices, but file the requisite work permit.

2) New Faculty currently receive their first paycheck at the end of September. Is there a way to issue some pay at the end of August to relieve the hardship this creates?

VC Johnson will check into this issue and get back to the executive committee.

3) What is the status of the budget cuts? What process is being followed?

The process will be the same as before. The question was asked whether deans are required to get input from others before suggesting their cuts. SVC Murray answered not necessarily. VC Murray has heard that deans are involving others, however. Sen. Miller asked whether and when faculty would have input to the process. The answer was after the deans have made their recommendations.

4) What is the status of the Strategic Plan prioritization? How will it affect the budget cut process?

We are beginning Phase 3 of the process. Part of the process was to find money or realign money so as to implement the plan. Thus, reallocation was perhaps always part of the process, and this will continue to be true. Admissions, Financial Aid, and Utilities will probably not receive cuts.

5) What is the status of the summer school budget? Will the e-campus budget still be able to support departments in their online summer school offerings?

Summer School budget will receive cuts, but it is too soon to quantify those cuts. E-campus will receive proportionate cuts (ca. 1.5%), and its self-generated funds will not be affected.
6) What is the status of the position of director of international education?

This is on hold until we have a new SVC. Dr. Murray will be the interim director.

7) What is the status of the search for a new Senior Vice Chancellor? Will the Faculty Senate executive committee have time to meet with each candidate, as has been the practice?

The Search Committee has been formed, and will be reviewing applications. The Chancellor has directed the committee to give the academic community broad access. The Executive Community will have the same access as in past searches.

8) Has the use and effectiveness of the 24/7 offsite helpdesk been assessed? What is the cost of that service?

There are approximately 70 calls per month to the offsite service, with this rising to about 150 at the start of each semester. No formal assessment of quality of the service provider has occurred. The cost is around $31,000, which comes from the tech fee.

9) Can smart classrooms have standardized software so that faculty know what programs to expect? Can support be available (such as an ‘emergency’ number) to handle problems that occur during a class?

Each college has its own tech people, and these each have their own ideas. SVC Murray said that he expects there to be regular meetings between ITS and the College tech people, where issues like this can be addressed. It would be very helpful to know what faculty need/expect on smart classroom computers. Sen. Miller, with Sen. Benz concurring, suggested that the Academic Information Technology Committee could survey faculty about their expectations. VC Murray suggested that the request about emergency support might better come through faculty channels.

10) What progress is Student life making towards encouraging students to stay on campus on the weekends?

DoS Zeller reported that this is always under discussion. Items under consideration include moving social events and community service events to weekends (from Thursday nights), and getting student participation at weekend sporting events. There is also talk about restructuring services in the union, to perhaps include a Sunday evening meal in the Commons. There was also some mention of a dance in the Atrium on Friday nights.

11) Who submits to the Board of Regents the proposed changes to the Faculty Senate constitution?
As this is an academic submission, SVC Murray handles the submission. After that, when it actually gets on the BOR agenda is up to them.

12) Can the Administration encourage deans, chairs, and directors to be more transparent and to communicate more frequently, especially in regards to budget issues?

The Chancellor indicated that transparency is always the goal. SVC Murray indicated that individual Colleges may be dealing with sensitive issues, and thus cannot be as open as they would like. VC Murray has indicated that he has directed that Colleges protect their best programs, as far as it is possible. VC Murray indicated that we will have had 6 budget cuts since 2000, and there is no more ‘low-hanging fruit.’ VCBF Johnson indicated that Central Administration (and through them the Board of Regents) wants to know how we’re managing the cuts, and what we’re doing different because of them. Everyone understands that this is a hard, painful process.

13) Administration Reports
   a. Chancellor
      There was a retreat held in Lincoln about distance education. The retreat centered on branding and marketing for the University, with the idea being the development of a coherent web presence for all three campuses. Governance issues have yet to be addressed.
      We have some unique challenges for our Airways Science program because of the new Fixed Base Operator at the Kearney Municipal Airport. The new FBO Does not want to do charter flight training, Which would severely impact the program. Bruce Forster and Terry Gibbs are working overtime to resolve the issue.

   b. SVC
      SVC Murray indicated that he had already made his report in the other sections of the meeting, and would therefore defer, in the interests of time.

   c. VCBF
      All projects are currently on schedule. The plan is to move everything over into the new service tunnels in the 2nd week of October, then sod the final area.
      Follet’s Bookstore is closing November 1st, with no plans to reopen. This will leave the Antelope as the only bookstore for the entire campus. The contract for the on-campus bookstore is up in June, 2009, and VC Johnson expects both Nebraska Bookstore (current tenants) and Follet’s Bookstore to compete for the contract. The soft drink contract is also coming up for re-bid, and VC Johnson expects both Coke and Pepsi to submit bids.

   d. VCUR
We are getting ready to test the new website design. There will be a beta test in October. The search for a community relations event manager is still on. This position is funded with reallocated money, not new money. VCUR Carlson emphasized that faculty are free to speak their minds about the Connerly Amendment, as long as they do not use University resources to do so. This includes e-mail accounts. State Senators are coming to campus, and may want to meet with faculty.

e. Dean of Students
   The first meetings about the ADA will be starting the week of September 29th.

Respectfully Submitted

Joe Benz