I. Questions/Problems raised by the Senate.
   a. Campus stores not accepting cash. Johnson reported that this was just a short experiment. Currently there is one “cash only” location--the Living Room in the Union. Cash only includes U.S. dollars, credit cards or loper dollars. Transfer points are not accepted there. All other venues accept all methods of payment.
   b. International students arriving without classes/programs. Dallas Kenny has this issue as a high priority for him to resolve. It is a problem with logistics and VISA requirements. He will be tapping faculty to help him find solutions. Mary Daake meets with these students to try to facilitate their enrollment after several other orientation steps must be completed. There is an uncertainty about the actual number of students up until the actual arrival date. Moore added a faculty concern to remember as the system strives to increase the number of international students that when these students lack language skills it strains resources for all—students and faculty. It was noted that the writing center and conversation tables have a positive impact on this issue.
   c. Ergonomics Study. Johnson will disseminate results. The purpose was to reduce employee injury and stress in the workplace. It was also suggested that additional information on how to implement the results would be helpful.

II. A general brainstorming session was introduced by Dimock to explore possible alternative approaches to future meeting agendas.
   a. One suggestion was to implement a focused 20 minute period on important issues, current or forthcoming.
   b. General discussion seemed to suggest that the questions from Senate could be dealt with prior to the meeting with e-mails and follow-up information could be handled at the meeting if necessary. It was also suggested that these questions be held until the end of the meeting.
   c. Oravecz expressed an interest in knowing more about what the students are doing and dealing with in the classroom. He suggested focusing on both student and faculty experiences and concerns.
   d. Johnson added that there was a meeting earlier in the week about international student recruitment and she expects positive changes to better ensure that these students are prepared.
   e. Johnson also shared that the issue of how best to meet student needs with textbook sales is becoming increasingly complicated—buy, rent, on-line. The bookstore is a convenience offered to students. She is interested in what faculty
f. In summation, President Dimock assured those present that Exec will come up with some key issues/themes for focused discussion at this meeting and that the questions will be handled prior to the actual meetings.

III. Continuing Business

a. Red Balloon Project. It was suggested that this might be one of the initial themes for future meetings. Bicak reported that it is really more of a process than a project. Member institutions seek leverage/strength in numbers. The 120 hr initiative was within the RBP. He reported that 7 of 10 of our peers are already implementing this. He sees an opportunity for Faculty Senate, Deans, and Administration to work together to utilize resources available through this group of smaller universities to enhance UNK’s efforts that are reflective of its key pieces. He sees this as a sound, healthy exercise for our institution to 1) increase expectations 2) address realities of the economy and 3) explore possibilities to change the delivery of education—look at assumptions within the current delivery model.

b. CTE. Biggs is still in place through the fall semester to lead CTE. The Director position is not funded with a direct budget line. Money shifted to Assessment, so funding to continue CTE has been pulled from the VC’s resources. An internal search is probable yet this fall semester. Director receives 1 course release. The graduate assistant was pulled in budget cuts, so that function will need to be covered with other campus resources.

c. First Year Program. Oravecz stated that this program needs consistency. Mary Daake is now responsible but a position description for an assistant under her is being finalized. Orientation and the First Year Program would be the responsibility of that person. Currently 4 sections of the FY course are being offered. Assessment data/report will be available but retention data is not available at this time. Portal courses are being explored as possible connections. He asked for recommended faculty names to be forwarded to him for inclusion in this process.

IV. Administrative Reports

a. SVC Bicak. There is a plan to form a small committee to focus on recruitment of international students and the expansion of international experiences for our domestic students. A task force on graduation rates is forthcoming. Six year rates are good but 4 year rates are much lower. The 120 cr. hr. implementation might impact this.

b. VCBF Johnson. Next week Chancellor will send information out on budget reallocation—UNK’s chunk is $368,430 (flat funding, salary increases, 3 new SIS positions and salary adjustments). Software to enhance supply purchasing will be implemented—e-shop. This will impact the sciences and facilities the most. April, 2012 is set for implementation. Ultimately this should make purchasing more efficient and effective. During the next 3-6 months information about product lines will become available. Other facility projects continue.
preliminary design of the Wellness Center is closer to distribution. There is an 8 month process in place to plan the basic design of South Campus project. Once firmer, exploration can be made into possible private partners. The State has approved the round-about project for the entrance from highway 30, but carries a minimum of 6 years for implementation. UNK’s primary focus is safety, and this delay does not seem to facilitate that. Facilities is working on an alternative to take to the city for possible city and state funding. A parking garage is dependent on funding and a suitable location. Approval was received to move forward with the Towers Project.

c. VCUR Carlson. The announcement about enrollment numbers is very good for UNK. The Kearney community is genuinely excited. We are awaiting the US News release on Sept. 13th to see how UNK’s rating stands. A high priority for his office is to improve campus communication. One challenge is to determine what type of communication works best for all involved.

d. Dean of Student Affairs Oravecz. The opening weekend and student orientation went well. Attendance was good at Saturday sessions, beginning with 900 students gathering at the Fountain at 9 am. The activities will undergo assessment for future guidance. He is very interested in offering faculty development workshops on mental health and sexual assault. An emphasis is being made on graduation rates and he is excited that the student success piece within the strategic plan will be more fully developed. Faculty have been identified to cover departmental visits of prospective students. Student reps to the Faculty Senate have been appointed.

V. Closing. FS President Dimock stated that the FS Exec will put together topics for future meetings and we will try the new format this semester. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Tami James Moore, Past President UNK Faculty Senate