Minutes
Present: Aaron Dimock (Sec.), Ken Trantham, Dawn Mollenkopf, Chancellor Kristensen, VCAA Bicak, VCUR Carlson, DSA OravecZ

1) The 120 hour degree transition.
   • The council discussed the main issues, concerns, and motions put forward in the senate meeting.
   • The General Studies Program.
     • Functional changes to the general studies program (such as requiring GS courses) are not off the table and can be developed and proposed through the current channels from departments to college level curriculum committees to the Senate Academic Affairs committee.
     • Structural changes, like changing course requirements and elective hours, would require a great deal of consideration and are not likely at this time.
   • Process and coordinating the changes.
     • This semester, programs should work to get their majors in line with the BOR policy.
       • In the spring, changes can be made to polish the changes.
     • Departments need to critically examine their curriculum, requirements, and program structure to find ways of meeting the requirement.
     • VCAA Bicak is working with the deans and the deans with department chairs to share information and collaborate.
     • The Senate can help coordinate information flow between the administration and the faculty
   • Exemptions and the time line.
     • Exemptions are not a given to any program.
     • Accreditation requirements need to be examined to determine if there is flexibility in how requirements are met (through specific courses or across curriculum).
     • There is no delaying the implementation of the BOR policy.
     • It is advisable, if seeking an exemption, to do so in the first round than to wait.
   • The Senate would like to have access to statistics on students’ entry levels and frequency of remedial course work.

2) Free Speech Policy on campus.
   • The council discussed a number of interrelated concerns regarding speakers’ rights on campus.
   • Our policies and practices on campus have to take into consideration BOR policy1 and Communication Law2 and require us to grant a great deal of latitude to speakers in public places on campus.
   • When faculty or student organizations sponsor speakers they are more subject to our policies.
   • Since the campus is public property, speakers can use any public areas as long as they are not blocking access to buildings or interfering with courses.
     o Removing and restricting speakers creates a legal liability.
   • Students concerned about speakers should seek support from faculty and student affairs.
     o Counseling is available for students who are upset by speakers.

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1 See http://nebraska.edu/docs/board/RegentPolicies.pdf RP-2.1.2
2 The Website http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/ is useful in this regard.
Faculty should be able to explain students and speaker’s 1st Amendment Rights.  
- Students and faculty have the right to free speech as well.  
- Students and faculty are not captive audiences and may avoid or leave situations they find offensive.

**Staff Reports:**

1) Chancellor  
   a. HUD has claimed we have violated the Fair Housing Act. We are ADA compliant and are fighting the HUD’s claim, since the act had not been applied to campuses.  
   b. The budget was sent on 10/1 and we are watching the legislature, but have no hint of appropriations changes.  
   c. Building projects: The ramp is in on the east side of Founders. VCBF Johnson is working on the plans for the Wellness Center project. The President has provided funds to start planning the South Campus project - faculty will be involved in the planning.  

2) VCAA  
   a. The VCAA has approved the MIS Quality Assurance Minor after due consideration.  

3) VCUR  
   a. VCUR Carlson sent out a message to the campus regarding the Torch Club. The purpose of the club is to discuss different topics which can be submitted to *Torch Magazine*. There is an informal meeting scheduled for Wednesday 10/26 from 5:00 - 6:00 PM at the Alumni House.  
   b. There is a reception Wednesday 10/19 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Platt Valley State Bank.  

4) DSA  
   a. Student Affairs is developing a “Student Success Plan” in consultation with Noel-Levitz. A small committee with representation from each college will develop the plan by this spring.  
   b. The search for the director of the First Year program is underway.  
   c. Mary Sommers and Dennis Potthoff have been looking at the data on the First Year course and a report is forthcoming.  
   d. A Sexual Assault and Harassment policy will be unveiled at the BOR meeting this month. Student Affairs administrators from the campuses were directed by the BOR to develop the policy.  
   e. On Friday 11/4 from 2:00 - 4:00PM the Learning Commons will have its ribbon cutting.  
   f. The next recruitment “preview day” is Tuesday 11/15. Dusty will be coordinating with the deans for college specific meetings.  

**Items for discussion at later meetings:**  
*(prioritized)*

**The First Year Program.** We would like to discuss the goals of the first year program and how they fit with the other initiatives and curriculum on campus, particularly the relationship to recruitment and retention of students, the role of the portal in the general studies program, and the other programs we have aimed at student success.  

**Online education and the mission of the University.** We have seen exceptional growth in online education and will likely see increased growth. How does and can online education fit into the broader mission of the university? What are the implications for on campus programs and blended programs? Where and how can we make better use of resources? What problems do we expect to face and how can we plan to overcome them?
**Book Industry.** How are changes in the delivery and use of content changing the way we and our students use texts. How are changes in the industry going to change the way we can and should use texts in our classes?

**Recruitment/Retention/Progression.** What are we doing that is successful and needs to be supported? Where are the problems we are encountering (like 4 year completion)? What can we do to contribute to the success of students?

**International student recruitment, retention, and success.** We have had a great deal of success with international students and part of the university's goals are to increase international student enrollment. With increases in numbers of international students in diverse programs, we also have increased demands on time and resources. What problems are we likely to encounter and how can we better prepare for success?