Attached please find the report of the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc MOOC Committee. The committee was established in April of 2014 to review the NU-Coursera contract and the implications for initiating MOOC style courses on the UNK campus. The committee reviewed the Coursera contract with regard to the following issues and concerns:

a. Shared Governance
b. Faculty Intellectual Property Rights
c. Faculty Recognition and Compensation for Course Development and Instruction
d. Faculty Training
e. Student Privacy and FERPA
f. Transfer Course Credit for MOOCs
g. Logistical Challenges (i.e., Staffing, Messaging, and Resources)

The report is accompanied by a presentation of a simple survey sent to UNK faculty to gage interest in engaging the Coursera contract and offering a MOOC type of online course. At this time the survey shows only a slight interest in offering extended online courses. From a total of 62 responses only 13 faculty (21%) indicated an interest in offering a course compared to 38 faculty (62%) who are not interested at this point in time.

The most significant development with regard to the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) movement is how rapidly the characteristics of this concept have altered. Originally designed and expected to be free open courses that would attract thousands of students, the current model of a MOOC has transformed into a variation of traditional online education courses. The report and survey introduction note that current MOOC courses are more properly described as “extensive online courses” that incorporate a varied and distinct community of learners, and so accommodate a variety of ways to offer such a course and a variety of ways for students to demonstrate learning and obtain recognition through certificates or traditional credit mechanisms.

In sum, the committee concludes that there is potential for offering extended online courses through the Coursera contract from the UNK campus but a number of considerations need to be clearly addressed prior to formally moving forward with such offering.

Roger Davis, History, Chair  UNKEA Representative
Linda Lilienthal, TE  FS Academic Affairs Committee
Ken Trantham, Physics  FS Executive Committee
Noel Palmer, Management  FS eCampus Committee
Kim Carlson, Biology  FS Welfare Committee
Martonia Gaskill, TE  FS Academic Information and Technology Committee