Faculty Senate President’s Annual Report 2010-2011

The Domestic Partner Benefit Resolution:
UN Campuses are united in terms of faculty support for these benefits. Nothing has progressed at Varner Hall, yet. Administration feels positively that this will be addressed once the budget issues have been resolved and addressed.

The Resolution recognizing the dedication of those implementing the new PeopleSoft system:
Those honored were invited to be recognized at meeting. Implementation of this system continues to unfold. Problems are being addressed quickly and positively.

The Google-Ads embedded in our UNK web-page:
This has been resolved. It is essential that the web-page be carefully monitored and utilized to its full potential.

The Proposed Future of WI Courses:
Several were purged from course offerings this past academic year. A rolling review of those remaining is underway.

On-line Course Offerings:
Issues of funding, in terms of what comes back to UNK and how it is distributed, have surfaced as imminent concerns. Programs should not sacrifice classroom delivered courses to provide on-line sections. Administration of On-line Worldwide is undergoing revisions.

The Budget:
There are still many unknowns about both the budget and the possible impacts of budget cuts. Chancellor Kristensen met with faculty senate and he also held an open campus forum on the process that will be implemented once the budget is finalized.

Items of special note that the Senate has addressed.

The Red Balloon Project:
As a member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, UNK has the opportunity to join other institutions in a multitude of undertakings. SVCAA Bicak recommends that UNK explore these 3 pieces:
1. 120 credit hour degree
2. Summer School Models
3. Collaboration with other systems and across UN
    As part of this project UNK has a network of many other institutions to explore their ideas and to share those stemming from our campus. It is my suggestion that all 3 be areas of exploration next academic year. Perhaps involving appropriate standing committees.

First Year and other Curricular Questions:
The program was asked to provide feedback about the pilot program initiated this Fall. Assessment data was not ready to report; however, the “pilot” will continue next academic year, regardless. A promise of the assessment data was given and should be requested early in the Fall. Senate must be diligent in overseeing all curricular/programmatic changes and additions.

Academic Affairs Policy:
The chair of the Academic Affairs Committee sought the Faculty Senate Executive Board’s advice on two difficult situations. 1) What to do when individual programs seek to require more credit hours than is the current standard. 

*It was our suggestion to her that requiring the program to provide evidence that such a situation would not harm a student or the program unnecessarily would be appropriate. There should be policy change on this to eliminate re-visiting the issue each time it surfaces in light of increasing demands of accreditation bodies and certification programs.*

2) Challenges between colleges about programs that are very similar in nature.  *At this point, it is not the charge of that committee to make judgment on quality of proposed programs. It is assumed that because those put forth have been vetted and approved at the program-level and the college-level, that quality has been determined.*

**Anticipated 2011-2012 Challenges and Opportunities:**
- South Campus Project
- Budget Implementation
- On-line Worldwide expansion
- Filling key positions in program leadership across campus

It has been my sincere pleasure to represent this body at university and system functions and to preside over meetings this past academic year. I would like to thank my exec members for their assistance and the efforts they have put forth through their positions.

Tami James Moore
Faculty Senate President, 2010-2011