Present: Bragg, Dickson, Littrell, Sadlek, E. Williams

I. Senator Bragg called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

II Deb Thomas from Central Administration asked the Faculty Senates from each campus to draft a resolution in support of the university budget by March 5th. The Senate does not meet again until March 12. A motion cannot be proposed via email, because there needs to be an opportunity for discussion on the motion. Article V of the Faculty Senate Constitution allows the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Senate "when immediacy demands such action." Thus this emergency meeting of the executive committee has been called. The following motion was passed unanimously and will be brought before the Senate for ratification on March 12.

WHEREAS the University of Nebraska budget was reduced by $31.1 million in 2002, and the current outlook is for an additional 10% cut ($41 million) in 2003,

WHEREAS the University of Nebraska is a crucial educational resource and economic driver and, thus, is essential to the recovery and long-term economic well-being of the state,

WHEREAS additional cuts of the magnitude proposed are likely to necessitate increases in tuition and fees that would make higher education less affordable for Nebraska citizens,

WHEREAS the effect of the additional cuts would be to make higher education less able to respond to the educational and service needs of Nebraska citizens,

WHEREAS it would take years for the university to recover from the effects of a budget reduction of the magnitude proposed,

WHEREAS the university realizes that it must bear an equitable share of cuts in order to resolve the current budget crisis,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha calls upon state officials to consider means by which to reduce the adverse impact that the presently proposed budget cuts will have on the quality and diversity of education and services provided by the university.

The motion carried unanimously.
III. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.