Attendees: Bacon, M. Carroll, D’Souza, Dickson, Nazem, Neathery-Castro, Sadlek, Simpson, Tixier y Vigil, Bishop, J. Carroll

I. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Vice President Bacon.

II. The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sadlek reported:

1. The Executive Committee and Administration Meeting was held December 17, 2003. The Administration accepted amended resolution 2712 as well as resolutions 2716 and 2717. Among the items of discussion were minority recruiting and retention. Copies of the UNO “Diversity Action Plan” were distributed. In addition, minority recruiting will become a much larger part of the job description of the Multicultural Affairs Office. We reported on the initial meeting between the Creighton and UNO Faculty Senate Executive Committees. Finally, we discussed the frustrations of Laura Dickson and the Educational Resources and Services Committee with respect to UNO financial scholarship information on the web. VC Christensen promised to follow up with Laura Dickson to see if the committee’s frustrations could be addressed.

2. The Board of Regents Meeting met on Friday, December 12, and Saturday, December 13, 2004, at Varner Hall in Lincoln, NE. There were three committee meetings on Friday afternoon. In the first, the Board heard a report on the Millard/UNO Dual Enrollment Pilot Project from Sheri Rogers and John Christensen. The next committee meeting was given over to a report on distance education given by Provost Jay Noren and the NU Distance Education Coordinating Council. Regent Miller suggested an expanded Coordinating Council with a “consumer marketing expert” and “an individual very familiar with the Phoenix and Bellevue University approach to profitably providing distance education.” With these additional members, he wants the council to study marketing programs and “faculty-centered vs. school owned models” of education that could be used at NU. Miller’s proposal was sent to committee, which will report out in April. This is a proposal that well deserves the faculty’s closest attention. The final committee report was on deferred maintenance.

At the regular Saturday meeting of the Board of Regents the major presentation of the day was on “Tax Policy as it relates to Higher Education.” In addition to the report, Ron Withem passed out a report entitled “It’s Crunch Time
for State Budgets,” written by the Rockefeller Institute of Government. Out-going UNO Student President/Regent Joe Bilek was given a Kudos award for his dedicated work. The move of the UNO Department of Communication to a School of Communication was approved as was the proposed UNO B.A. program in Latino/Latina American Studies. Also approved was the naming of the UNO Library as the “Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library” with a proposed “Dr. Guinter Kahn Addition.” Gifts by these donors will finally make a $6.9 million renovation and expansion of the UNO Library possible.

B. Vice President’s Report: Senator Bacon reported:

The Chancellor’s Council met on December 17, 2003. Sheri Rogers presented a draft plan for increasing the enrollment of minorities at UNO. She will discuss the draft with the Senate’s Goals and Directions Committee. Rod Oberle proposed the adoption of the PeopleAdmin Inc. “Employment Application Systems for Higher Education” which would put employment applications on-line. However, questions were raised about its costs. The NU Values program is continuing. The Board of Regents meeting was discussed. The VC for A&S Affairs and the CBA Dean search committees reported progress. B.J. Reed reported that the Presidential search committee had begun its work. Vice Chancellors Buck and Carrico presented the campus security update. David Carter in Counseling is available for consultation on how to contain explosive classroom situations. The four NU campuses will consult on consistent public access rules in light of last spring’s confrontation at UNO. The Chicago Park District’s model on maintaining that balance is being discussed. The Omaha police are reluctant to become involved in controlling disruptions on campus. Chancellor Belck presented her views on campus developments, including south campus reconfiguration (e.g., CBA’s eventual relocation), the potential for more campus housing, and a north campus parking facility south of the Library. We also learned that funding for the Library’s expansion will come from Clark Foundation monies. Both Registrar Robinson and Interim Dean Langen again addressed the minority recruitment issue.


IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Simpson reported the Goals & Directions committee met on December 17 at 2PM in Room 318 of the Fine Arts building. Those in attendance were: Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, Bruce Garver, Karl Kosloski, Richard Ortman, and Caroline Simpson. The committee met with Dr. Robert Chrisman, Chair of the Black Studies Department and Sheri Rogers, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Assessment, to discuss the university’s Diversity Action Plan. The committee made numerous suggestions on ways to strengthen and improve this document. The committee requested to see a revised version of the Diversity Action Plan and recommends that Sheri Rogers and Dr. Chrisman be invited to speak to the full senate about the plan later in the semester.
V. Faculty Senate Advisory/Ad Hoc Committee Reports

A. Emeritus College Ad Hoc Committee: Professor Cederblom

A short message was e-mailed to all faculty to determine who might be interested in helping plan the Senior Scholars Academy. The replies were to be sent to Sue Bishop who will then give us a list of those who say in their reply that they would like to be involved.

B. Prioritization Ad Hoc Committee: Senator Garver reported the Academic Prioritization Review Committee (Profs. J. Carroll, Coyne, and Garver) and representatives from the Strategic Planning Steering Committee met on the morning of Friday, December 12, 2003. Profs. Carroll and Garver reported on the results of the November meeting of the Senate’s Academic Prioritization Committee. Afterward, the Committee reviewed what had gone well in the Prioritization of 2002, principally the fact that the UNO administration clearly identified the procedures it would follow and then followed them. The Committee next decided to ascertain before its next meeting the extent to which any funds have been allocated to projects or programs identified as “priorities” in 2002. The committee’s impression has been that to date a large part of “priority” funds are being held by the UNO administration to meet unanticipated developments or the future funding of priority requests currently still unfunded.

VI. Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Bacon submitted this report from Professor Fruhling: The Alumni Association met on December 16, 2003. Newly elected board members are: Kelli Sears, Pat Lamberty, Mike Kudlacz and Jim Garbina. Returning members are: Gary Domet, Luanne Nelson, and Angelo Passarelli. Mr. Don Winters is the only retiring Board Member.

B. Graduate Council: Senator Bacon pointed out the memo attached to the agenda from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated November 12, 2003, the subject of which was: New Graduate Policies and Revision to the size of the Graduate Council.

VII. Old Business

A. Minority Recruiting and Retention was revisited by Senator Sadlek. Sheri Rogers is working on another revision of the UNO Diversity Action Plan, which will be presented to the Senate possibly in February 2004.

B. The Campus Security Forum, to be presented immediately before the February Senate meeting in February, was discussed. Those invited will be Paul Kosel, UNO Campus Security, Vice Chancellor Buck, Stan Schleifer, Support Services, David Carter, faculty member from Counseling, and a member of the Omaha Police Department. Senator Sadlek will ask the Senators at next week’s meeting to forward
questions regarding security on campus to Sue in the Faculty Senate office. She will
distribute the questions to Paul Kosel and the other presenters before the forum.

VIII. New Business

Senator Bacon moved the following, which was seconded, and will be brought to the
Senate meeting next week:

Resolution Regarding the UNO Soccer Team:

Whereas, the 2003 University of Nebraska at Omaha soccer team
amassed an impressive 17-4-2 season and played in the NCAA
semi-finals, and

Whereas, the soccer team’s success over the last two years has
brought credit and national recognition to the entire University of
Nebraska at Omaha community, and

Whereas, the soccer team collectively continues to distinguish itself
academically, epitomizing the standards of student-athletes,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University
of Nebraska at Omaha congratulates the soccer team and Coach
Don Klosterman for their success and wishes them another
successful season in 2004.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.