Attendees: Adkins, Akers, Allen, Arbelaez, Bacon, D’Souza, Glaser, Skreija, Watson

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm

II. The February 2, 2005, minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers Reports

   A. President’s Report: Senator Bacon

      1. Chancellor’s Written Response to Resolutions: Nancy Castilow, Asst. to the Chancellor, sent the following e-mail on February 14, 2005: The chancellor acknowledges Resolution 2762 (Task Force on Faculty Development Report) for the purpose of information.

   B. The February 2005 Treasurer’s report was approved as submitted.

IV Standing Committee Reports

   A Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Akers reported that the committee is looking into the current grading scale as requested by the Deans. He will survey the full Senate next week.

   B Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Watson reported the committee met on 23 February. Senators Wolcott, Shaw, Ortman, Pasco, and Watson were in attendance. Associate Vice Chancellor for Technology John Fiene joined the committee to discuss faculty incentives for integrating technologies into teaching. Fiene noted that the ITS Strategic Plan is updated every two years, and what ITS tries to target in their Strategic Plan are “order of magnitude” instructional technologies. Incentives were part of this planning. UNL, like UNO, offers grants for development of Distance Ed courses, although the grants offered at UNL are quite a bit larger ($10,000) than the mini-grants offered to UNO faculty through ITS ($2500). Feine also noted that UNL offers a summer, online institute on instructional technologies to its faculty. This online institute is also available to UNK faculty. ITS is currently working with UNL to make the institute available to UNO faculty. There are no other incentives available to UNL faculty for integrating instructional technologies into their teaching. Feine noted that there are a number of other types of incentives open to UNO faculty, including:
COE summer intersessions that generally focus on emergent instructional technologies.

- An abundance of Blackboard training options, such as Ask? Sessions, one-on-one, small group and departmental customized training sessions, as well as a Digital Media Team who will assist faculty in instructional design with current media technologies.
- ITS will sponsor one Faculty Development Fellowship in Instructional Technologies.
- The ePortfolio project.

UNO now offers 29 degree programs Distance Ed, most of which are graduate programs (Distance Ed students account for 10% of graduate hours). It was also noted that each semester 1500-2000 courses use Blackboard at UNO. Out of approximately 1000 instructor accounts in Blackboard, there are 609 instructors actively using Blackboard.

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Skreija reported the committee met on Wednesday, February 23, 2005. Present: Bernstein, D'Souza, Mei, Skreija (Chair). Absent: Mitenko, Owens. The Committee discussed the draft, dated November 19, 2004, of the "Policy on Conflicts of Commitment and Conflicts of Interest." It was decided to solicit evaluations and reactions regarding the implications the policy, as set forth in this document, would have on UNO faculty.

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Allen reported the committee met on February 23, 2005. Present: Allen (chair), Fruhling, Garver, Sather, Wetig. Guest: Cicotello. The committee continued to develop the Minority Recruiting Strategic Plan. The committee hopes to present it at the April Senate meeting.

E. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Adkins reported the committee met on Wednesday, February 23, at 2:30 p.m. Present at the meeting were Senators Adkins (chair), Bramlett, Kosloski, and Paterson. Deb Smith-Howell, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs was present to discuss the future of the Service Learning Academy. She informed the committee that UNO will begin the process of searching for a permanent director, who will hopefully be in place by May of 2005. The committee will presents to the Senate the following resolution:

WHEREAS, since 1998, 3,889 students have completed a service learning course; 240 service learning courses have been taught; and 35 faculty members have participated in scholarly activities through peer-reviewed publications and presentations at professional conferences; and,

WHEREAS, the main issues confronting the Service Learning Academy are (1) the lack of stable funding, and (2) the need for permanent leadership; and,

WHEREAS, approximately one-half of the Service Learning Academy budget comes from private funding; and,

WHEREAS, the program has been funded one year at a time, making it impossible to engage in long range planning or commit to activities beyond that
time frame; and,

WHEREAS, the UNO Administration has reported that funding will be allocated to hire a permanent director.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the UNO Faculty Senate commends the Administration for recognizing the importance of hiring a permanent director for the Service Learning Academy,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UNO Faculty Senate commends the Interim Co-Directors of the Service Learning Academy, Nora Bacon and Paul Sather, for their leadership over the past year,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate respectfully requests that the Administration continue to give priority in allocating permanent funds to the Service Learning Academy.

F. Committee on Rules: Senator Arbelaez reported the committee is working on sending the e-mail survey to fill campus and university committee vacancies.

V Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Academic Planning Council: Senator Glaser reported that the Psychology department was reviewed last week. Gerontology will be reviewed in March.

B. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Fruhling reported new alumni board members are Ray Barr, Bob Danenhauer, Tom Warren, Kevin Munro and EvaJon Sperling. The board approved the alumni center renovation proposal. The construction will begin August 1, 2005. Stuart Wheat presented an overview on the new UNO web site.

C. American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator D’Souza was unable to attend the State Conference. He will ask another representative to give highlights at next week’s meeting.

D. Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Allen reported the SPSC met on February 23. The Advance is set for Friday, April 8.

E. University Committee for Professional Development: Senator Adkins reported that all faculty are invited to discuss the recommendation of the January 2005 Task Force on Faculty Development. Two meetings have been scheduled for next week.

VI The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.