Attendees:  Barnes, Randall, Reilly, Shaw, Skreija, Tarry, Wolcott

Excused:  Bullock

I. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m.

II. The minutes of the September 6, 2006, meeting were accepted as submitted

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Shaw reported

1. Executive Committee and Administration met September 20, 2006.

Interim-Chancellor Christensen reported on progress in the UNO Summer Scholars program. Since 1989 almost 400 students have participated, and 52% have enrolled at UNO and earned additional credits. The program has proven itself an important venue for recruiting minority students. Dr. Christensen also distributed a report concerning Diversity Funding History. (agenda attachments - pages 9-11.) The data extend back to the 2000-2001 academic year, and they show sex, race and the amount of diversity money associated with each faculty hire. Dr. Christensen noted that UNO has tracked the money carefully, so that when a faculty member resigned the diversity money was reallocated to another diversity hire. Dr. Christensen also distributed a copy of the Academic and Student Affairs Strategic Plan and asked that the Faculty Senate review and provide comments or suggestions. We discussed the Athletics Department, focusing mainly how faculty can be more involved in the overall program. UNO will remain in NCAA Division II and pursue membership in the Mid-America Inter-Collegiate Athletics Association (MIAA).
2. Chancellor’s Council met September 28, 2006. Dr. Julie Totten, Interim-Vice-Chancellor for Administration, reviewed procedural changes for reporting and tracking reimbursements. UNO's financial operations remain very decentralized, so Deans, Directors, and Chairs must review their areas regularly. Requirements for receipts and explanations are now more stringent, especially for any reimbursements drawing on funds held by the Alumni Association. The internal audit has revealed some issues concerning the tax status of transactions handled by the NU Foundation and Alumni Association, so we can expect an appropriate revision to Executive Memorandum 17, the NU system's document governing this area. Athletic Director David Herbster and Interim Chancellor Christensen described progress in the Athletics Department. UNO will remain a NCAA Division II program, with hockey remaining in Division I. Dr. Christensen has contacted the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) to formally inquire about membership there. In response to a question about returning the hockey team to the Civic Auditorium, Dr. Christensen noted that both the Qwest Center and the Civic are managed by MECA, and the difference in leasing costs is now rather small. The Civic may still have an advantage in being smaller and thus fostering more season ticket sales to those who want good seats. Convocation is Wednesday, October 11, in the Straus Performing Arts Recital Hall. Dr. Christensen intends to offer a "30-Day Report Card" on how UNO is moving forward from the resignation of Chancellor Nancy Belel. NU President James Milliken will also address those assembled. Convocation will adjourn to the Criss Library at 11 AM for a dedication ceremony for the Kahn Addition. Dr. Christensen noted that this year's ceremonies will not include academic regalia. Dr. Sheri Rogers, Interim-Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and Associate Vice-Chancellor John Fiene previewed the new interface for the MyMapp e-Portfolio system. Departments will have much more flexibility to devise categories for reporting activities with the new interface.

3. Civility Forum: Senator Tarry reported that Interim Chancellor Christensen hosted a forum of faculty, staff, and students on October 4, 2006. The discussion focused on whether or not there has been a decline of civility, for lack of a better word, on campus in the last couple of years. The group agreed that there is sufficient concern to warrant further consideration of the issue and discussion of what might be done to enhance relations between and among faculty, staff, and students.


IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Tarry reported that the committee was only able to hold a “virtual” meeting. They are still trying to have a resolution on the Graduate Certificate in Global Operations ready for the full Senate meeting next week.
B. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Wolcott reported the committee met September 26, 2006. Those present were: John Thorpe, Lisa Boucher, Peter Wolcott, Lanyce Keel, Christopher Stanichar. Student evaluations were discussed. The following resolutions, drafted at the last meeting were unanimously approved for submission to the Faculty Senate. The Executive Committee and Cabinet also approved sending them to the Senate.

1. **Resolution Regarding Common Base Course Evaluation Form:**

   WHEREAS no fewer than 12 different course evaluations forms are currently used on campus, and
   WHEREAS these evaluations vary widely in questions posed to students and in answer scales used, and
   WHEREAS some of these forms elicit little information that could be used to improve teaching, teaching materials, student learning, or class environments, and
   WHEREAS campus-wide efforts related to assessing student learning benefit from common assessment tools used across campus, and
   WHEREAS individual colleges/divisions have distinctive course evaluation and assessment needs,
   THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that the administration constitute a campus-wide committee with faculty representation from each college and division to
   · investigate current research and practice in student course evaluations, and
   · take steps leading to the eventual use of a common base course evaluation instrument across all colleges/divisions, that can be extended according to the needs of individual colleges/division.

   The question of the nature of student course evaluations is distinct from the question of their use. The committee unanimously agreed that the following resolution should also be presented to the Faculty Senate.

2. **Resolution Regarding Use of Course Evaluations:**

   WHEREAS there is a perception among some faculty that some units on campus use student course evaluations as the primary means of assessing teaching effectiveness, and
   WHEREAS student course evaluations only reflect student perceptions of a course and do not directly measure teaching effectiveness, and
   WHEREAS research has shown that a reliable and thorough evaluation of
teaching effectiveness should be based on a combination of different kinds of assessments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate directs that student course evaluations be used primarily for improvement of classrooms and instruction, and never as the sole measure of teaching effectiveness.

B. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Skreija reported the committee met September 27, 2006. Present: Barbara Hewins-Maroney, Elaine Lahue, John Maloney, and Andris Skreija (Chair). Excused: Stuart Bernstein, and Samuel Brown. Senator Brown had previously informed the Chair that:

1) he had contacted Mr. Kevin Epperson, the IRB administrator, who informed him that the proposed questionnaire to UNO faculty did not have to be cleared by the IRB. And

2) Mr. Jerome Deichert had suggested that there are ways of administering questionnaires via web sites with almost certain anonymity. The qualifier refers to the fact that nothing transmitted electronically can ever be completely secure.

It was decided that after some minor changes the questionnaire be submitted to the full senate for review. There was discussion on how to persuasively reassure the faculty that their responses would remain confidential. The committee also considered the "Diversity Funding History", forwarded by the Interim Chancellor Christensen. Senator Lahue noted that for the sixty members of faculty covered by that report the attrition rate was six per cent. The committee decided to seek further information on this topic.

C. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Reilly reported the committee met September 27, 2006. The meeting was attended by Saundra Wetig, Robert Smith, Hugh Reilly (Chair) and Lyn Holley. Ziaul Huq was unable to attend but submitted a large amount of information he had gathered on outreach activities in the College of Business. We are still gathering info from the different colleges on campus regarding all of their outreach activities. We will also be working with Deb Smith-Howell and Linda Mannering to gather more research in this area. At the last Senate meeting, we were tasked with trying to find a viable alternative to the small visitor parking hangers that are given to professionals that are visiting our classes. It has been expressed that even with the visitor's passes, many guests have a very difficult time finding parking spaces, especially during peak days and times. Campus Security informed us that people can contact them and get a code, for the mid-level of the parking garage, that will work for a day or even a week. This should alleviate much of the parking problem for visitors.

D. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Bullock was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted the following report. The committee met on September 27, 2006. Those present were Senators Bullock, Corcoran, Mei, and Noble. Senators Winter and Rowland were absent. We discussed briefly the general structure and content of the FACONNECT website and created a list of items to share with the Faculty Development Advisory Committee (FDAC) during their next meeting on
October 3. The major recommendations regarding FACONNECT dealt primarily with attempts to integrate the website more fully into campus culture. The committee also began a dialogue about pre-tenure sabbaticals and assigned each member the task of researching the policies at peer institutions to begin determining the advisability of such a policy at UNO.

E. Committee on Rules: Senator Barnes reported the committee met on September 27, 2006. Those in attendance were: Maria Arbelaez, Paul Barnes, Holly K Miller, Amanda Randall, John Windler. Parvathi Chundi was absent. During this meeting the committee counted and certified ballots electing two representatives to serve on the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. 499 Ballots were sent to UNO faculty, 266 were returned, 263 were counted (not counted were one unsigned ballot and two delivered after the deadline). Resolution 2842 will be completed as follows and sent to the full Senate next week:

Resolution 2842, 9/13/2006: UNO Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (completed with UNO Faculty Ballot Vote):

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with section 6.1 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws the following nominees for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee are brought forward by the Rules Committee for senate nomination. The ballot will be presented to the UNO faculty. One tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve three-year terms from October 16, 2006, through October 15, 2009, to replace retiring member, Michael O’Hara:

Michael O’Hara (tenured faculty)
James Carroll (tenured faculty). ELECTED

And one non-tenured faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Peter Szto, from October 16, 2006, through October 15, 2009:

Nancy Kelly-Gillespie (non-tenured faculty) ELECTED
Tatyana Livschultz (non-tenured faculty).

V. New Business

1. The Faculty Senate will compete in the Bell Tower Challenge on October 18, 2006. President Shaw volunteered to participate. At least two more volunteers will be requested at the full Senate meeting next week.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.