Dr. Sam Brown gave a presentation and took questions regarding the Final Report of the NU President’s Health Care Committee.

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:25 pm.

II. The February 8, 2006, minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Glaser reported:

1. Executive Committee and Administration met February 15, 2006. Request for Proposals for dorm construction were due on 2/17. The administration will then know how the new dorms affect specific faculty buildings. Urban Design Associates is working on the Master Plan. This firm also worked on the urban village design for the south-of-Center campus with the Noddle company. They hope the Master Plan will be ready for the April B.O.R. meeting. Chancellor Belck will present it to the faculty senate at our April 12 meeting. Plans for the Chili Greens property include getting rid of the bubble and not doing anything with the golf course. The IS & T Dean search is just starting. The committee will write a job description. Sheri Rogers will present to the B.O.R. regarding A.P. trends and information in Nebraska.

2. Chancellor’s Council: February 27, 2006. President Glaser read Senator Shaw’s report. The "Request for Proposal" for new student housing on north campus was distributed on February 8, proposals are due by March 10, and UNO plans to accept a bid by March 31. A committee has been formed to consult with faculty and personnel who will be displaced from the Social Work, Custodial, and Facilities buildings; and Dr. Russell Smith (Public Administration) is the faculty representative. Options for temporary office space include a lease at Crossroads Mall; leasing portable buildings from a local school district; the Chili Greens Club House; and, possible space in other campus buildings. The Engineering Building will likely not be used, because moving occupied offices from one end
to the other while it is renovated would prove costly and slow that project. UNO hopes to have the new residence halls open in Fall 2007. Many decisions about temporary offices will hinge on how quickly the residence halls project proceeds. The UNO Library will be closed while electrical contractors switch the building over to a new electrical system on the first weekend of Spring Break. The library will rent a generator to keep its catalog and website (including remote access to journal databases) available during the closure. Deborah Smith-Howell (Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs) reviewed initial plans for the UNO Centennial celebration. The anniversary year will begin on October 8, 2008 at Fall Convocation, and Centennial vignettes will be integrated into existing events. There will also be "signature" events to mark particular achievements. Interviews for the Dean of the College of Communications, Fine Arts, and Media have been completed, and Vice-Chancellor Christensen hopes to have that search finished shortly. Interviews for the Dean of the College of Information Science and Technology will be held in March. Dean Louis Pol (College of Business Administration) reported that private funding is assisting the development of the Collaboration Institute. Faculty from each of UNO's colleges are participating in the planning, and a search for a Director is underway. The Board of Regents recently raised the threshold requiring mandatory purchase or project bids from $45,000 to $75,000.

3. Board of Regents Meeting: Senator Glaser reported the meeting was held March 3, 2006. The Economic Development and Outreach Task Force gave an extended presentation regarding the role of the university in rural development. There was also an update on the EPSCor Research Expo and Innovation Forum. In the Academic Affairs Committee, Jay Noren and Sheri Rogers talked about Advanced Placement Testing. Their recommendations included: funding initiatives aimed at increasing the number of AP exams taken; support initiatives already in place; pay for AP teacher training; pay for AP exams; encourage P-16 collaboration. President Milliken summarized four national reports on the role of higher education in national innovation and competitiveness. These reports came from the Association of American Universities, the National Academies of Sciences, the Council on Competitiveness, and the Business of Higher Education Forum. The reports basically recommend investment in talent and infrastructure to include increasing scholarships, instituting tax-free “Lifelong Learning Accounts”, expediting immigration processes for foreign students, doubling the NSF budget, rebuilding laboratory infrastructures, enhancing the internet infrastructure, improving intellectual property processes, having business and higher education collaborate to improve P-12 math and science education. The Business Affairs Committee heard a report about the Nebraska Center for Virology, a joint effort by UNL, UNMC and Creighton. They also heard from Deb Thomas about the President’s Health Care Committee Recommendations. They also heard an update on Utilities and Mead Deficit Request. There is tentative funding coming from the state and trust to cover $6,930 m. of $7,246 m. Highlights from the afternoon full Board of Regents meeting include: The main item of interest for UNO faculty regarded an update on the Strategic Framework at every board meeting. Accountability measures in the framework include:
tuition, enrollment, graduation rates/time to degree, faculty merit compensation, research, deferred maintenance/LB 605, and administrative efficiencies. The next accountability measures to be established include workforce development, entrepreneurship, state funding, partnerships, need-based financial aid, merit scholarships, and programs of excellence. Assessing student outcomes is what faculty need to be particularly aware of. Jay Noren gave a presentation about national assessment practices. In April he will give a presentation on current practices at the NU campuses. President Milliken seems to be very interested in emerging and experimental approaches, which include the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP), and “Measuring Up” by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The Board seems eager to get some nationally-recognized student assessment in place.

4. On February 9, 2006, Nancy Castilow, Assistant to the Chancellor, wrote, “The Chancellor acknowledges receipt of Res. 2812.”

B. Treasurer’s Report: The February 2006 budget report was approved as submitted.

IV Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Anderson reported the meeting was held February 22, 2006. Present: Randy Adkins, Mark Scherer, Peter Wolcott, Deb Anderson, Nancy Edick, Scott Tarry. Guest: Deb Smith-Howell, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, who answered questions about university entities other than academic programs. The definition and criteria for these entities will occur at two levels: (1) Board of Regents and (2) campus. First, the Board of Regents passed a policy defining centers, bureaus, and institutes, including relevant criteria. Each of the four campuses has begun to inventory entities that meet these criteria. These centers will be reviewed every five years and are accountable to the Board of Regents and the President. Centers connected to academic units will undergo an additional review as part of the Academic Planning Council’s review process. Second, UNO will continue to use the term “center” for entities that do not meet the Board of Regents’ criteria, e.g., Speech Center, Writing Center, Milo Bail Student Center. A campus process with set criteria and guidelines will be developed soon. Deb expressed her intent to make the review process applicable and transparent and will keep the committee apprized of the progress. To that end, she emphasized the importance of continuing to have faculty senators serve on the Academic Planning Council.

At a special meeting of the Committee, on March 3, 2006, the following resolution was drafted. This resolution was passed by the full Senate.

Resolution 2813, 3/8/06: Regarding the Proposal for a School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

WHEREAS the proposed School of Criminology and Criminal Justice fully meets the
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criteria established by the Board of Regents to change its organizational structure from a department to a school,

WHEREAS the Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service and the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs support and endorse this proposal,

WHEREAS the College of Public Affairs and Community Service is committed to supporting this proposal,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha approves the proposal for a School of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service.

B. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Skreija reported the Committee met on February 22, 2006. Those present were: Barbara Hewins-Maroney, Elaine Lahue, Lauree Tilton-Weaver, and Andris Skreija (Chair). Absent: Stuart Bernstein and Graham Mitenko. The Committee discussed the steps to be taken in order to form a focus group to gain insights regarding the intellectual and social climate on campus experienced by men and women and members of minority groups. Barbara Hewins-Maroney is the main person organizing the event. Discussed were the timing of the event(s), possible sources of funding, candidates as group facilitators, and who might be invited to participate.

C. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Bacon reported the committee met February 22, 2006. Committee members Holley and Wetig were present. To answer the question, “How can the faculty interact with them and the media to promote the public image of the University?” Teresa Gleason and Tim Kadahl, from University Affairs, responded with the following information:

- Noted that many faculty members have varying degrees of interest, comfort, and expertise in dealing with the media.
- Faculty need to be aware that when dealing with the media one cannot always control the message (or length of the message).
- Faculty need awareness/acceptance of the media process.
- Tim and Teresa are willing to provide any person interested in developing their skills in media with training and guidance.
- Reviewed the format of KVNO ‘First Friday Faculty Focus.’ Noted that Cheryl Nolan the news director of KVNO (on-campus radio station 90.7) highlights faculty research and projects through interviews. Cheryl would be willing to come to a Senate meeting and discuss what KVNO could provide to faculty.
- Tim noted that faculty need to inform them of ‘newsworthy’ items or events. Based on the topic it could be shared in multiple media outlets: Internally (E-notes…almost always a guarantee), KVNO, Radio Newsline, Sharing with Med Center E-Notes, other area radio stations.

To answer the question, “How can the faculty interact with you and the media to promote the public image of the university?” Tim and Teresa responded: Be involved in research/service/activities that support the Strategic Goals of the University; need knowledge of events/activities in advance; need faculty members to
submit their names and areas of expertise so that the media can call on them for 'advice/responses' to issues/events; faculty need to demonstrate an interest in developing a relationship with the media (be aware of rejection and lack of immediate response). Tim and Teresa suggested the Faculty Senate inform faculty that if they are interested in media relations and have areas of expertise to contact University Affairs so that a partnership can be developed.

D. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Winter reported that Senator Corcoran conferred with the committee on the issue of formal mentoring and the committee agreed that the issue did not warrant further pursuit at this time.

E. Committee on Rules: Senator Randall reported the Committee met on February 22 to review the suggested flyer recruiting faculty participation on university committees; the final draft was approved and mailed to all faculty. This will be followed by an email reminder. The goal is to increase the pool of available names for service next year. The committee also has recommended Peggy Jones of Black Studies to be added to the list of names that were sent to the chancellor for appointment to the Student Publications Committee (R2810). The Senate approved revision of Resolution 2810 by insertion of an additional name. The revised resolution reads

Resolution 2810, 12/14/2005: Nominees to Student Publications Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following names constitute the approved list of nominees to the Student Publications Committee from which the Chancellor is to select one for three-year appointment from 01/01/06 through 12/31/08 as specified in the By-Laws of the Board of Regents:

Frederic Laquer,
Marsha Kruger,
Peggy Jones.

V Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee Reports

The Final Report from the Ad Hoc Committee (Harland, Hagen, D’Souza) on Faculty Grievance Procedures was attached to the agenda. Senators will have a month to study the changes. It will be voted on at the April 12, 2006, meeting.

VI Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON): Senator Paterson reported the meeting was held February 11, 2006. Legislative Report: Adair distributed handouts on bills before the 99th Legislature which might be of special interest to AFCON and provided updates on the status of some of these bills (i.e., in committee, on floor, etc.). She will testify on LB1247, proposed by Sen. Diane Schimek, in a neutral position and will introduce an amendment to that bill for student free expression. She requested that AFCON member organizations send letters on their individual letterheads in support of this bill. Haller was authorized to testify against LB 1211 "if
he so chooses." Membership Reports: Chapuran (NHSPA) reported that feelers to NHSPA members regarding a student free expression amendment to the Nebraska Constitution indicated much bitterness remains among members from a "heartbreaking" failure to have the Unicameral enact this amendment in previous attempts. The next meeting will be March 11, 2006.

B. Academic Planning Council: Senator Edick reported the School of Communications review took place February 27-28. CPACS review took place March 6-7.

C. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Randall reported the Alumni Association met on February 21. Sheri Rogers presented an overview of the MyMapp system. Plans for the campus housing projects were reviewed by the chancellor.

D. Strategic Planning Steering Committee: SAC President Sweaney reported the committee looked at Academic Review and Priority Programs process. The Advance is scheduled for May 8, 2006.

E. UNO Spirit Committee: SAC President Sweaney reported that the recent International Studies Fair was picked as a spirit event. An international student was chosen as the winner of the event award. The committee is moving forward.

VII Old Business

A. Final Report of President’s Health Care Committee: The report, which was attached to the agenda, was discussed during Dr. Brown’s presentation.

VIII The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.