Attendees: Barnes, Bullock, Randall, Shaw, Skreija, Tarry, Wolcott, Lahue

Absent: Reilly

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

II. The minutes of the July 5, 2006, meeting were approved as written.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Shaw reported

1. Enrollment Management Meeting was held July 11, 2006. As of July 1 applications received and accepted for Fall 2006 are up about 1.5%; actual enrollments are down about 2% and total credit hours are down about .8%. A late surge of international students may help improve the enrollment numbers. A proposal, due by August 3, for the expansion and renovation of the HPER building should include an elevated expansion to the west with a two-tiered parking garage underneath. This would provide a net gain of 110 parking spaces. The initial cost estimates would require a student fee of about $95 per semester to fund the project. It was noted that students consulted in the planning thought the fee reasonable and UNO's overall fees remain about 55% relative to peer institutions. The final plan is not expected to go to the Board of Regents before April 2007. UNO is negotiating with Century over plans for new residence halls on north campus, which might be ready by Fall 2007.

2. Board of Regents Meeting was held July 28, 2006 at Central Community College in Grand Island. About fifty people representing local businesses, municipal government, and the Grand Island public schools attended the breakfast and morning sessions. Two panels, one concerning P-16 education and the other on economic development, addressed the Board. The education panelists focused on the importance of mentoring and making contact with younger students to help them think seriously about going to college. The economic development panelists stressed the university's importance in preparing a technically proficient workforce. The expansion of the ethanol industry requires more engineers and industrial chemists; and many unskilled jobs are being replaced by jobs requiring higher levels of education. The Board approved the new College of Public Health at UNMC and appointed Dr. Jay Noren as its Dean. The
Coordinating Commission must still approve the college, after which it can begin operations in earnest. Chancellor Belck addressed the board for about ten minutes as she reviewed the efforts at UNO to devise a strategy to bring the athletics budget back into balance. Former Senator Daniel Karnes has agreed to help with the process, joining with Dean BJ Reed, to serve on a Task Force to develop a Strategic Plan for Athletics. President Milliken noted that the university's internal auditors are examining financial records.

B. Treasurer’s Report: Senator Tarry reviewed the July 2006 budget report.

IV Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON): Senator Paterson wrote that the meeting was held July 8, 2006. AFCON is approaching 20 organizational members. Dave Moshman pointed out in his Policy report that Lincoln Public Schools had not only decided to include comprehensive sex education in the curriculum but that there was a highly-visible series on the program in the Lincoln Journal. In Membership Reports, Doug Paterson reported that a UNO faculty member’s case on reappointment and academic freedom might be heard by the Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee in late July. It was suggested that AFCON engage in some research on the issue of “collegiality”. Peggy Adair has been in dialogue with Sen. DiAnna Schimek about AFCON’s efforts to promote legislation concerning the free expression of high school students generally, and specifically in high school newspapers and similar publications. Discussion of the State of Nebraska’s denial of compliance with the No Child Left Behind program included observations that there will be substantial resistance to the USDE determination.

V. Old Business

A. The following completion of Resolution 2838, 5/10/06 was passed and will be brought before the full Senate at the August 16 Retreat: Appointments by Senate President and Standing Committees (Senator Barnes)

f. Graduate Council

BE IT RESOLVED, that the senate president appoints the following member of the Graduate Council to be the liaison between the 2006-2007 Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council for a one-year term from 05/10/06, through 05/09/07:

Paul Williams (to replace Doug Paterson).

VI. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.