The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. Presentation and Approval of Minutes: (agenda attachments - pages 1-15)

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sollars reported

1. Executive Committee and Administration met November 19, 2008. Senator M. Bacon reported Chancellor Christensen thanked the Senate for Resolution 2929 supporting the restricted data security policy. Vice Chancellor Conley responded to Resolution 2930 (Park-and-Ride/Park-and-Bike System of Transportation or Other Transportation Alternatives) and distributed the UNO Campus Mobility Study (October 2008) which suggests adjustments to accommodate more students at a time of construction related reductions in parking. VC Conley said that there were a number of components of Resolution 2930, as written, that needed further consideration. There is a continuing failure in communication between the faculty and Administration regarding “Shots Fired” (Resolution 2931). President Sollars will provide the Administration with a list of potential faculty “educators” who might be present during screenings of the video. The Chancellor raised the issue of funding for the proposed centennial time capsule (Resolution 2932). IS&T students have proposed a “virtual” time capsule. Vice Chancellor Hynes thanked the Senate for Resolutions 2933 and 2934 (Centers for IT Innovation and for Israel and Judaic Studies). Center approval processes are variable and not of UNO’s making. Chancellor Christensen has no objections to Resolution 2935 but notes that a Faculty Senator is already a member of his Committee on Inclusion and Diversity.

The Parking Committee was not involved in the decision to allow fee parking ($5) for sporting events, the revenues from which go to support student-athlete travel expenses.

The Chancellor handed off Resolution 2897 (Civil Leaves for Students) to VC Hynes. Apparently, some stipulations of the Resolution are contrary to University policy.

Chancellor Christensen warned that the financial crisis will negatively affect higher education. While Nebraska appears to be in relatively good financial
shape, other states’ higher education systems (e.g. Kansas and California) are getting hammered. President Milliken and the Chancellors have been in conversations with both the Governor and legislators. Even a 1% cut would mean a $415,000 in reductions for faculty and graduate assistants. The Forecast Board’s February forecast will be very important. In May we will get the Governor’s recommendations followed by the legislature’s budget. Cuts are virtually inevitable and in the meantime we need to pay close attention to our spending.

President Milliken and a legal team are sorting out the effects of Initiative 424 on the University. UNO’s representative to a system-wide committee is Steve Bullock.

2. Board of Regents met November 7, 2008.


B. Senator M. Bacon submitted the November 2008 Budget Report.

IV. Standing Committee Reports


The committee welcomed Stan Wileman. Stan is replacing Theresa Stanton who resigned from the Faculty Senate.

1. Common Course Evaluation - Marvel Maring, a member of the Common Course Evaluation Task Force, answered questions about the recommendations of the Task Force. The Committee decided that an implementation team needed to be formed and the following resolution is proposed and will go to the full senate next week:

Resolution to Create a Team to Implement a Common Course Evaluation

WHEREAS in response to Faculty Senate Resolution 2849 the Faculty Task Force to Design a Common Course Evaluation deliberated for more than a year and produced recommendations and a proposed set of questions, and

WHEREAS the recommendations suggest that a pilot project be undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed questions, and

WHEREAS issues of developing versions of the questions to better evaluate courses that are not classroom based, such as online, distance education, or other special circumstances were not addressed, and

WHEREAS a common scale was not recommended, and

WHEREAS department chairs and academic deans have not reviewed the questions,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that an Implementation Task Force be appointed with representatives from each College to:

- identify departments to conduct a pilot project to validate the questions,
- develop a subset of questions for the evaluation that is suitable for courses not based in the classroom,
- establish a common scale for the evaluation, and
- communicate with department chairs and academic deans to ensure the usefulness of the instrument.

2. Site licenses for students - Senator Kercher provided information about software licenses available for faculty and students. Very few software programs are available for students through ITS. Senator Kercher will contact ITS and explore whether more programs might be made available at reasonable costs as well as to discuss the difficulty of finding information on the ITS website.

3. Paul Beck Scholarship – Financial Aid has been contacted to determine exactly how much was awarded this year and to find out what we might expect for 2009. The process to advertise the scholarship and accept applications will begin in early 2009.

4. Library Databases purchased centrally – The committee discussed Presidents Sollars inquiry about purchasing Library databases centrally so they are available to faculty, staff and students on all campuses. The University of Nebraska libraries compiled a list of databases purchased on each campus and wrote a white paper discussing the issue of purchasing databases centrally in 2005. The Committee will request that an update.

5. Election of new ER&S Vice Chair due to Theresa Stanton's resignation from the Faculty Senate. The two committee members not present at the meeting will be contacted to see if they are interested.

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Elder reported the committee met on November 19th. John Erickson and Griff Elder attended. Meredith Bacon, Karen Dwyer and Patrice Proulx had conflicts and were unable to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Marty Shukert (RDG Planning and Design and former Director of the City of Omaha's Community Development and Planning Departments) and Tammie Dodge (Activate Omaha) to talk about plans for 20 miles of bike lanes that will run north-south from Creighton Univ to the Zoo and east-west from Downtown to the Keystone Trail (near 72nd).

Note that there was an article on the subject in the Omaha World Herald on May 13 2008. http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=2798&u_sid=10333049

In particular, we were interested in hearing about a section of bike lane that will connect UNMC to UNO and the Keystone Trail and the possibility that it would use Leavenworth St.

This topic is of broad interest (beyond the UNO Faculty Senate). So we invited Lucas Seiler (President/Regent) and Neal Bonacci (President/Regent Elect) from the UNO Student Government; Rhonda Sheibal-Carver and Lola Faye Gilbert from the UNO Staff Advisory Council; Keith Swarts (UNMC Business Services), and Ken Hansen, Ron Schaefer (UNMC Facilities Management and Planning).
Summary
Tammie Dodge explained Activate Omaha and expressed her interest in working with the University on its Wellness goals. Activate Omaha has an educational component and once the bike lane between UNMC and UNO is open, would be happy to do any of the following: a) Media Launch; b) Traffic Skills 101 courses (8 hrs long) taught by LCI (League Certified Instructor) at cost of materials; c) Provide volunteers to lead guided tours of new route and how to use as commuter; d) Help promote to students.

Marty Shukert explained the structure of the 20 miles of bike lanes, which will take advantage of those roads that were originally built to accommodate street cars (and thus are wider than usual). In particular, there will be three east-west routes: North primarily following Burt St; Central primarily following St Marys Ave and Leavenworth St; South primarily following Woolworth Ave and Poppleton Ave. He explained that there was $600,000 in private money to fund the project, that things are progressing smoothly, and that the first paint delineating a bike lane will probably occur on Burt St. Of course, it is important for the Public Works Department of the City of Omaha to hear that there is public support for the initiative.

We are working on a resolution for January.
Meanwhile, the following resolution concerning the proposed 10 year calendar will go to the full Senate next week.

Resolution Regarding NU 10-Year Calendar

Whereas the students, staff and faculty of the University of Nebraska system are affected by many public school systems, not just the Lincoln Public Schools,

Whereas we are one university and there are joint programs,

Therefore, be it resolved that the University of Nebraska at Omaha adopt the proposed fixed 10 year calendar, noting that any such calendar will pose certain inconveniences, but that the benefits for the purposes of planning outweigh the inconveniences.

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Paterson reported the committee met November 19, 2008. In attendance: Senators Anderson, D'Souza, Huq, Marx, O’connell, and Paterson (Chair).

The committee welcomed Patrick Wheeler, UNO Senior Chemical and Radiation Specialist, to the meeting. He joined a discussion led by Senator Marx regarding possible resolutions regarding the greening of UNO.

Senator Marx began the meeting with information about what UNO might be able to do immediately, in the near future, and in some years regarding a sustainable energy practice. A central question is: What can we as a faculty committee do, to be good stewards, and to educate our students in sustainability in a way that is challenging and achievable. There is a needs assessment already done, with ten basic steps outlined. This is a good starting point. It was observed we need to go beyond having UNO buildings built to LEED standards, and that the way to do that is
to certify buildings, such as the upcoming Mammel building, with outside evaluators. The administration is not inclined to certify, and perhaps this is a pedagogy of dishonesty, advertising A but doing A--.

It was suggested the committee seek out the process of developing and passing a joint resolution on sustainability with the Student Senate. Wheeler and Marx will draw up such a resolution for short terms actions that UNO can implement immediately to diminish energy usage.

The Committee was apprised of several resources. One, the web site for the Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education, and the UNO web site: http://www.unomaha.edu/green/index.php

The Committee spent considerable time discussing a resolution concerning UNL’s de-invitation to Professor William Ayers last month. Working with a draft of the proposal that had been worked and re-worked by various faculty at UNO and UNL, as well as by interested parties in the region, the Committee made final recommendations and will submit the following proposal to the UNO Faculty Senate next week:

 Resolution Concerning the Dis-Invitation of Prof. William Ayers:

WHEREAS, in February 2008 the University of Nebraska – Lincoln invited Professor William Ayers to speak on the UNL campus to a closed group of faculty and students about qualitative research coincident with the centennial of the UNL College of Education; and,

WHEREAS, eight months later that invitation was summarily rescinded by the Nebraska University-Lincoln Administration, apparently in response to a political firestorm fanned by an editorial by Regent Randy Ferlic in the Omaha World Herald on October 17th which led to reprehensible threats and bullying – violent, financial, and otherwise; and,

WHEREAS, since the appearance of Prof. Ayers was not scheduled until mid-November, the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha is in no way convinced the security concerns would have been relevant by the time of his visit; and,

WHEREAS, the remarks by Regent Ferlic represent false information, and faulty logic, embarrassing in a purported leader and supporter of education in Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS, by accusing the UNL faculty of misrepresenting its motives for inviting Professor Ayers to speak in his area of educational expertise, Regent Ferlic insults the very institution he was elected to lead; and,

WHEREAS, writing derisively of academic freedom, he disparages a core value of American higher education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha condemns Regent Randy Ferlic’s inaccurate and intemperate attack on William Ayers and his insults to our colleagues in Lincoln; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha urges Regent Ferlic to issue an apology to Professor Ayers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha urges President Milliken to re-invite Prof. Ayers to visit the University of Nebraska, either at Lincoln or Omaha, taking appropriate measures to ensure the security of the speaker and those attending.

The Committee passed the resolution unanimously.

For the information of UNO Faculty Senators, and for the record, the Committee requested that Regent Ferlic’s remarks, e-mailed to Senator Paterson from the Omaha World Herald, with highlights relevant to our resolution, be included in this report:

The invitation of Ayers to celebrate and be the keynote speaker at the Centennial celebration of UNL College of Education and Human Science violates all sensibilities and speaks volumes about the arrogance of both the central administration’s President Milliken, Chancellor Perlman and the UNL education faculty. I cannot be silent because Ayers and his wife Dohrn were not contrite bombers and lamented that they didn't bomb more and celebrated the Matson murders. Their actions insult every person that has ever donned a uniform. We may disagree with certain actions of our government but we, as citizens, are obligated to serve our country and, on occasion, peaceably disagree with our leaders. This is not about a Republican or Democratic party issue or the elections. I suppose that if Hitler were alive the University would ask him to celebrate the values of public speaking and persuasion at some function. Perhaps, Osama Ben Laden will be available in the near future and we could invite him discuss religious issues and the virtues of the bombings on 9-11 and the advancement of radical religious topics. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad could lecture on a realignment of Middle Eastern nation states in political science classes. Nazi Dr. Joseph Mengula could have lectured at the Medical Center about vivisection, skin disorders and hypothermia experiments as well as the virtues of eugenics. At first I thought of quietly resigning from the Board of Regents but that is too cowardly in confronting a very important issue. Unfortunately, the Nebraska Open Meeting Laws prohibit private meetings with other Regents about matter such as this. This means I am obligated to use a public forum such as this letter. This is about the University of Nebraska and we should not allow staining of the peoples' University. I am sure that Ayers is not the only expert on childhood education. This is not the point. The education faculty and leadership wish to “poke a stick in our eyes” under the guise of academic freedom. They will say this is not about the Weatherman activities in the past. If you believe that, then, I have some hobby horse manure to spread. Nebraskans, the Nebraska National Guard, Stratcom, the American Legion, VFW. and our alumni should be horrified at this event. There are several ways to protest but the most effective is a financial moratorium on tax dollars and donations. The citizens deserve an apology from President Milliken and Chancellor Perlman for their fear of their faculty and so-called academic freedom. They have made honest monetary mistakes in the past (e.g. athletic department payouts) but their decerebrate actions in this instance are almost unforgivable. We expect infantile behavior from some students but not the hubris of some faculty and administrators. The situation is analogous to a child attempting to get attention in inappropriate ways; a behavior that competent childhood education specialists do not think healthy.

Randolph M. Ferlic M.D.
Regent, District 8

As a last item, the Committee examined a “Permission Form” that is required to be filled out by persons “distributing material” on campus. Since the Chair of the Goals and Directions Committee was asked to fill out such a form a day before
election day, he has wondered aloud if such a Form, directed at both faculty and students who wish to leaflet or otherwise distribute material anywhere on campus outside of buildings, is consistent with the university’s commitment to freedom of speech, academic freedom, and the free and unimpeded exchange of ideas. The Committee discussed the matter for some time, and has asked Chairperson Paterson to talk informally with persons who maybe be involved with the development and implementation of the Form.

E. Committee on Rules: Senator Miller reported the Committee met November 2008. Participants: Bacon, Bernstein, Chundi, Holley Miller, Mitenko.

Members of the Rules Committee had an electronic meeting. We finalized and approved a slate of nominees for the Faculty Grievance Committee opening and also a second slate for the Student Publication Committee opening. These slates will be presented at the December Senate meeting.

1. Resolution: Student Publications Board, Position A

BE IT RESOLVED that the following names constitute the approved list of nominees to the Student Publications Board, Position A, to replace Marsha Kruger, from which the Chancellor is to select one for three-year appointment from 01/01/09 through 12/31/11 as specified in the By-Laws of the Board of Regents:

Dorianne Richards
Kerry Ward
Theresa Stanton.

2. Faculty Grievance Committee: (For Ballot Vote by Senate)

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Bylaws, section 6.1, Faculty Grievance Committee, the following faculty members are brought forward by the Rules Committee for ballot election by the senate.

One assistant professor will be elected from the following two nominees to replace Steve Bullock, who has resigned, to complete his three-year term from September 16, 2006, through September 15, 2009:

Sekhmet Ra Em Kht Maat (Cher McAllister) (Asst Professor) Joyce Neujahr (Asst Professor).

V. Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator M. Bacon reported she met with Neal Topp and Bill Swanson, as a combined task force. They discussed rewriting Goal 3, which they expect to have done by February.
VI.  New Business

A. The following resolution will be forwarded to the full senate next week:

**Resignation and Replacement of IS&T Senator**

WHEREAS Senator Stanton (2007-2010) resigned as of November 12, 2008, for health reasons,

WHEREAS Stan Wileman is the College of IS&T faculty member next in line and has indicated his willingness to serve as Senator Stanton’s replacement,

THEREFORE the Faculty Senate welcomes Stan Wileman to complete Senator Stanton's term to May 14, 2010.

B. The EC&C discussed Nominations for 2009-2010 Faculty Senate President-Elect.

C. College Faculty Senator(s) Election Statistics Memo was attached to the agenda for information purposes only. It has been sent to all Deans.

VII The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. with announcements.