Members: Anderson, M. Bacon, N. Bacon, Bartle, Bernstein, Boucher, Boyer, Chundi, D’Souza, Dwyer, Elder, Erickson, Gershovich, Haworth, Holley, Holloway, Huq, Johanningsmeier, Kercher, Laquer, Marx, Mei, Miller, Mitchell, Mitenko, Noble, O’Connell, Paterson, Proulx, Ritzman, Sollars, Tisko, White, Wileman

Excused: Lamsam

Absent: Sires, Tixier Y Vigil

Presentation Before the Meeting: NU President Milliken spoke on the state of the university and the upcoming budget biennium.

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

II. The November 12, 2008, minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sollars reported

1. The Executive Committee and Administration met November 19, 2008. Senator M. Bacon reported that 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. The Board of Regents met November 7, 2008.


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

IV. Executive Committee Report: Senator Boucher moved the following resolution for the Executive Committee. It passed and Prof. Stan Wileman was welcomed to the Senate.

A. Resolution 2936, 12/10/08: 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.

V. Standing Committee Reports


The committee welcomed Stan Wileman. Prof. Wileman 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 was moved by Senator Boyer for the committee and passed by the Senate:

Resolution 2937, 12/10/08: 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 by the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs 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,
· and evaluate the instrument after it has been administered for at least two semesters.

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 President 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 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.

B. 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, Senator Elder moved the following resolution concerning the proposed 10 year calendar for the committee. The resolution passed.
Resolution 2938, 12/10/08: 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.

Explanation: Academic Calendar Committee, August 15, 2008 Meeting Notes

Review of Input from University of Nebraska-Lincoln
The committee noted the issues raised by UNL in the presentation from Susan Poser at the last meeting.

Review of Input from University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center
UNO stated that its Chancellor as well as other faculty and staff are concerned about having their calendar tied to Lincoln Public Schools calendar as that calendar comes under review every two years and some programs have pieces that are set more than two years in advance. They suggested perhaps working with the NSEA to set a common start date and Spring Break for public schools in Nebraska that could then coincide with NUs calendar.

UNMC restated that they would like to be exempt from the common calendar except where it fits individual programs. They stated that currently only about 33% of students follow the common calendar and the rest are already exempt. However, because of interdisciplinary programs and more hands on, cross clinical work; more students need to be free from the common calendar so that they may start and break when the programs that they are working with start and break.

UNL stated that they see a need to be more family friendly in their approach to the calendar. Their faculty needs time with their children and without common breaks between LPS and UNL, they are not getting that needed time.

Joe Rowson stated that this committee is not charged with changing Board of Regents policy but with creating an academic calendar for the next 10 years. Recommendations for policy changes should originate with the campus, Chancellors, Provost, or the President. He stated that the issues presented will be included in the committees memo to the Provost along with the recommended calendar.

Review of Purposes of Spring Break
Committee members noted that Spring Break is, primarily, a student break, not an employee/faculty break. The purpose of Spring Break is, primarily, to give students a break.

Setting a Completion Date for Committee Work and Other Items
The recommended calendar moves Spring Break so that there are 10 weeks of classes prior to the break and 5 weeks of classes after students return from the break. This calendar will be submitted along with a memo detailing the issues that were discussed in the committee to Provost Pratt.
UNMCs issues are most likely a policy change and would need either an 
interpretation of the current policy on clinical responsibility or to be brought before the Board of Regents.

Each campus will alert the Faculty Senate that this calendar recommendation may be available for the September Faculty Senate meeting agenda.

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2020** - Updated 8/15/08

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C. **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 unanimous recommendations and submits to the UNO Faculty Senate the following proposal for its consideration:

**Concerning the Dis-INVitation of Professor 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 Professor 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 above resolution was re-worked with the substitution resolution below.*

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. Josef 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

(Emphasis Added)

The following is a correction, from the January 14, 2009, Senate meeting, to these minutes:

“Omaha World-Herald”
“MORE COMMENTARY” page 7B
Friday, October 17, 2008, Metropolitan Edition
“Midlands Voices”

Inviting Ayers to speak at UNL is an unconscionable decision

BY RANDOLPH FERLIC
The writer, of Omaha, represents District 8 on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

The invitation of William Ayers to be the keynote speaker at the Nov. 15 centennial celebration of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Education and Human Science violates all sensibilities and speaks volumes about the arrogance of University of Nebraska President J. B. Milliken, UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman and the UNL education faculty.

I cannot be silent, because Ayers and his wife, Bernardine Dohrn, have not been contrite bombers. They lamented that they didn’t bomb more while they were members of Weatherman in the 1960s and 1970s, and they celebrated the 1969 murders by Charles Manson. Their actions insult every person who 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 about the coming elections.

I suppose that if Adolf Hitler were alive, NU would ask him to celebrate the values of public speaking and persuasion at some function. Perhaps Osama bin Laden will be available in the near future. We could invite him to discuss religious issues, the virtues of the bombings on 9/11 and the advancement of radical religious topics.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad could lecture on a realignment of Middle Eastern nation-states in political science classes. The late Nazi Dr. Josef Mengele could have lectured at the NU Medical Center about vivisection, skin disorders and hypothermia experiments as well as the virtues of eugenics.

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such as this essay. This is about the University of Nebraska, and we should not allow staining of the people’s university.

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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 members 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 deem healthy.

End of inserted correction.

Senator M. Bacon, seconded by Senator Johanningsmeier, moved the following amendment as a substitute:

* Resolution 2939, 12/10/08: Concerning the Dis-Invitation of Professor William Ayers

WHEREAS, a preeminent purpose of higher education is to empower students to think independently by equipping them with critical reasoning skills; and,

WHEREAS, among the common methods for achieving these objectives is exposing students to both academically outstanding research and controversial views; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. William Ayers, Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of Illinois, Chicago-Circle, was invited by the faculty of the UNL College of Education to speak on educational reform, a topic in which he has earned national renown, only to be disinvited because of his controversial political activities and beliefs and alleged security concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Board of Regents (1.12.1) state that the Faculty Senate is empowered to “[p]rovide for the protection of academic freedom” defined (4.2) as “[t]he right to search for truth, to support a position the searcher believes is the truth, and to disagree with others whose intellect reaches a different conclusion” which is “the fiber of America’s greatness” and “the strength of a great University. . .” the preservation of which is deemed “vital;”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, fulfilling its Board of Regents mandate to protect academic freedom, deplores the cancellation of Professor Ayers’ visit as a violation of academic freedom and urges those responsible for this breach of academic freedom to re dedicate themselves reiterate their commitment to this vital component of a great
Senator Johanningsmeier, seconded by Senator Holley, moved to amend the M. Bacon Amendment by inserting the following at the end:

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

The Johanningsmeier amendment passed without objection.

Senator Bartle, seconded by Senator Tisko, moved to stricke “Circle” from the M. Bacon amendment in the 3rd paragraph. The Bartle Amendment passed without objection.

Senator N. Bacon, who was seconded, moved to strike from the M. Bacon amendment “rededicate themselves” and insert “reiterate their commitment” in the 5th paragraph. Senator Laquer moved to send the resolution back to committee (the motion lacked a second). The N. Bacon amendment passed without objection.

Senator Paterson, seconded by Senator D’Souza, moved to strike “at Lincoln or in Omaha” from the 6th paragraph. The Paterson amendment passed without objection.

The M. Bacon amendment as amended passed unanimously.

The resolution as amended passed without objection.

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.

D. 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. The following two resolutions were moved by Senator Miller for the committee. The first passed, and, after a ballot vote by the Senate, the second also passed.

1. Resolution 2940, 12/10/08: **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. Resolution 2941, 12/10/08: 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) (ELECTED)
Joyce Neujahr (Asst Professor).

VI. Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator N. Bacon reported that at the AAUP chapter meeting on November 13 and again at the chapter dinner on November 22, the main order of business was an update on contract negotiations. Chief negotiator Bill Pratt reported that the AAUP had proposed contract provisions on economic and non-economic issues including the following:

- salary increases;
- an increase in the stipends for promotion to associate and full professor;
- salary adjustments to faculty with over ten years of service to compensate for the effects of compression;
- salary equity adjustments for low-paid faculty (those with salaries below $40,000);
- improvements to the fringe benefits package including long-term disability insurance at no cost to the employee;
- benefit coverage for designees of unmarried unit members;
- revision of the non-discrimination clause to include “gender expression or identity.”

In their initial response, the regents did not agree to any of the union’s proposals as written. Negotiations continue.

B. Graduate Council: Senator Laquer reported on four meetings:

1. Graduate Council meeting October 13:
A draft “UNO Graduate Tuition Equalization Proposal” was discussed. UNO has the lowest graduate tuition rate in the system and nearly the lowest among peer institutions. This proposal would raise Graduate tuition over three years to near the midpoint of peer institutions in order to better support graduate programs. Graduate Council members were concerned about the economic impact on students and on credit hour production. The consensus was that additional research is needed before further consideration was warranted and that perhaps a pilot program in an area that can support additional tuition such as MBA be tried.

A review of the UNO Graduate Studies Appeal process was referred to Committee A.

A new Graduate Studies brochure has been printed and is being distributed.

A Graduate Student Profile is being developed. The document contains basic information/talking points about UNO’s graduate programs, with enrollment figures on the reverse side.

A two-page article on Graduate Studies at UNO is scheduled for publication in the UNO Alumni Magazine in January.

2. Graduate Council meeting November 10:

A draft document on definitions of degrees, majors, concentrations/specializations, minors and certificates was distributed.

A “Guide to Preparation of New Course Proposals/Master Syllabus” document was distributed. The document will be located on the Graduate Studies website.

The finished “Graduate Student Profile” was distributed. The document contains basic information/talking points about UNO’s graduate programs, with enrollment figures on the reverse side, and may also be located on the website.

There were twenty regents’ tuition waiver applications submitted by the Graduate Program Chairs for spring 2009, ten were funded, and other funding sources were found for two more. Additional discussion was held on finding funding for community assistantships.

An updated copy of the “Graduate Student Academic Appeals, General Operating Guidelines and Procedures” was distributed with a revision of section 1.2 (Composition of the Committee) to reflect the two standing committees of the Graduate Council instead of the previous three.

3. Graduate Faculty meeting November 17:

Dean Deborah Smith-Howell distributed multiple documents, discussed recruitment, promotion, and enrollment trends. Graduate enrollment appears to be up over last year. 60% of the students’ previous universities were in-state (UNO – 36.2%, UNL – 9.6%, MetroCC – 4.1%, Creighton – 3.1%, UNK – 2.5%, Bellevue – 2.1%, Peru State – 1.9%). 412 different colleges and universities are represented.

4. Graduate Council meeting December 8:

Dean Deborah Smith-Howell reported on the annual meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools www.cgsnet.org which she attended along with three other Graduate Council members (Randy Adkins, Juan Casas, Lynn Harland).

Penny Harmoney from the Graduate Studies office is involved in the implementation of the new SIS.

Spring 2009 enrollments appear to be up over last year.

There are discussions underway on establishing an Office of Undergraduate
Research within the University, which is not intended to diminish the role of and support for Graduate research.

- The Graduate Council voted to support the change in the current name of degree programs in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice from Criminal Justice to Criminology and Criminal Justice. The new names of the degrees are:
  - Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice (UNO/UNL)
  - Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice
  - Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice
  - Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

VII. New Business:

A. Without objection the Senate approved, as part of New Business, the move of nominations and election of the next President-Elect, to this time. Senators Elder and Laquer were nominated, and, after a ballot election, Senator Griff Elder was elected as 2009-2010 President-Elect.

B. The Senate was made aware of the College Faculty Senator(s) Election Statistics Memo, sent to all Deans, which was attached to the agenda.

C. Senator M. Bacon, seconded by Senator Laquer, moved the following resolution:

   Resolution 2942, 12/10/08: Concerning Accusatory Remarks by a Member of the Board of Regents (Omaha World Herald October 17, 2008) (see V. D, above)

   WHEREAS, the Nebraska tradition of non-partisan elections includes elections for the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska; and,

   WHEREAS, the accusatory remarks by a member of the Board of Regents (Omaha World Herald October 17, 2008) concerning the invitation of Professor William Ayers to speak at the UNL College of Education defamed faculty of the University of Nebraska and were framed in a highly intemperate way partisan misinformation during a hotly contested general election; and,

   WHEREAS, the use of intemperate language of this kind brings disrepute on the academic enterprise of the University of Nebraska,

   THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha strongly urges members of the Board of Regents and the University of Nebraska Administration to desist from such defamation and partisanship so that the University may pursue its academic missions undistracted by manipulated partisan public agitation.

   Senator Miller, seconded by Senator D’Souza, moved to strike the first paragraph, strike “partisan misinformation” and insert “intemperate way” in the 2nd paragraph, strike “partisanship and” in the 3rd paragraph, and strike “and partisanship” in the 4th paragraph.
The amendment passed with one dissenting vote. The resolution as amended passed with two dissenting votes.

Senator Laquer moved that the remarks of Regent Ferlic printed in the agenda and minutes reflect Regent Ferlic’s remarks as published by the *Omaha World Herald*. Discussion of this issue was postponed until the January meeting.

**IX.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. with announcements.