Members: M. Bacon, Boucher, Elder, Laquer, Miller, Noble, Paterson, Sollars

Excused: Boyer, Gershovich

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

II. The December 3, 2008, minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sollars reported

1. The Executive Committee and Administration met December 17, 2008.
   (Minutes as written by Senator M. Bacon) Attending: Senators Sollars, Boucher, M. Bacon, Miller, Noble and Elder; Chancellor Christensen, Vice Chancellors Hynes and Conley, Wade Robinson and Nancy Castilow
   The meeting was devoted almost entirely to the economic situation and its impact on the University of Nebraska. Chancellor Christensen observed that as yet we don’t know where we stand. The states collectively project $100 billion in deficits. So far, Nebraska appears to be in relatively good shape, one of the seven states not having announced such shortfalls. Inevitable economic rethinking will allow us to be creative, the degree to which we will know in stages: on January 15 we will know the Governor’s budget, the Economic Forecasting Board will make its projection in late February, the Unicameral’s Appropriations Committee will start meeting on the budget in March, followed by the final budget and appropriations in May along with any line-item vetoes the Governor may impose.
   Chancellors Hynes and Conley have formed a Budget Advisory Task Force which will hold its first Meeting on December 18. Sen. M. Bacon is the Senate’s representative. It will be a clearing house for information and ideas. The four chancellors have met with the University President three times thus far on budget issues. It is projected that a system-wide strategy will emerge. Chancellor Christensen mentioned that there are legal issues being reviewed. Suggestions concerning finding a less expensive workman’s compensation pool and a system-wide negotiated medications supplier were discussed. Chancellor Christensen stated his intention to keep the process as transparent and participatory as possible.
   The Governor has agreed to allow the University to roll over into next year’s revenues unspent sums from this year. Therefore, we are urged to make those savings we can for the rest of this fiscal year. The fate of F&A and distance educations monies has not been determined as yet. There is a system-wide
distance education task force which is designing a new business plan. Sen. Elder observed that this time of economic challenges is an ideal time to be in the market for excellent new faculty.

Wade Robinson said that spring 2009 enrollment is up from last year but that we still fall short of our 2008-2009 academic year enrollment goals. There are negative budgetary consequences for such a shortfall in that tuition revenue was down. So far fall 2009 applications and admissions are running far ahead of this year. “Recession enrollments” were discussed. Graduate certificate programs are another source of tuition dollars. Vice Chancellor Hynes praised UNO students who have interned at StratCom’s GISC.

Vice Chancellor Conley has a group looking into sustainability issues, including heating and cooling. Improvements are not only green but save money.

Chancellor Christensen noted that Res. 2939 (Concerning the Dis-Invitation of Professor William Ayers) was intended for the University President and Res. 2942 (Concerning Accusatory Remarks by a Member of the Board of Regents [Omaha World Herald October 17, 2008] ) was intended for the Board of Regents.


IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Noble reported the committee met December 4, 2008. They discussed
   1. Research Climate Survey from 07-08
      a. Data analysis is ongoing and we will discuss the results at a future meeting.
   2. UCRCA Resolution for Budget Line
      a. Based on our meeting in September with Dana Richter-Egger, current chair of the University Committee on Research and Creative Activity, we decided to develop a resolution requesting a permanent budget line supporting the efforts of UCRCA.
      b. Resolution Regarding Permanent Budget Line for UCRCA. to be sent to full Senate next week:

WHEREAS the University Committee for Research and Creative Activity (UCRCA) is a valued committee that encourages research and creative activity by UNO faculty, and

WHEREAS, UCRCA needs funding to carry out their stated objectives, and

WHEREAS, without said funding UCRCA is impeded from proceeding in a timely manner,

THEREFORE, let it be resolved, that UNO administration provide a regular and permanent budget line for UCRCA.

3. Update on myMAPP/Digital Measures Transition
   a. We discussed a recent phone call that Senator Noble had had with Steve
Bullock regarding the transition. The key points from the phone call included:

i. Digital Measures would be available soon and user accounts are being created. myMAPP data is being ported into Digital Measures. User accounts should be available soon.

ii. Some information that exists elsewhere on campus is going to be automatically uploaded to your page. For example, sponsored programs will upload 10 years of grant activity automatically. Thus, you will not have to enter this data on your own. (Faculty Senate committee involvement will also be automatically uploaded.)

iii. Several faculty from the College of Education, and our committee members will start looking at their new accounts to preview the process and report back to Steve Bullock and Faculty Senate.

iv. Steve will come to our next meeting in January for an update.

4. Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Proposal for the ethical conduct of research.
   a. We are waiting more information and if they want us to review the modules we have asked them to provide us with hard copy descriptions of the modules for review.

5. Discussed a carry-over item from last year regarding the development of a workshop on the “Best Practices in the Evaluations of Teaching Effectiveness”. This will probably be done in partnership with the Center for Faculty Development.
   a. This also led to discussion about the new course evaluation forms and what was the status of that implementation.

6. One item we’d like to work on this Spring relates to the encouragement and promotion of research efforts on campus. Furthermore, we’d like to see some efforts to recognize some of the excellent research that is currently going on across campus. Topics that were briefly discussed included various workshops, a “Research Day” on campus, and the possibility of inviting Harmon Maher to one of our future meetings.

Senators Present: Noble, Tixier y Vigil, Mei, Haworth
Senators Absent: Tisko, Lamsam (out of town conference)

V. Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON): Senator Paterson reported the Annual Meeting was held November 15, 2008, in Lincoln. President Comer called the board meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. Minutes for the October 11th meeting were approved.

   Treasurer's Report: AFCON's treasury has a balance of $1928.38, as of Nov.

14. AFCON membership includes: 44 paid members, three guest members, 14 organizational paid members, two in-kind organizational members and three organizational members with unpaid dues.

   Old Business: The board examined what it should do in light of the Lincoln Journal Star's publication of a letter by Dr. Frank Edler in response to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents not to rescind the decision resulting in the firing of several University of Nebraska faculty members in 1918. Moshman reminded board
members that Comer had been authorized at the last board meeting to send a letter to the Board of Regents, an action that was put on hold in the wake of the Bill Ayers controversy (The Board of Regents canceled an appearance by the University of Illinois at Chicago professor, citing "security issues,"). Moshman proposed, with Adair seconding, that Comer write an open letter to the Board of Regents, and offered for publication in local newspapers, that would ask the Board reconsider its decision not to rescind the 1918 decision and cite the Ayers case as an example that disproves University of Nebraska by-laws on academic freedom are sufficient. Moshman accepted a friendly amendment by Ball that the letter be presented to the monthly Regents board meeting, followed by publication of the letter. The motion passed. Parker suggested the final version be sent to respective organizations who could publish the letter in their newsletters.

New Business: Robert Brooke has volunteered to be webmaster of the AFCON website. Comer appointed Ball, Parker, and Brooke to formulate a policy for use of the website and include a job description for webmaster before finding a new webmaster.

Ball suggested, and Herman seconded, that AFCON not meet in December. Paterson and Comer felt that the Ayres/Edler letter deserved attention that might require meeting in December, as scheduled. After discussion, Moshman moved that if consensus on further action could be reached by e-mail, that the group follow Ball's proposal to postpone the next meeting to Jan. 10. Adair seconded and the board approved.

Parker suggested that the Board consider web conference as an (occasional) alternative to monthly board meetings in Lincoln. (If a December meeting will be held, members will be notified by e-mail. Otherwise the next meeting will be Jan. 10 at Eiseley branch library.)

VI. Old Business

A. Standing Committee Goals/Progress for/in 2008-2009 were distributed to all committee chairpersons. President Sollars asked for feedback from each committee.

B. Senator Laquer noted that the OWH Commentary by Regent Ferlic is the same in both a.m. and p.m. versions on October 17, 2008. The agenda for the December Faculty Senate meeting has the pre-publication copy sent to Senator Paterson by the OWH. At next week’s meeting the minutes will be noted to be corrected to show that the published copy was different from the commentary contained in the December agenda. Both will show in the corrected minutes.

VII. New Business

A. Faculty Senators Returning (This resolution will be forwarded to the full Senate next week.)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following be thanked for having served as Senators for Fall 2008, and welcome back to returning Senators:

Tom Sires served for George Morcous,
B. The Executive Committee and Cabinet requests that all faculty members serving on the senate during an academic year be invited to that year’s Awards Banquet. They should receive whatever award current senators, whose terms are ending, receive.

C. There was discussion about having First Friday’s funded for faculty only again, with, maybe, Second Friday’s for staff. The Faculty Personnel and Welfare committee was asked to research this.

D. Senator Sollars is still looking for volunteers to serve on a Standards of Communication Committee. Only Senators M. Bacon and Paterson have volunteered.

E. Proposed Building Temperature Policy (agenda attachment - page 10) & Task Force

President Sollars received the following e-mail on 12/23/08:

Kent & Suzanne,
As I believe I have mentioned to you, I have assembled a group of UNO faculty, staff and management to look at ways to advance sustainability efforts at UNO. Below is a list of the people who I have invited to meet on this task force...most attended our first meeting last week.

- BJ Reed
- Daniel Lawse
- Harmon Maher
- John Amend
- Julie Totten
- Larry Morgan
- Lucas Seiler
- Neal Bonacci
- Patrick Wheeler
- Richard Lomneth
- Stan Schleifer
- Tracie Anderson
- Bill Conley

One of the first things identified by the group is to establish a building temperature policy. This is a guide to how to set our campus thermostat, so to speak, with an understanding that there are cases where the temperatures will need to be modified and where the facilities cannot adequately maintain the temperature (thus requiring heating assistance...i.e. space heaters). On the topic of space heaters, this policy is meant to ensure the safety of all on campus...so if a space heater is needed, we just want to make sure it is a safe and modern one. Also, we want to make sure that if an area is not heated or cooled properly that faculty/staff contact Facilities Management and Planning to report the issue and that efforts are exhausted to correct the temperature without need for a space heater. Fans are ok.

Attached is the policy. I would welcome your input or suggestions and will try to accommodate as many as possible...with a balance to the recommendations of the task force. We will be finalizing this policy and implementing no later than February 1st...so please provide input as soon as possible.

Thanks.

Bill
William E. Conley
Vice Chancellor for Business & Finance

This was also sent to the Faculty Personnel and Welfare Committee.

F. Forwarding F.S. R2939 to President Milliken and F.S. R 2942 to BOR. The Chancellor will not be sending these two resolutions to the BOR or Pres. Milliken, as
is usually done. The Faculty Senate will send a hard copy to both, etc., with a cover letter from President Sollars.

G. Mollie Anderson, new HR Director, was 35-45 minutes at next week’s meeting to discuss her 100 Day Report, which seems to be getting larger. She also wants to do a survey with the faculty, but has not done it yet. She is speaking before next week’s Senate meeting, but with the usual 10-15 minutes for presentation and to take questions. President Sollars has also requested that she not bring copies of the report to the meeting for all Senators.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. with announcements.