Present: Benjamin-Alvarado, Boyer, Elder, Erickson, Holley, Johanningsmeier, Laquer, Paterson, Sollars

Excused: Mitchell

I. The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

II. The October 7, 2009, minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Elder reported

1. Executive Committee and Administration (EC&A) met October 21, 2009, and began at 2:02 p.m. The Chancellor’s replies to Resolutions 3003-3006, and the completion of Resolution 2998, were acknowledged.

President Elder explained that the Parking Issues Resolution (R3004) was a request from the UNO Parking Committee last year. V.C. Conley stated that there are two issues there. One is a calendaring issue, and the other is the coordination of events on campus for parking. There have been a couple of meetings on campus with Campus Security and University Relations to see how a better job as a campus can be done on calendaring. They’ve looked at how other universities handle their parking issues and events. They will keep working to do better.

Chancellor Christensen made one technical suggestion to change a typographic error in R3004 from “Campus Police” in one “Whereas..” to “Campus Security.” All agreed.”

Chancellor Christensen reminded the group that there will be a Memorial Service for Chuck Gildersleeve on October 22, 2009, in the Alumni Center, from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Chancellor Christensen also noted that there will probably be a Special Session of the Nebraska Legislature regarding the budget. The Budget Forecast Board officially reports on October 27, and the Special Session, which is intended to last about a week, should start around November 4, 2009. In the President’s Council, President Milliken said he was hopeful that NU share of any budget reduction be no more than the 14% share the university has of the State Budget. This is disturbing, but if the cuts are not across the board, the percentage could be higher than that. What the legislature will do in terms of mid-year taxes is very unclear. There does not seem to be a general consensus as to where this might go. Some suggestions are to use the Rainy Day Fund and/or repeal the property tax relief for the second year in a row, but the Chancellor does not think anyone really knows. Once there is any information we should have a Campus Forum, as quickly as possible, even before the holiday, to let people know what the
reduction in funding is and what is going on, and then go to work, immediately when we return from the holidays, to try to address the issue. It will be a short time-line. Sr. V. C. Hynes will get the Budget Task Force going as soon after we get the numbers as possible, in November or early December. The web site will be updated as soon as anything is known for sure, and will be kept current.

http://www.unomaha.edu/budgetadvisorytf/
http://www.unomaha.edu/budgetadvisorytf/tabs/unoinfo.php

Chancellor Christensen feels strongly about the fact that, when UNO had lead time, this campus did a great job of considering all of the possibilities and accomplishing, wherever possible, coming up with the number UNO had to come up with, while trying to minimize the damage as much as possible. He thought everyone did a terrific job doing that. The problem is, while that was difficult work, and to drop a mid-year budget cut on top of that, it will really be challenging, and unfortunately there will be damage. Elder noted that with the push on getting classes offered this fall for more students, we were hoping there would be a payoff in the spring, but if there is a mid-season correction we may be in quite a bind. All agreed with him. The Chancellor went on to say they did do a little planning last year at the President’s Council, when $3 million, one year’s funding, was put in POE (Programs of Excellence) and Diversity, for the express purpose of using that to bring the budget reduction number down for the university. That was reaffirmed at a meeting with NU President Milliken earlier this week. Modification of the program of awarding each campus 50% of funds from enrollment increases to occur early (next semEsther rather than next year) is on UNO’s agenda, but no response has yet been made by Milliken. Elder noted that Central does not look like they had any reductions in the last round of budget cuts. Christensen said Central claims they took their percentage, but perhaps this is the time to keep cuts away from the classroom. He said he will be bringing it up, but didn’t have any idea how it would be responded to.

The Chancellor thanked Faculty Senate Past-President Suzanne Sollars for her special effort and work on behalf of the Time Capsule Project. It is a great opportunity and he guessed that people will be very responsive at providing things to put into the series of capsules that will ultimately be put into Mammel Hall. Sollars was especially excited that there are Schools, Community Partners, some of our donor base, and others already involved. Christensen has already written a letter to the Chancellor to open at the next Centennial Celebration.

The Chancellor’s final subject was the Board of Regents meeting agenda, which, by way of real business” is really very light. The meeting is this Friday. Our Constituency Group met this morning. He expects the big issue will be the potential for demonstrations representing both sides of the Stem Cell issue. The question will be how much public comment there will be.

Elder updated the EC&A about what the Faculty Senate Standing Committees have been and will be working on. Academic & Curricular Affairs is working on On-line Worldwide, and will be meeting with Arnold Bateman later this term. Parking issues have been moved to Educational Resources & Services Committee (from Faculty Personnel & Welfare). V. C. Conley will be going to the next UNO Parking Committee meeting on October 28. Elder mentioned an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education http://chronicle.com/article/In-Hard-Times-It-Pays-to/48883/ that reported that, especially in economically difficult times like these, the University of Kentucky, which hasn’t had a pay raise in two years, felt that wellness and benefit issues were good areas to focus on. He thought
everyone would find it interesting reading. Goals & Directions are looking at the
issues of Wellness and HPER.

Considering Convocation, Elder asked about the best way for the faculty or
Faculty Senate to give suggestions to the Chancellor. The Chancellor said he has
heard many different opinions about how to handle Convocation, many of them
very passionate, regarding the format, regalia vs. no regalia, whether to hold it
every year vs. every second / third year, and, in the interim, the Chancellor will be
going to all units on campus to meet with them about what the “campus update”
is. What is not clear is whether there is a requirement for a State of the University
communication event. The convocation is intended to serve a lot of masters. The
Chancellor would like the Senate to provide him with a more definitive list of
suggestions, from the faculty point of view; but no formal Faculty Senate
resolution is necessary at this time. Nancy Beleck started the “Convocations.”
Prior to that Del Weber did a State of the University at a Faculty Breakfast, but
the downside was the community was not included, nor were staff. The
Chancellor had a meeting with Ron Roskens yEstherday who said he’d give it
more thought, but he immediately thought we should not miss the opportunity to
perhaps send messages to a bigger, broader public. There was discussion among
the EC&A about whether October is the right time to have it. Beyond that he
would like to do what faculty and staff thinks is best for the campus.

Elder concluded Faculty Senate business. Sollars then asked if there was
some way to get increased communication/increased transparency with the online
graduate application and PeopleSoft. The Chancellor said the people who are
working on that right now are trying to resolve the problems and report more
consistently as to where we’re at with that. Some of the problems that were
talked about 2-3 weeks ago have been resolved. John Fiene has been involved
and told the Chancellor it was the highest priority of the working group. The
issue is one of some concern, that people might have trouble applying on-line.
There were some glitches which they think they are solving as they go along.
Elder said that it was reported at the Enrollment Management Steering Committee
meeting last week that undergraduate enrollment was 900 applications at this time
last year, but was 500-550 applications at the same time this year. Anything that
causes any percentage drop in enrollment in the 10% area should be a problem.
The Chancellor did not know how best to communicate this problem exactly to
the working group. He asked Sr. V. C. Hynes to have Mark Goldsberry give an
update on just the application process in particular. The Chancellor also said that,
in the past, those changes have occurred even without a change in hardware or
software.

Sollars said she had spoken with Fiene and he said the changes they were
working on were undergraduate application changes. Her concern was at the
graduate level. Her department, Psychology, is having major problems with that,
and major student misunderstandings. With early applicants coming in, they are
spending a lot of time, both faculty and secretarial time, that is above and beyond
what they’ve ever had to do.

Sr. V.C. Hynes said part of the challenge is that they’ve built an architecture
now. They’ve gone from things related to definitions of classifications and
understandings that fit within the architectural structure that it’s developed. It
depends on what level that recommendation might affect the architectural
structure. If it requires them to go back three or four layers to make changes, it’s
not likely that we’re going to be able to change that anytime soon. The
Chancellor reiterated that those definitions are system-wide. Because of the
nature of the application across seven institutions, they have to make decisions about what the definitions would be to have that ability to have an architecture that covers all.

It goes back to a year’s worth of work. A year to six months ago they were developing the architecture, building those definitions. They finally got Penney Harmoney, our key person for the Graduate level, into the program. It was then late, and they were lucky to get her in when they did because she hadn’t been approved. Until then our Graduate Program basically had not been included in the conversations earlier than that. Hynes said she understood the kinds of things being talked about. This project is driven to be on time and on budget, in an environment that is about half the time you would normally do it. She asked that wherever problems are found, please write them down and let them know so they will be able to take them back and develop patches. Sollars replied that Penney and Deb Smith-Howell have been working with her department and have been great.

The Chancellor suggested that it’s better that they get them to our group, because Deb and Penney aren’t going to know how to make the changes. Although Penney is part of the team, he thought Goldsberry needs to know.

After discussion about the graduate program choices in Psychology, Sr. V. C. Hynes stated, “People Soft is not ever user friendly. It is not Apple. It is the absolute total opposite.” Psychology’s problem with the program was that it is not student friendly and they aren’t involved in the process so they cannot even look at it to see what the students do, the Psychology Graduate Program is losing students. One of the problems still in place is that there is no obvious way to sort applications. Sr. V. C. Hynes said that what they’d probably end up doing is buying software to put on top of software to put on what ultimately will be the “face” that’s presented to students, that interfaces between the students and the “back end” of the operation, the architecture and what it looks like.

It was pointed out that it is difficult to work with the program without a line of communication. There is no “hot line” at the moment. Jason Bloom is the contact person for all the campuses. Graduate enrollment is entirely different from undergraduate enrollment, and with any problems with the Graduate level, Penny Harmoney is the key link. Sr. V. C. Hynes wanted to get an idea of how transferable these issues are; because if different programs are experiencing the process differently, then that’s something we need to know about. It makes the communication more complex. And she needs to find out where Jason is on this, to see if his focus is mostly on the undergraduate.

It was discussed that Lincoln is using an overlay package for their admission program to overlay this PeopleSoft program. They had purchased their overlay program (Talisma) several years before this contract was created, with the patch cost written in the contract. UNO’s Admissions Module is now PeopleSoft. A possible solution suggested was to give the students somewhere to go or call if they have problems with the on-line application. Sr. V. C. Hynes said they were not allowing us to have a backup system. Chancellor Christensen was in favor of a help line for the students. He noted that while the Graduate Application might be presenting problems, other programs say their students are not having a problem with the Undergraduate Application. It was suggested that information could be forthcoming quickly through the Deans and Chairs. When the secretary logs in to identify applicants, the applicants from all different programs are present, and are unsorted.
Based on this conversation Chancellor Christensen asked Sr. V. C. Hynes to find a way to let on-line applicants know, with some sort of notification, even before they start the application process, that we have a new system and, if there are problems, here are both a contact phone number and email address. We don’t want them to get frustrated and leave. The second thing he’d like to know is how wide spread the problem is, so Mark Goldsberry has a chance to try to figure out if the problem is unique to one program or if it is a systemic graduate problem.

Psychology has created department web pages with step by step directions on how to apply. They also have attached a pdf document with a screen shot of each step of the application itself. Yet to be figured out is whether the problem is systemic and some broad based fix might be put into place.

The Chancellor agreed that there was great trepidation about the PeopleSoft student information system. Now we can only do what we can do. Ultimately it will all be straightened out, but the timing certainly is terrible. The Sr. V. C. noted that while the help line is a great idea, there is no one with a minute to spare. The people on the front lines are needed to keep the thing rolling. The Chancellor asked that the question be asked of our people, who can be very creative. The Chancellor also noted that there is a third party now who is doing an independent survey, monitoring and evaluating, the implementation of this student information system. So the Board of Regents will get the straight story confidentially. V. C. Conley stated that all new implementations can be complicated; we have some great people working on this, particularly at UNO, who are making up for the fact that this is such a challenging system.

On another subject, there were congratulations for the Omaha World Herald listing UNO in the top 25 institutions for being a Good Neighbor (essentially community engagement).

http://www.omaha.com/article/20091014/NEWS01/710149930

UNO was also listed in The Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the top 50 Master’s universities in the country for producing Fulbright Students


Sr. V.C. Hynes had heard from a couple of Deans that some faculty don’t seem to think that we are in a serious budget situation. She asked if anyone at this meeting knew if that feeling was wide spread. President Elder replied that, on one specific occasion, he had heard someone say that despite the fact that things are very, very grim; departments have been able to stock all their classes as usual, thus, this person suggested, it must not be as grim as people are portraying. He had not heard anything generic that things aren’t perceived as grim. Sr. V.C. Hynes said this came up in a slightly different context where some of our admission folks were asking for faculty in different specializations or departments, to talk with parents of, or to potential students. She said that the report was that faculty don’t see any need to do that and that they aren’t worried about students coming to campus; they are not worried about having too many or too few - things are fine basically. These reports were from different colleges. These are faculty being requested, and going back to their department chairs, saying they really don’t see any need for this. The perception, on the part of the chairs, as was reported to the Deans, seems to be that their faculty didn’t see the need to be concerned about how many students we have, or that there is a serious budget situation on campus.

It was noted by faculty members at the meeting that if the importance doesn’t come from the chair, the faculty member has work priorities that extend even through the weekends and they will continue with their priorities as they are
communicated to them. The emphasis has to come through the chairs and deans. Other faculty at the meeting communicated that in discussions with their peers there is concern about the budget and enrollments situation.

The Chancellor agreed that there are some faculty members, some staff, and even some administrators, who still are not yet convinced that this is the most dire economic situation the university has ever seen (and we are actually in pretty good shape compared to other places). It’s not about making decisions on, “is it worth it or not worth it,” it’s about the notion that, apparently, there are some people making decisions based on the fact that they don’t think the situation warrants it. Sr. V.C. Hynes noted that everyone on campus really worked hard last spring and through the summer to husband our resources so we could get through this year. We have worked hard to provide some support in places where, otherwise, we wouldn’t have been able to do it. But she could not imagine a more serious situation than we are in right now. The prospective budget reduction could be the most serious cut the University has ever had. The Chancellor noted that there are a certain number of people who will avoid thinking about this, and there are others that will overreact. His hope is that all members at this meeting, who are probably as well informed as the Administration, continue to remind people to take this seriously. He also thinks it will help once we know what the shortfall is.

V.C. Conley reported for Business & Finance that the transfer of University Village housing to UNO is going great.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

2. **Chancellor’s Council** met October 22, 2009. There were two agenda items: (1) Work Force Alignment Data (2) Roundtable.

   The Work Force Alignment Data is a joint project between UNO and Economic Modelling Specialists (Luke Jankovic). It was presented by Linda Mannering, and attempts to provide an economic description of Omaha and a comparison with other similar cities. One particularly interesting graph suggests that there is a strong correlation (indeed a 2-1 ratio) between the % of STEM jobs in a city and the % of Creative jobs. Interestingly, % Creative Jobs were loosely correlated with the population of the city. % STEM jobs seems to be not correlated with cost of living.

3. **Board of Regents** met October 23, 2009. The day began with items from the Business Affairs Committee. There was a presentation on Innovation Campus (the Old Fair Grounds between East and UNL's main campus). This was followed by a presentation by the four Campus Facilities Directors on Sustainability. Principles such as “Building Green” were mentioned. Of the 11 LEED projects (developed or in development) only one, Mammel Hall (LEED silver), is at UNO. By 2015 the goal is to reduce energy consumption/demand at UNO by 10% (same % for UNK and UNL, 25% for UNMC). Concerning UNO Transportation, I was interested to learn that UNL students have free bus passes. It was my impression that there was some confusion among the regents concerning the MetrO! Rideshare program (car pooling). I think that some thought that it was a bus pass program. It is my impression that some of the regents would be very supportive of a bus pass program for UNO.

   This was followed by a presentation on a proposed UNMC Eye Institute Facility. There was a brief State Budget Update. The main point was that the University System hopes to not take more than 14% of the cut proposed by the
Legislative Special Session. (The University makes up 14% of the Nebraska State budget.)

There was one item from the Outreach and Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee. It was Nebraska Health Workforce Study. Basically, the picture is bleak for rural Nebraska. We need more doctors and nurses. The Study concluded with some recommendations such as to create a state health workforce center and proactively address health care provider shortages and mal-distribution at the state level.

An item from the Academic Affairs Committee was the Strategic Framework Report on Enrollment. Enrollment is up by 2.6 across all four campuses. Enrollment is up by 2.9% at UNO. (UNO Undergraduate enrollment is up only 2%). Nonresident enrollment has dropped by 13.7% for first-time freshmen. It is to be expected that during tough economic times (1) graduate enrollments should go up (2) nonresident freshmen enrollments should go down.

Board of Regents Meeting: The Public Comment period went for over an hour. Except for one person, all comments concerned Stem Cell Research (both for and against). On the agenda there were three items of concern to UNO. All were approved: (1) Holland Basham Architects to design renovation of Roskens Hall. (2) Purchase Davis Prairie (83 acres) adjacent to Allwine Prairie Preserve. (3) $300,000 to partially fund parking lot addition on the Pacific Campus.

4. Written Acknowledgements of Resolutions (& Table):

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<th>Res#</th>
<th>Date F.S. Passed</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Sent for Senate Action</th>
<th>Denied</th>
<th>Deferred</th>
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<th>Final Action/Resolved</th>
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<tr>
<td>3006</td>
<td>10/14/09</td>
<td>Regarding Dr. Charles (Chuck) Gildersleeve</td>
<td>10/15/09</td>
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<td>Regarding Ronald Raikes</td>
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<td>10/14/09</td>
<td>Parking Issues (Events Calendar)</td>
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<td>4/8/09</td>
<td>Create a Long-Term Disability (LTD) Task Force</td>
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<td>UCRCA Funding</td>
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<td>2937</td>
<td>12/10/08</td>
<td>Create a Team to Implement a Common Course Evaluation</td>
<td>4/09</td>
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<td>New Common Course Evaluation Team established 3/09*</td>
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<td>2931</td>
<td>11/12/08</td>
<td>“Shots Fired: When Lightning Strikes” Video</td>
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<td>X*</td>
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<td>Senate in-progress following report</td>
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<td>2930</td>
<td>11/12/08</td>
<td>Park-&amp;-Ride-&amp;-Bike System of Transportation or Other Transportation Alternatives</td>
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<td>UNO Disaster Planning</td>
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<td>X* Return to Senate for further work</td>
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2899  4/9/08  UNO Child Care Center  
*3004 (From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 10/15/09: “The chancellor will discuss the resolution with Vice Chancellor Conley and Tim Kaldahl, University Relations.”

*3003 (From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 10/15/09: “While the Chancellor has not taken a public position on this matter, he suggests that, should the Faculty Senate wish to do so, this resolution could be forwarded to Donal Burns, BOR Corporation Secretary, to document Senate support.” (This was done by the UNO Faculty Senate on 10/14/09)

2961 (From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 4/10/09: “The chancellor acknowledges receipt of the resolutions, but suggests that the Senate may want to make a call to Central Administration to inquire about the existence of the U-Wide Benefits Committee, under whose auspices, this might normally fall. There may be no need to establish a separate task force if this committee, or a subgroup, is active, and would entertain an examination of the existing disability benefit procedure.”)
(The Faculty Senate Admin Tech notified the UNO rep to that committee, David Corbin, on 4/9/09. He replied on 4/12/09: “The NU Benefits Committee will be meeting on April 16. I will bring the two resolutions to their attention. It does seem that the Benefits Committee should be able to handle the issues without a new committee, but I'll wait and see what kind of response I get.”)

2944 (From the EC & Admin Mtg 1/21/09: The Chancellor supports the concept in Resolution 2944 on funding an UCRCA budget line but opined we wouldn’t get it during the years of budgetary problems.)

2937 (From the EC & Admin Mtg 12/17/08: Vice Chancellor Hynes asked F.S. President to send the Task Force’s final report.)
(From the EC & Admin Mtg 1/21/09: Vice Chancellor Hynes promised to look over the materials on the Common Course Evaluation. There is a form from a previous incarnation of the task force. The recommendations, as reviewed, need to be implemented.)
(From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 2/20/09: Acknowledged and referred to Vice Chancellor Hynes for review. VC Hynes acknowledges receipt of final report; review in process.)
(3/09 New Common Course Evaluation Team formed via Steve Bullock.)

2931 (From the EC & Admin Mtg 1/21/09: Senator Sollars gave Wade Robinson a list of faculty willing and qualified to comment on “Shots Fired” While Robinson says all the feedback he has received has been positive, faculty senators reported that students who had viewed the video were not impressed.)
(From Wade Robinson via e-mail on 2/16/09: “The Shots Fired issue is resolved based on the wording listed.”)
(From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 2/20/09: Acknowledge receipt of resolution and list of faculty educators to Assoc. VC Wade Robinson. Robinson reports that presentations to large campus groups is essentially completed with no further presentations scheduled. No additional action required.)
(From Wade Robinson via e-mail on 2/24/09: “Based on the information you gave me I have contacted a person at NASP to learn more about their PREPaRE program and learn about the program structure and costs. I have also contacted De. Scott Pollard to get program and cost information as well and hope to hear from both in the near future. I will also be communicating the UNO faculty you provided as well.”)
9/2/09: As a recently appointed member of the UNO Disaster Preparedness Committee, Past-President Suzanne Sollars will be sent to training to be certified, as are the other members of the committee, by the National Incident Management System (NIMS). It is affiliated with FEMA and provides a standardized structure for organizations to coordinate incident management.

2930 (At the EC & Admin Mtg 11/19/08: VC Conley said that there were a number of components of Resolution 2930, as written, that needed further consideration.) (At the EC & Admin Mtg 1/21/09: Vice Chancellor Conley reported that B. J. Reed was working with MAT and that there will be an integrated campus parking plan. The Regents will be asked to extend the contract with Crossroads. There was some discussion of providing bicycles for students to go between campuses.) (From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 2/20/09: Acknowledge receipt and forward to Vice Chancellor Conley for additional review and implementation as feasible.)
(6/5/09 From SAC V.P. Jeri Maxwell: SAC has voted and would like for you to know that we support Faculty Senate in their decision on resolutions 2930 & 2947. However we would like to suggest a slight wording change in Resolution 2930. “WHEREAS single-use motorized vehicular transport has a detrimental effect on the environment and a negative impact on finances via the cost of fuel, "We would rather it say something like "single person motorized vehicular transport"..."
*2928 (From 10/15/2008 EC & Admn Mtg: Chancellor Christensen said he would bring up Senate Resolution 2928, 10/08/08, concerning seeking alternatives to Lotus Notes, with the President’s Council. John Fiene is aware of the problems and supports the direction suggested in the resolution.)

Follow-up by Sollars via e-mail: “Chancellor Christensen brought the matter to President Milliken who concurred with the Lotus Notes problem, but said the matter needed to be deferred until after SIS implementation.”

*2909 6/20/08 EC&A Mtg: Associate Vice Chancellor Robinson discussed Emergency Planning and asked about the creation of a faculty committee that can assist the administration in planning for the continuation of academic programs in crisis situations. Senate will need to determine if there is a specific senate committee that could do this or if there is a need to develop a committee outside the senate. See Minutes of Exec Committee and Cabinet 7/9/2008 for further information: http://www.unomaha.edu/facsen/minutes/2008_2009/08_7_minutes.php

9/2/09: As a recently appointed member of the UNO Disaster Preparedness Committee, Past-President Suzanne Sollars will be sent to training to be certified, as are the other members of the committee, by the National Incident Management System (NIMS). It is affiliated with FEMA and provides a standardized structure for organizations to coordinate incident management.

*2899 EC&A Mtg April 16, 2008. The Chancellor responded to the Senate’s recently passed resolution regarding the University’s day-care facility. He was primarily concerned about the Senate’s recommendation that UNO develop a lab school as part of the day-care facility, since this represents a significant departure from what the university is doing and would require a substantial investment of resources. He pointed out that the original goal was to develop a day-care that would meet national accreditation standards. The differences between day-care and preschool curricula and facilities was discussed. The administration agreed to provide the Senate with information about the current day-care operation and also agreed to work with the Senate and Student Government to explore the issue if that is desired.

B. The October Budget Report was submitted by Senator Laquer.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Johanningsmeier reported the committee met at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28.

In attendance were: Shelton Hendricks (acting as chair), John Bartle, Jeremy Baguyos, John Bonsell and Guests: Nora Bacon and Lynn Harland. Carol Mitchell and Charles Johanningsmeier were excused.

The committee continued its discussion of issues relating to distance education and ramifications of a possible administrative reorganization of the University of Nebraska's instruction via this modality. Dr. Bacon described some of the difficulties encountered by the Department of English in appropriately supporting and evaluating faculty teaching distance education courses. Dr. Harland described some of the successes the College of Business Administration has had in offering select graduate courses on-line but also expressed reservations about the quality of distance education courses held by some members of the faculty of her college. The committee discussed how some of the issues raised by Dr. Bacon might be addressed and whether or not possible centralization of distance education would likely help or hinder efforts to assure the quality of on-line courses.

There was no objection to suspending the order of the meeting to enable Senator Benjamin-Alvarado to give the Professional Development report before he had to leave.

B. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Benjamin-Alvarado reported the meeting was held October 25, 2009. Present: Senators Benjamin-Alvarado (Chair); Haworth; Hayes; Lamsam; Tisko, and Tixier y Vigil.

The PD committee’s meeting with Dean BJ Reed of CPACS was cancelled because of an emergency. The committee will re-schedule its meeting in November with Dean Reed to elaborate the “Community Engagement” issue, its connection to a
“Scholarship of engagement” and the RPT process. A packet of information will be distributed to the members of the committee in preparation of that meeting. Senator Benjamin-Alvarado reported on his meeting with AVC Smith-Howell regarding the institutional elements of Faculty Development at UNO. This included a discussion of the extent to which faculty have had utilized institutional resources. This information was shared with the members of the committee who intimated that in many cases they had made extensive use of the teaching resources available but felt that the research resources for faculty development had been less useful. Senator Benjamin-Alvarado will sit on a Faculty Development Advisory Board with AVC Smith-Howell and others to address this and other relevant issues. The committee as a whole hopes to meet with AVC Smith-Howell in the coming month. The committee continued its discussion of the “community engagement” issue and the sense of the committee was that what little information we had thus far, is too general in nature, and that the over-riding concern was to pose a question to the administration to ask “why the emphasis on ‘community engagement’ at this particular moment?”

The meeting returned to its original order.

C. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Boyer reported the meeting was held October 23, 2009. Members present: Boyer, Kercher, Laquer, Ritzman Siy, Wileman.

Audrey DeFrank, Acting Library Dean, provided a library update. The Library is working on three priorities this year:

1. Systems Interoperability – Investigating and improving how systems such as the Integrated library system (Millennium), OCLC, ILLIAD, NeSIS, and SAP interact to provide library services.
2. Organizational development – The library will be participating in a survey, ClimateQual, which is designed to measure organizational climate.
3. Build and Strengthen Committee partnerships – The Hagel Archive and the Kaneko branch library are two such programs.

The library expansion and renovation is mostly complete. New policies and procedures are being developed and feedback from faculty and staff is welcome.

In the Spring 2010 semester the Library will be implementing Encore, a discovery tool which should make searching for library materials more transparent. An interesting article about the development of emerging discovery software can be found in the Chronicle of Higher Education:


Kaneko - The UNO branch library in the Kaneko facility at 12th & Jones is open from 1-5 Monday to Friday and from 10-2 on Saturday. Arrangements can be made for access outside those hours. There are about 40-50 people who use the facility each week. UNO classes and other groups meet there. Access is available to anyone with a MAV card. There are currently 166 memberships. The UNO Library spends $10,000 per year on materials and funds a half-time staff position and 30 hours of student work. Some Foundation funding is available. An agreement between the Board of Regents and Kaneko is being worked out.

Budget for Books & Serials – The library spends approximately $2,000,000 for Books & Serials with about 25% of that used for books and 75% for serials which includes electronic resources as well as paper journals. Last year when book purchases were stopped in January the ratio was 20% books and 80% serials. Serials prices continue to rise. The average annual increase is about 8%.
Serials Review – Over the last three years all academic departments have reviewed their serials and made appropriate cuts. This year the Library will be looking at general resources such as reference materials, databases, and other items that are not assigned to a specific department. Departments will not be asked to make cuts this year unless the budget situation makes that necessary.

Access to UN electronic resources – The committee was provided with spreadsheets that indicated databases owned by UNO and UNL as well as electronic subscriptions owned by any of the UN campuses. It would cost approximately $8 million more to provide everyone on any of the 4 campuses access to all of the resources. UNO cooperates with other campuses to jointly purchase resources when that is cost effective.

Library Fee – Students pay $3 per credit hour. The Library is guaranteed to receive $600,000. About half of that is used for library materials and the other half is used for staff positions and other needs.

Technology Fee – The Library receives about $100,000 of the technology fee and it is used for computers, classroom equipment, and other equipment such as video cameras and software.

Interlibrary Loan - The total number of “borrows” last year was 17,565. Graduate students were the heaviest users at 49%. Undergraduates were 23% of the total and Faculty 20%. The library is trying to make Interlibrary loan as easy as possible.

E-Book Trends – The library is considering Ebook Library (ELB) which would make it possible to purchase individual titles and even create course packs that are made up of chapters from several books that would be available at a single URL. Other e-books are already available such as those from Safari, Early English Books Online, and titles on the Kindles.

The committee also discussed some follow-up items from our September meeting. We received some additional information from Lanyce Keel about the Technology Fee. The process to select Tech Fee grants is being examined. We have asked for additional clarification on changes planned for Spring 2010 in providing test scanning results.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 1 p.m. We will meet with Steve Bullock about the Common Course Evaluation.

D. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Erickson reported the committee met October 28, 2009. Members present: Bacon, Carballal, Erickson, Nordman, Proulx, and Srithongrung.

The committee discussed a number of items, but the majority of the meeting was consumed by a presentation from UNO H/R, Mollie Anderson and Esther Scarpello.

1. Mollie Anderson and Esther Scarpello, UNO H/R.

Mollie answered a number of the questions posed by last year’s resolution (Resolution 2961, 4/8/09: Create a Long-Term Disability (LTD) Task Force), and also new ones raised during the meeting from the committee. One of the vexing issues is that UNO H/R (Anderson and Scarpello) sometimes have problems getting utilization or incidence data from the NU Benefits office. For example, if they ask what the rate of diabetes is for UNO faculty and staff, that data is not readily available, but only available for the NU system as a whole. Also, one of the issues cleared up for some of the committee members is that the NU health benefit system is self-insured by the state, and that Blue Cross/Blue Shield (health benefits), UNUM (disability benefits), and EyeMed (vision benefits) are administrators only; the actual insurance is provided by the state. This answers some lingering questions about why the NU Benefits office might
sometimes seem to be more interested in the cost side of health care/health insurance issues, rather than the benefits side. However it also raises new issues, such as why are we (UNO H/R or others) not able to obtain summary or detailed information regarding the UNO campus. This information could be used to develop a more focused Wellness plan.

Scarpello spoke about on-going faculty staff education efforts and mentioned upcoming dates for the annual open enrollment for faculty/staff benefits. She also mentioned the success of the Wellness “You Look Mav-elous” program, and provided an update on the United Way campaign.

On November 1, an email, newsletter, and e-notes announcement will be issued detailing the specific elements addressed this year. In particular, the vision and dental coverages can be modified by the faculty/staff this year. The tobacco designation is also due to be verified this year. The life Insurance benefit is now 1X salary up to $120k. Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance will be separate from life insurance in January 2010, so if faculty or staff want that coverage it will be available to buy separately.

The dates of the open enrollment period are November 16 through December 4. The premiums remain the same as last year even though costs are “skyrocketing.”

On November 19 UNO H/R will hold an open faculty/staff meeting to detail the changes and updates to the healthcare benefits package.

Finally, Scarpello spoke about the PerkSpot web site that has links to companies offering discounts to UNO employees for various items.

http://www.unomaha.edu/humanresources/employeeDiscountProgram.php

2. Domestic Partner benefits/gender equity issue.

The committee was asked to consider preparing a resolution requesting that the University Gender Equity Committee investigate the issue. The first draft was presented at the September EC&C meeting and was remanded back to committee then. The committee is working on re-wording the resolution and will present a resolution in November or December.

E. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Paterson reported the committee convened for its monthly meeting on October 21, 2009, at 2:30 PM in CPACS 208.


The Agenda was reviewed and approved. Because the Committee determined to examine some of the implications of UNO moving to a Division I athletic status, Chairperson Paterson invited Prof. Bill Wakefield to our meeting. Wakefield has been the UNO Faculty Representative to UNO’s NCAA Committee. He said UNO loses athletic prospects to other schools, especially regional Division I A schools, who with Division I gain name recognition, image, and thus recruits. Even faculty will on occasion choose to go to Division I over lower divisions. There are definitely downsides to moving to Division I – a good number who have done so are not doing so well, both athletically and image-wise (e.g., USD, Northern Colorado), but a few are doing well. A school needs to achieve at a very high level and cultivate a great deal of money. Probably $100 million over five years simply to upgrade facilities, and then increase salaries for coaches to Division I quality. It’s a significant gamble.

Wakefield also said that in Division 1, the school provides no base support. As at UNL, the University funds no more than $1 a year for all the sports. Husker revenues – tickets, TV revenue, ad revenue, sport paraphernalia, and especially donations from
boosters – pay for all other sports. At UNO, our in-line budget for athletics is $8 million.

Extensive discussion followed. Wakefield concluded by observing there are many years that would have to pass before such a decision could be implemented, and a number of years prior to that to decide whether to make the leap. We need, he said, to keep thinking and reflecting. Not to do so is an “ostrich approach.”

The Committee thanked Professor Wakefield for his time and insight.

Chairperson Paterson was encouraged to ask others with information about a move to Division I athletics to attend a Committee meeting.

Concerning Greening the Campus: Senator Marx reported that monitors are being installed into UNO buildings to measure various utility usages, and this is good, because it allows UNO to do an “energy audit.” This will still take some time.

A brief discussion of the situation with the HPER renovation revealed that the schedule is still behind, that many faculty, staff, and alums have not renewed their HPER memberships, and that it might be useful to draw up a resolution in order to give us, and the full Senate, a chance to discuss the matter in concrete ways.

Chairperson Paterson was also asked to draw up a resolution concerning the current mood of the UNO faculty. This could perhaps be paired with a survey developed by some in the Business College.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00p.m.

F. Committee on Rules: Senator Holley reported the committee met October 28, 2009. Members present: Nora Bacon, Timi Barone, Chris Decker, Lyn Holley. Other members: Stu Bernstein, John Hafer

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR CURRENT YEAR: STATUS and ACTION ITEMS
1. To keep abreast of University Committee openings and secure the volunteers needed.
   STATUS: Up to date with the exception of a UCRCA vacancy not yet filled.
   ACTION (Senator Holley): Request Dean Pol to provide a temporary replacement for Senator Chris Decker, during Sen. Decker’s one-term sabbatical (Spring 2009)

2. To create and distribute a survey re the preferences of UNO faculty members, then use preferences reported by faculty to inform the process of inviting faculty to volunteer to serve on committees.
   STATUS: Work for Spring 2010
   NEW: Need to clarify “nominatability” of UNL faculty who teach at UNO. This arose as a question about whether or not to include external faculty in the mailing of the Preferences Survey.
   ACTION (Nora) Explore find out how many external faculty are at UNO

3. To carry out Rules Committee responsibility for oversight and education by
   a. continuing the series of contacts begun last year that encourage committees to meet regularly and exercise due diligence, also
   b. to encourage committees for which such transparency is appropriate to post their goals, meeting agenda and committee.
   STATUS: Nearing completion
   ACTION (All): complete contacts and provide to Lyn nlt 30 Nov outcomes; Lyn will prepare a report for the Senate to be presented at the December EC&C and Senate meetings.

4. To review By-Laws of the Faculty Senate and suggest appropriate revisions
ACTION: as noted below, prepare appropriate changes to Bylaws to Senator Holley nlt 30 November for presentation at the December EC&C and Senate meetings

a. adding an explicit place for “Announcements” to the meeting agenda, just before “Adjournment” ACTION (Chris)
b. clarifying that “For the good of the order”, while not recorded, is still a public part of the meeting ACTION (Chris)
c. adding guidance to define conditions under which faculty members participating in faculty senate decision processes should “recuse” themselves.

NO ACTION (discarded after consideration of approaches and language used in other venues (e.g., UC Irvine) and concluding that addition of more text guidance would not be help improve existing practice.
d. adding guidance that defines when and how the meetings of Faculty Senate Standing Committees may be conducted in cyber space rather than geographic place.

ACTION (Senator Barone) Although Faculty Senate reaction to Rules Committee suggestions of a “quick response” option for Faculty Senate approval of Resolutions was ambivalent at best, the Rules Committee considers a “quick response” option for decision making potentially important in the current budget climate. So, we will try again, but only after developing an option that meets the concerns voiced in the Senate about the authenticity of electronically mediated “meetings. The Rules Committee shares these concerns. The new option will be presented at the Senate meetings in December.

V. Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON): Senator Paterson reported AFCON met October 10, 2009 at Eiseley Branch Library. Those present were: Peggy Adair, legislation liaison; Dwayne Ball, president, representing ACLU Nebraska and the Nebraska Association of Scholars; Karen Buckley, secretary and representing Nebraska Educational Media Association; Nancy Comer, representing the Nebraska Reading Association; Doug Paterson, representing UNO Faculty Senate; Bob Haller, representing UNL chapter of the American Association of University Professors; Cathi McMurtry, AFCON treasurer; Dave Moshman, policy coordinator; Laurie Lee, representing UNL Faculty Senate; Linda Parker, president-elect, representing Nebraska Library Association;

Opening: Ball called the board meeting to order at 10:14.

Minutes: (Buckley) Minutes of the July and September board meetings were approved.

Treasurer’s Report (McMurtry) AFCON’s treasury has a balance of $2550.38, as of Oct. 9. The treasurer’s report was filed for audit.

President’s Report (Ball) Ball noted that ACLU is suing the Millard School district for violating students’ rights, on behalf of the Kuhr children, who were suspended for wearing “R-I-P Julius” t-shirts to school.

Policy coordinator (Moshman) Moshman spoke briefly about another “disinvitation,” this time a Palestinian lawyer who had been invited to speak at an Israel and Jewish Studies class at UNO and then the professor decided against having the speaker. The lawyer did speak at UNL, UNO and Creighton assemblies, just not at that particular class.
Newsletter: (Black) The deadline for articles for the December 18 Sentinel is Nov. 30.

Membership Reports:
Parker said that the Nebraska Library Association board voted to support the student expression act and the NLA president is writing a letter, also in support.
Adair noted again that ACLU is suing the Millard School district for violating students’ rights, on behalf of the Kuhr children, who were suspended for wearing “R-I-P Julius” t-shirts to school.
Moshman said that the UNL Faculty Senate received the report from the Ayers committee Tuesday. The executive committee is expected to respond.
Legislative Report: Adair and Haller, representing the student expression group, met with Sen. Avery, who has agreed to cosponsor the student expression bill.
Old Business: Lee reported on the Banned Books Week activity at Duffy’s Tavern Oct. 1, which AFCON cosponsored with ACLU Nebraska and the NLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. Students from the Academy of Rock included a controversial song with each performance and explained what caused the song to be controversial. Also part of the evening’s activities were film clips from “banned” movies and a banned book display.
Parker gave an update on the upcoming annual membership meeting Nov. 14. Attendance will be by pre-registration only; no on-site registration. As president, Ball will open the meeting and then Parker will emcee the program. Adair moved, and Comer seconded, to add Mike Kelly and Steve Ramsey to the UNL Academic Freedom Award nominees, who are being recognized for organizing faculty and student protests regarding UNL’s disinvitation of Dr. Ayers as guest speaker. The motion passed.
Lee, on behalf of the nominating committee said the following slate of officers will be presented at the membership meeting: president-elect, Rod Wagner; secretary, Peggy Adair; and treasurer, Cathi McMurtry.
There being no further business, Ball declared the meeting adjourned at 12 noon.
The next meeting will be the annual membership meeting Nov. 14 at the Holiday Inn in Omaha.

B. Academic Planning Council: D’Souza reported the APC met October 23, 2009.
Dr. Chris Allen will chair the Math department review that is scheduled for December 10-11, 2009. Dr. Jie Chen, Professor and Chair of Mathematics and Statistics Department of the University of Missouri, Kansas City, is the external chair.
The selection of external chairs and scheduling of review dates for other departments are in progress. The review for Environmental Studies, Geology and Geography will be combined.

C. Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Professor Barnes reported the quarterly meeting was held August 25, 2009.
Mark Grieb said that the Advancement Collaboration Committee has met and will meet again on September 9. Lee Denker stated that the Strategic Planning and Communications sub-committees have met and the Annual Fund and Fiscal Management sub-committees are meeting later this week. Denker said that the Denver outreach was successful with 75 Denver UNO Alumni reached. Denker reported that he and Elizabeth Kraemer have met with student regent, Neal Bonacci, and a group of students to plan events that would get more students involved with the UNO Alumni Association and prepare them for a lifetime involvement.
Mark Grieb said the 2008 Audit has been completed and reviewed by the Operations/Construct committee with good results and no adjustments or deficiencies. Lee Denker said that two policies, Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower, were suggested for adaptation by the auditor, Hancock & Dana, PC to comply with the IRS Form 990. Denker presented the Conflict of Interest policy with changes suggested by the Operations/Construct and Executive committees and the Whistleblower policy. A motion to approve the policies as presented was made by Jim Garbina and seconded by Steve Frantz. All in favor responded and the motion was carried. Denker requested all board members present to fill out and sign the Conflict of Interest disclosure form before they leave the meeting.

Trev Alberts said that Athletics has a lot of good ideas and resources and will find ways to work in a collaborative effort to: (1) create a culture of excellence, (2) become a community centered department, and (3) be fiscally responsible. Alberts stated that UNO Athletics has focused on recruitment as more than getting kids athletic exposure, but also to produce smart, competitive leaders.

Tom Warren reported the following about the 2009 UNO Annual Fund: The “first ask” letters to previous donors were sent the first week of May, 2009. Asks were placed in UNOAA-e-newsletters June and July, in an August letter from the Chancellor to Faculty and Staff offering a payroll deduction option, and UNOAA e-solicitation e-mails in July. The phonathon had just begun and reported the results as follows: The first night resulted in $12,615, the second night resulted in $3,100.00, and the third night resulted in $6,500.00. The phonathon was conducted by University of Nebraska students asking for $100.00 and resulted in an average gift of $120.00. The net revenue of the UNO Annual Fund first quarter of 2008 was $120,000, and the net revenue of the UNO Annual Fund for the “first quarter—April – June” of 2009 is $101,000.

A presentation of the new website http://www.unoalumni.org/, “Facebook” page, and “Twitter” page was provided by Anthony Flott. Jamie Herbert said that the Connect Committee met in May. Herbert stated that the goal of the Connect Committee is to involve UNO alumni with UNO through UNO Alumni Association programs and activities. Mark Grieb reviewed the UNO Alumni Association and Thompson Alumni Center 2nd Quarter financial statements. Michael Kudlacz reported that donations are coming in for the AFROTC scholarship--one at $500 per semester, or $1,000 per year.

Ryan Nelson reported that the UNO Young Alum has 538 followers on their Facebook page. Nelson said the committee is conducting strategic planning with two-year goals.

Neal Bonacci (student) reported that since the recycling program has begun at UNO last year, over 300,000 pounds have been recycled. Bonacci said that a request has been made to increase the amount of recycle bins around the campus.

D. Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator O’Connell reported the committee met October 28, 2009.

Chancellor Christensen reviewed the recent CUMU http://www.cumuonline.org/conference where several UNO presentations took place. He shared thoughts about the future direction of the organization as it distinguishes itself from other institutions regarding the depth of community engagements. The CUMU Executive committee may fund a study to profile schools who identify community engagements as part of their core mission.

The Chancellor will be meeting with Jim Young and our capital campaign committee in the future regarding the community engagement center initiative. The Chancellor
spoke of the upcoming special session of the legislature and the future budget cuts that may be asked of the university system. He thanked all committee members for their service and assured us of the importance of the committee’s work especially going forward.

Goal 3 Objectives Revision Task Force Chairman, Neal Topp, shared a draft of the committee work on writing the Goal 3 sub-goals and objectives. The steering committee discussed process and format plans and will be asked to give input to the more complete draft at the Nov meeting.

Strategic Planning Forum Event Task Force Chairman, Melissa Cast-Brede, shared the results of the sub-committee’s first discussion of the Feb 12 agenda. The theme will be community engagement and again build on the work of last April’s Forum. Plans will be finalized as the work of the other two sub-committees takes shape since they will guide the activities planned for the forum. The Strategic Planning Awards will be given at the Forum this year.

Community Engagement Documentation and Inventory Task Force Chairman, Bill Swanson, shared a brief review of the work of the data collection committee. Dan O’Dell, IT specialist will be working with the committee as well as Linda Mannering. A mock up of a possible web portal may be available to show as part of the discussion at the upcoming Forum.

Strategic Planning Awards Nomination forms will be due back to the Chancellors’ office by Jan 15, 2010. They will be distributing them through the Deans and Departments.

Project 2110 Time Capsule Letter to Community: a draft of a letter asking for items to be placed in the Centennial time capsule representing community partners, was shared. It was suggested that the letter be sent to the community list used to invite people to the Forum since they already have an established connection to the university. It was also decided to include the “save the date” postcard for the Forum with this letter since they will go out mid-Nov.

Community Engagement Task Force: Progress of the Community Engagement Concept Group was reported. They will be working with the Chancellor on next steps for the project in the coming month and report in the future.

Next Meeting is November 18, 2009

With no objections the meeting was suspended in order to be sure to have a quorum for the resolution.

VI. New Business

A. Senator Holley moved, and Senator Paterson seconded, the following resolution, which passed unanimously. It will be presented to the full Senate next week.

Resolution for Passing of Retired Goodrich Faculty Member: Wilda Chue Stevenson

WHEREAS Wilda Chue Stephenson served as the director of the Goodrich Scholarship Program at the University of the Nebraska at Omaha from 1975-1981, and

WHEREAS Wilda Chue Stephenson was the first female administrator in the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s College of Public Affairs and Community
WHEREAS Wilda Chue Stephenson was completely devoted to the cause of all students with an intentional focus on low income students, and

WHEREAS a Wilda Stephenson Internship Program was established at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in recognition of her outstanding dedication to students and community, and

WHEREAS Wilda Chue Stephenson was dedicated to the fight of discrimination for all people and was honored by the Urban League of Nebraska, and

WHEREAS Wilda Chue Stephenson was devoted to community engagement serving on community Boards such as the National Council of Negro Women and the YWCA and the League of Women Voters,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha gratefully acknowledges the many contributions of Wilda Chue Stephenson, and honors her memory by encouraging colleagues to emulate her devotion to the causes that affect students and the University, and expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family of Wilda Chue Stephenson.

B. Faculty Senate President-Elect nominations will begin at next week’s Faculty Senate meeting. Election of the President-Elect will take place at the December 2009 Faculty Senate meeting.

At this point the meeting returned to the original order with Old Business and Good of the Order. Then continued with the remainder of New Business:

C. The Professional Ethics & Fundamental Fiscal Responsibilities e-mail sent by V.C. Conley was discussed.
   http://www.unomaha.edu/policies/docs/Fiscal_Responsibilities.pdf
   These were sent out to all SAP users. The Purchasing Card system was just audited. One of these documents was available in August, but the Faculty Senate was not aware of it until October 2009.

D. Responsible Conduct of Research Policy at the University of Nebraska at Omaha sent by Harmon Maher, Interim Assoc. V.C. for Research, Academic & Student Affairs, was discussed.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm with announcements.