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

II. The March 4, 2009 Minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Sollars reported:

1. Executive Committee and Administration (EC&Admin.) met March 23, 2009. Present: Senators Sollars, Bacon, M., Miller, Boucher, Noble, Elder; Chancellor Christensen and Vice Chancellors Hynes and Conley.

   Chancellor Christensen thanked the Senate for its endorsement of and participation in the Seven Days of Service which have had many positive repercussions for the University. He also thanked the Senate for its resolution of condolence for Prof. June Mecham.

   The Chancellor cautioned the Senate and all other interested parties not to overly optimistically interpret preliminary admissions data to indicate tremendous enrollment increases for the fall. Admissions do not mean enrollments. Having said that, he noted that both undergraduate and graduate admissions were up as were Iowa admissions. There are already indicators that students in good standing are sitting out semesters for economic reasons. He urged all faculty to attend Honors Week events.

   Senator Sollars brought up the multiple line phone charges that the Senate had discovered. Vice Chancellor Conley promised to look into the possibility that such unneeded multiple line charges were an issue for other campus offices.

   There followed a long discussion of the Senate resolutions chart is available on the Senate’s website. The Chancellor, while saying the chart would help, said he had been under the impression that resolutions had to be actionable to take action on them. Many Senate resolutions are not actionable by the administration. Senator Sollars mentioned that those resolutions are presented as items of information to the administration and there is a place on the chart for actions needed by the Senate. Vice Chancellor Hynes still questioned what the resolutions are supposed to do. What does the Senate expect to happen? The Chancellor took note that any resolution with budgetary implications in the current climate will not be acted upon other than being acknowledged as received. He wants to avoid the impression of gridlock. He also suggested column title clarifications.

   The wording on Civil Leave policies is being refined in consultation with University counsel.
Vice Chancellor Hynes noted that in the second whereas clause of Resolution 2960, the term “priority programs” was used. The University no longer uses the term and correction in the resolution would be clarifying.

Chancellor Christensen noted that he did not know the magnitude of the budget reductions the University of Nebraska would have to make. The Legislature’s Appropriations Committee had not yet made its recommendations. He also noted that federal “stimulus dollars” will have only an indirect impact on the University budget by reducing pressure to fund other mandated programs, such as K-12 state aid.

2. **Board of Regents** met March 6, 2009.

   A Strategic Framework item on grant activity at the campuses indicated that UNO had a 3-year cumulative increase in grant funding of 20.4%. The recommendation for UNO is to continue at a growth rate of 7%, leading to a doubling of awards by FY 2015-2016. (starting point of FY 2006).

   UNO, UNK and UNL presented information on their 6-year graduation outcomes and efforts to improve those outcomes. Chancellor Christensen reported UNO has been making good advancements in graduation rates. Some of those outcomes can be attributed to three strategies: 1) “Smart Recruiting” – providing ‘college-like’ experiences for high school students, dual enrollment programs, higher standards in minimum requirements. 2) “First Year Retention” – First Year Experience classes, learning centers, learning communities, advising. 3) “Progress Toward Graduation” – campus housing, advising, mentoring, undergraduate honors program, service learning.

   The budget update was standard, given the current climate conditions: hoping for 1.5% increase, but unknown outcome at this point. The final budget recommendation by the Appropriations Committee will be in April, the Governor/Legislature enact the biennial budget in May. The Board will approve tuition rates and budget in June.

   Strategic Framework Accountability Measures on the alignment of UN programs with workforce needs was presented. FY 2009-2010 Accountability Measure is: “1) Align university programs to address workforce needs. 2) Provide distance education programs consistent with the university’s curriculum to prepare Nebraskans for quality jobs and self-employment opportunities.” For FY 2010-2011 the measures are to: “Index and analyze faculty research that may contribute to new workforce opportunities.” This year, UNO reported: “UNO programs are aligned with 125 Omaha occupations requiring a 4-year degree. UNO preparing students for 90% of the new jobs in Omaha requiring a 4-year degree or higher.” Number of new jobs from 2007-2012 was projected as: “K-12 Educators = 2,500; Computer software engineers = 1,100; Postsecondary Teachers = 850; Accountants and Auditors = 830.” Economic Marketing Specialists, Inc. projects the following areas of high potential workforce growth: “Education and Health Services = 19%; Professional and Business Services = 17%; Financial Activities = 14%; Leisure and Hospitality = 13%.”

   Expenditures of $257,000 for parking facility repairs and $526,000 for Milo Bail Student Center improvements (update Ballroom and replace upholstered furniture) were approved. These funds are from a source designated for facilities repair and improvement only (Sixth Series Replacement Fund).

   *(The Stem Cell issue also was brought up during the Board of Regents’ Public Comment period. Senator Sollars reported that at least one other NU Faculty*
Senate has looked at this issue. Senator Sollars asked to let her know if there was interest in a resolution in forming an Ad Hoc committee researching this issue and its outcome.

3. Resolution Action Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Res.#</th>
<th>Date Senate Passed</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Admin Accept</th>
<th>Sent for Senate Action</th>
<th>Denied</th>
<th>Deferred</th>
<th>In Progress</th>
<th>Final Action/Resolved</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2960</td>
<td>3/11/09</td>
<td>Change Name of 4 Degrees Offered by School of Criminology &amp; Criminal Justice</td>
<td>X-NC 3/17/09</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Accepted</td>
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<tr>
<td>2959</td>
<td>3/11/09</td>
<td>BS in Neuroscience in College of A&amp;S</td>
<td>X-NC 3/17/09</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Accepted</td>
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<tr>
<td>2957</td>
<td>3/11/09</td>
<td>Condolence for Dr. June L. Mecham (History)</td>
<td>X-NC 3/11/09</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Acknowledged &amp; Concur</td>
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<tr>
<td>2954</td>
<td>2/11/09</td>
<td>Regarding the Position of a Sustainability Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2953</td>
<td>2/11/09</td>
<td>Environmental Sustainability Practices in UNO’s Food Service</td>
<td>X*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2952</td>
<td>2/11/09</td>
<td>Sustainability Practices in UNO’s Built Environment</td>
<td>X*</td>
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<td>2951</td>
<td>2/11/09</td>
<td>University Purchasing Guidelines for Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>X*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2950</td>
<td>2/11/09</td>
<td>Improving Transportation On, To, &amp; From Campus</td>
<td>X*</td>
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<td>2949</td>
<td>2/11/09</td>
<td>Improving the Efficiency of Energy and Water Usage on UNO’s Campus and Ascertaining the Level of UNO’s Carbon Output</td>
<td>X*</td>
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<td>2944</td>
<td>1/14/09</td>
<td>UCRCA Funding</td>
<td>X*</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>X*</td>
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<td>2932</td>
<td>11/12/08</td>
<td>Time Capsule for UNO Centennial</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Sollars Wrkng on</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Returned to Senate for Action*</td>
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<td>2931</td>
<td>11/12/08</td>
<td>“Shots Fired: When</td>
<td>X*</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Senate in-</td>
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<td>Resolution</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Progress</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>
<td>Senate Working Group</td>
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<td>2928</td>
<td>10/8/08</td>
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<td>X*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2909</td>
<td>5/14/08</td>
<td>UNO Disaster Planning</td>
<td>Senate to Community</td>
<td>X* Return to Senate for further work</td>
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<td>2899</td>
<td>4/9/08</td>
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<td>Senate Deferred</td>
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<td>3/12/08</td>
<td>Policy on Student Civil Leave</td>
<td></td>
<td>X*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*2958 President Sollars sent letters with copies of this resolution to the Board of Regents and NU President Milliken.

*2954-2949 (From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 2/20/09: Acknowledge receipt. The Administration shares the Faculty Senate’s goal of advancing sustainability at UNO, however, many factors must be considered to achieve this goal. Faculty Senate is requested to provide supporting documentation re: costs/benefits, etc. developed in preparing these resolutions. Vice Chancellor Conley will continue to work with the Sustainability Task Force to prioritize initiatives and actions.)

*2044 (From the EC & Admin Mtg 1/21/09: The Chancellor supports the concept in Resolution 2944 on funding an UCRCA budget line but opined it 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.)

*2932 (From the EC & Admin Mtg 11/19/08: The Chancellor raised the issue of funding for the proposed centennial time capsule (Resolution 2932). IS&T students have proposed a ‘virtual’ time capsule.) (From the EC & Admin Mtg 1/21/09: Senator Sollars informed the Chancellor of her further efforts to decrease the cost of a time capsule, now estimated at $3,000. The Centennial Committee has no money and cannot support the effort. The donors for the CBA building would have to give their approval were it to be placed there. A back-up location would be the new part of HPER.) (From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 2/20/09: Acknowledge receipt of resolution with recommendation that funding for project be discussed with Centennial Committee. No further action by administration required.)

*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.”)

*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.)

*2928 (From 10/15/2008 EC & Admin 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 in 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

*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.

*2897 (From the 3/19/08 EC & Admin Mtg: The Senate’s resolution concerning Civil Duty/Jury Duty was well received by administration. Before the administration places the language in the undergraduate and graduate catalogs, they plan to check existing policy and AAUP agreements to assure the language was not conflicting. For example, there was a brief discussion of whether the policy infringes on the faculty members right to determine the grade for a course.)

(From the 10/15/08 EC & Admin Mtg: One example was Resolution 2897, 3/12/08, on civil duty leave allowances for students. Associate Vice Chancellor Robinson asserted that such arrangements, on a case by case basis, are faculty decisions.)

(At the 11/19/08 EC & Admin Mtg: The Chancellor handed off Resolution 2897 [Civil Leaves for Students] to VC Hynes. Apparently, some stipulations of the Resolution are contrary to University policy.)

(At the 1/21/09 EC & Admin Mtg: The Administration informed the Executive Committee that some faculty regard a uniform policy on student civil leave (Res. 2897) as interference in academic freedom. Consultation with the AAUP was suggested and Vice Chancellor Hynes said she would speak with the University Counsel. Senator Sollars will discuss the issue with the other Senate presidents at the Regents meeting.)

(From the Chancellor via Nancy Castilow sent in an e-mail 2/20/09: Issue was referred to University Legal Counsel by administration. Discussion revealed incongruence of language relating to definition of civil leave between senate resolution and federal statute. Recommended initial action: Bring resolution language into compliance with statute language defining civil leave.)

B. Treasurer’s Report: Senator Bacon submitted the March 2009 budget report

Budget Advisory Task Force: Senator Bacon reported the task force will meet next week.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Gershovich reported the committee met on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. 

Present: John Bartle, Moshe Gershovich (Chair), Charles Johanningsmeier, George Morcous, Jeanne Reames

The meeting was devoted to a discussion of a proposed “School of Interdisciplinary Informatics” at the College of IS&T. The proposed school will supplement the college’s two existing departments: Computer Science and Management Information Systems (MIS). It will include a number of existing and planned BS and MS degrees such as Information Assurance, Education Informatics, Bioinformatic, and IT Innovation. The proposed school will provide an organizational structure for innovative new programming and allow for innovative partnerships between the IS&T College, other academic units at UNO and UNMC, as well the broader Omaha community, including local businesses.

Dr. Ali addressed various concerns regarding the proposed school and agreed to revise the initial proposal and resubmit it to the committee. Upon receipt of the revised proposal, the committee will draft a resolution in support of the new school and submit it to the approval of the EC&C.

B. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator Boyer reported the committee met on March 25, 2009. Members present: Boucher, Boyer, Kercher, Laquer, Wileman. Member absent: Ritzman. Dr. James Carroll was a guest.

1. SIS Implementation – Dr. Carroll was appointed more than a year ago to be the UNO Faculty representative on the SIS Implementation Team. Dr. Carroll provided the committee with some updates on how the implementation is progressing. There are a number of issues that must be determined. Since the system includes all of the NU campuses, the method of identifying semesters must be standardized. UNMC has always had a very different calendar than other campuses. UN-L, UNO, and UNK have different summer schedules. Admissions must decide if they will share information. A method of numbering courses still needs to be worked out. Conversion of current SIS data into the new system is a concern.

The implementation is on schedule. Admissions will begin using the new system for students admitted for the Fall 2010. Faculty will be trained in January 2010 to do advising. The training has not yet been developed. The portal will open in March 2010. Financials should be ready in April or May 2010.

If the Faculty Senate has questions, Dr. Carroll will try to find answers.

2. Paul Beck Scholarship - Announcements about the scholarship have appeared in ENotes. A few applications have been received. The deadline is April 10. The committee will review the applications before the April 29th meeting. At that meeting Deb Wilcox will discuss the funding process for the scholarship and the recipients will be selected.

3. Common course evaluation task force – Resolution 2937 originated in Educational Resources & Services so we have request that committee member, Kyle Kercher, serve on the task force.

4. Google email for students – In January Lanyce Keel discussed with the committee the possibility of using the Google Apps system for student email. It was recently announced that this would be implemented beginning this fall. The announcement also indicated that the University of Nebraska was willing to investigate alternatives to Lotus Notes after the implementation of SIS. This was suggested in Resolution 2928.
C. **Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare:** Senator Elder reported the committee met on March 25th. They discussed the issues that face the University and its faculty regarding Long-term Disability Insurance and the costs of Medical Insurance. From the committee: Karen Dwyer, Griff Elder, John Erickson and Patrice Proulx were present; Jay White and Meredith Bacon had excused absences. Additionally, Graham Mitenko was invited to attend.

The following two resolutions will be presented to the full senate next week:

1. **Resolution: Proposal to Create a Long-Term Disability (LTD) Task Force**
   (Directed to John Christensen, Dean’s Council, Bill Conley and Keith Dietze)

   WHEREAS University faculty and staff may be placed in a nearly untenable position, should they find it necessary to go on LTD before retirement age, because of the increase in health insurance costs for those that transition from the active pool (faculty & staff) to the non-active pool (retired or disable individuals) coupled with the loss of income from their disability,

   WHEREAS there appear to be long-term policy issues regarding University, faculty and staff retirement planning as related to the overall aging of the faculty and staff, health-care costs and LTD,

   WHEREAS the University may be exposed to potential legal liability resulting from the pool split (active and non-active),

   THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNO Faculty Senate recommends formation of a task force to study the issues involved.

   FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that such a task force be composed of members from all 4 campuses, including administration, faculty and staff, and also an NU Benefits representative.

2. **Resolution: Proposal to Inform Faculty and Staff of LTD Insurance Policy Offsets, Waiting Periods, and Phase-Out Ages**

   WHEREAS NU faculty and staff may not be aware of the specific terms of coverage in the LTD insurance policy regarding offsets, waiting periods, and phase-out ages

   THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNO Faculty Senate recommends the following actions:

   (1) Faculty should be explicitly informed (via the Web and other means as appropriate) that they should only consider options [i], [iv], and [v] when buying the LTD policy.

   (2) Faculty and staff should be explicitly informed (via the Web and other means as appropriate) that the LTD plan offsets other income so that the total disability compensation is never more than 66 2/3% of their income, and that it is taxable.

   (3) Faculty and staff should be explicitly informed (via the Web and other means as appropriate) that the LTD pay-out (reduced benefit to the employee) begins
phasing out at age 65 and is completely phased out by age 68 (no benefit to employee), so there may not be a need to purchase the LTD insurance at those ages.

(4) That the NU benefits personnel at the various campuses should be encouraged to be more proactive in explaining these issues to new hires as well as long-time employees.

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Paterson reported the committee met March 25, 2009. In attendance: Senators D’Souza, Huq, Marx, and Paterson (Chair).

Discussion began with the invitation extended to Assoc. Vice Chancellor Wade Robinson, who will join G&D for its April 29th meeting. In addition to a list of questions similar to the ones covered with Joe Kaminski in February, discussion included issues of parking, commuter students, the cancellation of the parking garage, maintenance costs, health care benefits, and overall usage.

Senator Marx, speaking of the Greening Initiative sent an e.mail to Vice Chancellor Bill Conley about getting on the Sustainability Committee. Conley agreed. Marx said he will put the next 6 X 2 Greening resolutions on hold and work with the SC.

The Committee briefly discussed the Goodrich Scholarship Program, senior faculty, and the Thomson scholarship program.

E. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Noble reported the committee met March 25, 2009, and discussed:

1. Ethical Standards of Research training modules (CITI training)
   
   Discussed the opportunity to assist the administration with making recommendations regarding which modules should be required of UNO faculty/graduate students for training on the ethical standards of research. We are going to contact Harmon Maher about our ability and interest in helping with this process.

2. Research Climate Survey from 07-08
   
   The results of the survey have been forwarded to : Linda Mannering, Harmon Maher, and Deb Smith-Howell

3. Workshop on the Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness
   
   We are in contact with Deb Smith-Howell and the office of Academic Affairs on how we might organize a workshop on training participants on how to effectively evaluate teaching performance. This workshop would be directed towards any faculty or administrator in a role of evaluating teaching and the plan would be to provide ideas on how to look beyond student evaluations.

Senators Present: Noble, Tisko, Mei
Senators Absent: Haworth, Tixier y Vigil, Lamsam.

F. Committee on Rules: Senator Miller reported the committee met March 25, 2009. Present: Bacon, Bernstein, Chundi, Holley, Lin and Miller

Committee members reviewed placement requests from incoming senators and determined standing committee assignments based upon those requests. These assignments will be sent to the incoming President.

Rules members discussed the merits of drafting a more comprehensive recusal policy. The only recusal policy currently in place is limited to the Grievance Committee. The issue was tabled and will be discussed at a future meeting.
The Spring 2009 Faculty Recruitment survey had over 100 replies and the email version is not scheduled to be mailed until 3/26/09. This number of returns is significantly higher than our 2008 survey and committee members were pleased with these results. Using the data from the committee service preference forms, we began the process of securing 50 faculty members willing to serve on University committees. Members of the Rules committee volunteered to contact 35 people within the next month. This process will be continued during our April meeting.

V. Non-Senate Committee Reports

A. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON): Senator Paterson reported the meeting was held March 14, 2009 at Eiseley Branch Library in Lincoln, NE. Those present were: Peggy Adair, legislation liaison; Dwayne Ball, president, representing ACLU Nebraska and the Nebraska Association of Scholars; Tom Black; Miles Bryant; Karen Buckley, secretary and representing Nebraska Educational Media Association; Nancy Comer, past-president, representing the Nebraska State Reading Association; Bob Haller, representing UNL chapter of the American Association of University Professors; Mark Karpf, representing Nebraska High School Press Association; Clark Kolterman; Cathi McMurtry, AFCON treasurer; Dave Moshman, policy coordinator; Susan Oles, representing Nebraska English Language Arts Council; Linda Parker; Doug Paterson, past president-, representing the Faculty Senate at UNO; Mary Reiman; Rod Wagner, representing the Nebraska Center for the Book.

Ball called the board meeting to order at 10:10. The minutes of the Feb. 14 meeting were approved upon a motion by Moshman and a second by Black.

Treasurer’s Report (McMurtry) AFCON’s treasury has a balance of $2002.63, as of Feb. 13, 2000. AFCON has 30 paid and two guest individual members and seven paid and two in-kind organization members current with dues. The treasurer’s report was filed for audit.

President’s Report: Ball has sent information to the Ewen Center. Its director has promised to send a small donation to AFCON.

Newsletter: (Black) The latest issue of the Sentinel has been published in print and online. The deadline for the June 19 issue is May 25.

Membership Reports:
- Wagner remarked that planning is underway for the Nebraska Center for the Book’s festival to be held in November.
- Comer said that she and Adiar will be doing a presentation on the Student Expression Bill at the Nebraska Reading Council’s summer conference.
- Kolterman said that the Nebraska English Language Arts Council will hold its annual conference Oct. 3, in conjunction with the Plum Creek Literacy Festival.

Old Business: Parker is exploring how to archive AFCON web information online. The Nebraska Historical Society is remodeling at present, but she feels AFCON needs to set dates for submitting archival materials to the society.

New Business: Kolterman noted that the National Teachers of English Council gives an academic freedom award to a person from each state and a national academic freedom award. NE/LAC traditionally looks to AFCON for suggestions and/or endorsements. This year NE/LAC has nominated Cathi McMurtry for the Nebraska award and Peggy Adair for the national award. Upon a motion by Paterson and a second by Moshman, AFCON voted to endorse both nominees.
Members also discussed LB 674, which Adair noted was not a priority bill. Ball had sent an e-mail alert about looking at this bill and Comer brought Journal Star stories and an op ed piece, written by Jack Gould of Common Cause. This bill will be discussed at the April agenda, to give members an opportunity to learn more about it.

Discussion was then held on the student expression bill, including how member organizations could promote the bill and how to contact other organizations who might support such a bill. By May, supporting groups should be identified and groups should be organized by fall.

Upon a motion by Kolterman and a second by Haller, members voted to purchase an ad in the program for the annual meeting of ACLU Nebraska.

There being no further business, Ball declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next board meeting will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 11 at Eiseley branch library.

B. Academic Planning Council (APC): Senator D’Souza wrote the meeting was held March 23, 2009.

Steve Bullock updated the committee on the benefits of using Digital Measures to generate reports for academic reviews. Assoc. V.C. Deb Howell-Smith sought suggestions and ideas from the members to develop templates. There are possibilities for a variety of templates because of the diversity of the departments and programs and how they prepare for academic review.

Dr. Jeannette Seaberry, who chaired the Women’s Studies review internally, updated the committee. The external reviewer, Dr. Carole Garrison, Eastern Kentucky University, has completed a very positive report and this program is assessed as well-functioning.

Dr. Chris Allen, who chaired the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice internally, updated the committee. Being a large program (20 FTE) with undergraduate, graduate, doctoral programs and an institute, the review schedule was quite a hectic one and in spite of the two blizzards at the Chicago airport which delayed the arrival and the departure of the external reviewer, Dr. Richard Rosenfeld, University of Missouri-St. Louis, it went well. He expects to complete the report by the end of March.

C. American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator N. Bacon wrote:

1. Collective Bargaining

The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the AAUP and the NU Regents, covering the period from July of 2009 to June of 2011, was ratified by a vote of the membership on March 24.

Because salary increases were not determined through negotiations this year (instead, they were referred to a Special Master), they were not subject to ratification.

In his ruling, the Special Master explained that he found the AAUP’s proposed salary increase more reasonable than the Regents’ offer because it more nearly addressed the legislative imperative to set UNO faculty salaries at the midpoint of our peers and because the Regents had failed to make a convincing case that the university was unable to pay. On similar grounds, he found the AAUP’s proposed life insurance benefit more reasonable than the Regents’ offer. Nevertheless, the Regents have appealed the ruling to the Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR). It is hoped that the CIR will issue its decision by July.
As a result of the Regents’ appeal, budgeting for the next two academic years, already plagued with uncertainties, is more difficult.

AAUP President Ken Deffenbacher has stressed two points about the current dispute over faculty salaries:

First, the UNO life insurance benefit that is currently under appeal by the Board of Regents would, according to the Regents' representatives, cost less than $115,000 to implement for UNO faculty. If the Regents choose to extend this benefit to other campuses, it will cost more, apparently as much as $2,000,000. There is, however, no legal requirement that they do so. We had not thought that we were negotiating wages, fringe benefits, and working conditions for faculty throughout the NU System.

Second, the difference between the UNO AAUP salary figure and that offered by the Regents is a tiny fraction of the university-defined budget shortfall. These are hard times, but our legally obtained raises are not the largest nor even one of the largest causes of the problem. Extremely hardworking faculty dedicated to the welfare of our institution do not deserve to be scapegoated merely because we have played by the rules and have made stronger arguments to the Special Master.

Deffenbacher has encouraged faculty to contact state legislators to urge funding of the University budget. University telephones or computers should not be used for this purpose.

2. Elections

Elections are underway to select the chapter’s President-elect, First Vice President, Treasurer, and representatives of the ranks (Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Other Bargaining Unit Members). Ballots sent to AAUP members on April 1 should be returned by April 15.

3. Spring Dinner

AAUP members and their guests are invited to the annual Spring Dinner at Castle Barrett (43rd and Leavenworth) on Friday, April 17.

VI. The Executive Committee approved the following Personnel Action: Stipend for 2008-2009 Faculty Senate Parliamentarian Adkins ($1,000.00).

VII. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. with announcements.