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

Excused: Erickson

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

II. The Minutes of July 13, 2009, were approved as submitted.

III. Officers’ Reports

   A. President’s Report: Senator Elder reported

      1. Executive Committee and Administration (EC&Admin.) met July 15, 2009.
         Elder related as there had not been much activity in the Senate during the summer. Hynes had a draft of a memo to be distributed to the faculty and staff on the status of the budget and the University’s options in response to the CIR finding in favor of the Special Master decision. She readily accepted some suggestions to improve the clarity of the memo. [Her memo was then distributed by email on July 16.] There are two levels of appeal possible, the Nebraska Court of Appeals, and then the Nebraska Supreme Court. It is possible that the Supreme Court may take the case out of the hands of the Court of Appeals. There were four CIR decisions by the CIR this spring. Two of those groups may have already made an appeal. UNO is in a holding pattern until the Board makes their decision on an appeal. By state law, salaries cannot be changed until the issue has been resolved by the courts. The Chancellor reiterated his intention to continue to keep the campus informed whenever they learned anything.
         Hynes updated the enrollment numbers in Robinson’s absence. She defined “Administrative site” as the money that comes to UNO from students who are enrolled in UNO Courses – that is our tuition base. UNL students taking UNL courses (primarily engineering) on the UNO campus count as “delivery site”, but the tuition dollars go to UNL. [Administrative Site. The campus with the ultimate academic, administrative and budgetary authority for an academic program. Delivery Site. The campus on which students physically attend classes to receive instruction from an academic program. http://irp.nebraska.edu/dmdocuments/fb06_07.pdf page 87.] UNO provides a lot of support structure for those UNL students. Summer delivery site enrollment (head count) is up 4.9% over 2008. Total summer credit hours delivered are up 7% over summer 2008. So we have more students taking more classes. Since 2008 was a low point for UNO, it is that these numbers are increasing. For fall 2009 enrollment of students is up almost 3%, and registered credit hours are up a little over 3%. From prior year’s history, after July 1, those numbers are fairly constant. It is harder to get the fall numbers to increase compared to summer since the population is greater in the fall. There is now a
commitment date for students of August 1. In the past it was found that those students enrolling after August 1 were more likely to drop out due to their lack of commitment. Students who apply after August 1 are tracked by the Admissions office. If they have a strong reason for being admitted late, there are communications to the department and deans that may allow the student to enroll. The existence of a deadline helps the students think more seriously about their commitment. The final ultimate mix of enrollment numbers is still to be determined, and we will be informed when it is known.

Elder indicated that he understood that the University was front loading the fall, in the hope that enrollments would be up, and then maybe UNO would get additional resources for the spring. By the tuition model, if enrollments are up we get half this year, and the full amount the following year.

Hynes related that the downside of front-loading the fall this year is while we are in a holding pattern against possible budget reductions, colleges cannot commit funds that may be needed to be applied to any reduction. There are then fewer funds for part-time. Eighty percent of these funds are being used this fall, hoping to attract the students, which could result in us receiving those extra funds by February. We will know by October if the enrollments are up, and can then make commitments for the spring. Holley observed that it was a good idea to attempt to get the students to enroll for the fall, since if they were already here, then they would be less likely to transfer after Christmas.

Several years ago we had a big spike in enrollment, and then had a decline. Students came, but there were not enough courses, and bad publicity was the result to the effect that classes were not available. The Deans have asked some departments to increase class sizes where it was appropriate. Our goal is that when students come in the fall, they will get classes.

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) and two State groups (Department of Administrative Services, and the Legislative Fiscal Office) will visit the campus the first week in August. They set the agenda. This visit is to see construction – renovations and new – to see how they are progressing in terms of time and budget.

Conley presented an update on UNO Capital Projects LB605 is bond financing authorized by the legislature. Most of the Campus Utilities Infrastructure tearing up process is finished. There will be a variety of smaller projects continuing for the next year. UBRAF is the University Building Renewal Assessment Fund, established by LB 1100 [1998]. Any new capital improvements are assessed 1% for this fund toward depreciation (assessments have been suspended for the next biennium due to the budget shortfall). [http://uniweb.legislature.ne.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=s8101088004 ] UNO has gotten back what they have contributed to this fund. Roskens Hall renovation for the College of Education is on the list though only fund raising and some design work has occurred. A single $8 million commitment has been raised; additional funds are needed. The building will not be renamed. This process started with Carl Mammel and his and the Chancellor’s interest in building capacity for the campus, not just for the College of Business. The College of Education will gain 35,000 sq ft, the College of Business will gain 30,000 sq ft. There is a group of individuals interested in renovating Kayser hall for Community Engagement activities and classroom space. They have been using a corporate jet to look at other Community Engagement centers in the country. There will be a major renovation including the addition of windows. Additional projects include sprinklers in EAB, fire systems in Allwine, a parking lot near the Welcome Center (Hayden House / Annex 24) to make it accessible to visitors, and cement work in the Stadium.
The Chancellor informed us that he and Hynes have been discussing RP&T, (reappointment, promotion, and tenure) Service Learning and Community Engagement. Millikan sent them a letter congratulating us and acknowledged that we were acknowledged in Washington, DC for engagement activities that had occurred. It was an honorable mention for being in the second group of five institutions nationally. Hynes said that she would send Elder the exact organization information [ ? ]. They are looking to start a campus discussion as to including engagement in its broadest terms in RP&T. Engagement can be research, teaching, or service, though most people just think of it as service, which is not true. Hynes will lead the discussion on the academic side. This is consistent with the AQIP activities. There are additional items, including a Service Learning Academy [www.unomaha.edu/servicelearning/], which does more than service learning. There is American Humanics on campus [www.unomaha.edu/humanics/] and others that we have not characterized very well. These activities are one of the hallmarks of a metropolitan university. The strategic planning group has done some work with engagement metrics. As one of this campus’s regental missions, it doesn’t change what we do in our core mission as far as teaching, research and service; it helps us identify, clarify, and justify the mission. The emphasis on engagement is a great opportunity for UNO. Hynes asked the Senate for our help; one challenge is to understand the scholarship of engagement.

Teaching and service connections are understood, but for example how in Mathematics do you contribute to the scholarship of engagement. It is probably unrealistic to expect scholarship of engagement from every discipline.

Elder expressed his concern that this starts with RP&T/Community Engagement/Service Learning. RP&T is the backbone on how careers are built, and now a function of the University from the outside will affect RP&T; and depending on how this is explained, people’s anxiety will be raised. Faculty have different roles in departments and over time.

There will be a lot of variability. Looking at current RP&T guidelines, there are colleges at present who have incorporated engagement for years; without changing the core mission of teaching, research and service. It just recognized engagement as one component of the core three.

Elder suggested that a model with examples could be provided to the faculty which would help reduce potential anxiety.

The Chancellor reiterated that this is the start of a conversation, not the start of any action. He is looking for input from the Faculty Senate on this discussion. First however, the senators should be given a heads up that the issue is in the initial discussion stages, it may be too early to send to a committee.

Hynes related that as she read through the RPT files this spring, she did not see coherence in the information presented that related to engagement. The files did have clear “Student Centered” and “Striving for Excellence” discussion, the other two strategic goals. In some cases it seems that there was no consciousness about engagement. When the land-grant universities were founded, public service was a major part. Engagement is the 21st century version of reincorporating public service. We have an opportunity to define what that means.

Christensen related as a member the executive committee of CUMU (Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities) [www.cumuonline.org] they were visited by a member of the Obama administration, and the Obama administration appears to see metropolitan universities as the land-grants of tomorrow. That role is high on their agenda. Christensen continued that he does not want to provoke anxiety. We need to let faculty know that there will be conversations on how to institutionalize engagement in a more consistent way.
He continued with an example. Several years ago, Gary Gates at OPPD needed help understand issues with energy conservation. They had significant grant funding available. Christensen was talking to a faculty member who had participated for three years and had performed one of their core applied survey research projects, but never once thought of it as being engagement. This is clearly engagement that is research. A lot of that comes from CPACS. If faculty thought about it, they might say that they do engagement, although they never thought about it as such.

When Elder was at Virginia Tech there was a new faculty orientation. The head of research told stories, which while not specifically relevant to an individual, conveyed an attitude. This fall at UNO the new faculty orientation could have these sorts of stories about engagement.

Hynes related that she had considered the Service Learning Academy as mostly teaching and service; but Deb Smith Howell told her that a huge chunk of private funding is for research about service learning, which was new information for her. It may be that the way we report these activities does not capture the engagement activity. In some departments service is not seen as important, and anything that gets called service is placed at the bottom of the list. What it is called is important.

Christiansen said that there is an opportunity to provide national leadership in this area. Both how we think about it and how we measure it.

Christiansen reported that when he put together the Capital Campaign Committee with highly placed community leaders who have agreed to help UNO raise the money that we need; one of the most compelling things from their perspective is that this institution is a resource that they have not been smart about using, and should be. They were amazed by some of the things that we were doing because we don’t tell the story either frequently enough or well enough or it is not defined enough. They view engagement much more broadly than we do. Mutual of Omaha called IS&T with a problem of software applications, and needed a comparison study of these applications; each had some value, but still was insufficient. Students, and faculty were involved in that research, and the client was pleased with the final result. The people who will or will not give us money will be motivated by what is in it for the community; as an institution what have you done for us? We do a lot but don’t have a very good way of talking about it.

Elder suggested that there are things that people would expect to be part of community engagement. If there are examples that create a space, and push the boundary out in surprising directions, faculty would be interested in hearing these. A web site would be a good place to put some of this.

In other topics, the question was raised if Tim Kaldahl was able to obtain the tape of the Today Show with the North High student going to UNO. Castilow will check on that.

In the news was something that UNO would be part of the Dodge Street repair as a consequence of a broken water line in March, and they were talking of a cost up to $500,000. How will that be funded? Conley reported that discussions were ongoing, and nothing had been decided yet. We found out about the repaving project in late June, without having received any consultations before that.

There is a loading dock behind Durham and across from the RCRA building. A new trash collection facility is going up on two of what were three handicap parking spaces. It also looks like it will be difficult to back up a garbage truck into that space given the width of the street there. Will that project see a replacement of any of the handicap parking? Conley agreed to look into it. [Conley responded to Elder by email; one additional handicap parking slot was added with new pavement replacing grass. Additional handicap parking was added south of the Weber Fine Arts Building.]
Some questions were raised about the Faculty senate budget, and where any savings would go. It turns out we were actually in deficit [a charge had been applied for the ice cream at the August Faculty and Staff luncheon which had not been clearly communicated to us.] Possible personnel deficits could be due to some years having more than 2080 hours. Hynes said that if there had been any surplus, then it would be kept at a larger unit level, not by the Faculty Senate. Next year’s budget will remain the same as last year’s and has not been cut.

Sollars expressed appreciation for the leadership shown by the President and the Chancellors in turning down the salary increases from the Foundation in light of the current budget situation.

The Chancellor added that in case questions come up about Country Club memberships, maid service, and others, all of which were available to him as part of his contract, he turned down Country Club membership and maid service. He did have snow removal and lawn service, which he ended July 1 in keeping with the budget situation.

2. **Enrollment Management Steering Committee Meeting:** Senator Laquer substituted for President Elder.

   Enrollment is up to 2.5% from fall 2008 and up from 1.2% from fall 2007. Credit hours are up 2.88% from 2008 and up 2.13% from fall 2007.

   This is the last week of orientation, and a record year for student and parent participation.

   Undergraduate applications are up 10.5%, admits up 7.83%. New students enrolled are up 6% and transfer students are up also.

   Metropolitan Advantage Program enrollment is down to 33 this fall versus 43 last year. They’re planning on surveying students in the metropolitan advantage program who were admitted but did not enroll.

   PeopleSoft training has started.

   Graduate student applications are up 12% approximately; 200 additional over 2008 and this is 300 applications over fall of 2005. The Graduate office is gearing up for 2010 and the new SIS system. There is a new work flow. Graduate admissions will be online, including transcripts and letters which will then be sent electronically to the units. Enrollment is up in some programs, for example in Special Education and Communication Disorders. Using two systems, the old SIS, and the new one will be a challenge for a while.

   Undergraduates international student’s applications are up 60%, admissions are up 66% and enrollment is up 104%. Some international students enrolling late are using e-mail to connect to advisers. Graduate level international students have had a steady increase from 2007 to 8 to 9; admissions are up 13% and enrollments up 16%.

   UNO has rented a billboard for six months along I-29 at the Mills county- Council Bluffs line. Billboard prices are down. Expect to see media coverage of Welcome Week and Durango days. An article on expanding UNL’s entry to on-line courses (Online Worldwide) was covered in the Lincoln Journal Star [http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/article_f5601792-7d57-11de-a9e4-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/article_f5601792-7d57-11de-a9e4-001cc4c002e0.html), [http://www.unl.edu/asenate/exec/09jul8mins.pdf](http://www.unl.edu/asenate/exec/09jul8mins.pdf), [http://online.unl.edu/newsletter/may09.shtml](http://online.unl.edu/newsletter/may09.shtml)

   Rita Henry reports housing is full and there's a waiting list. There are alternative living locations at Nebraska Methodist College and Clarkson College. The University has agreed to purchase University Village. It still needs to go before the Board of Regents on September 4, the CCPE and the legislature. The university will take over March 1. Bill Conley was able to get the financing arranged.
And there's a prospective Gateway article about unhappy German exchange students who were forced to leave their dorm rooms July 31 instead of August 15 when the semester was over. The contract ends for everybody July 31. There is some flexibility at Scott Village. Turns out the students moved in with friends. They are clearly not happy and are likely to tell their friends in Germany. An apology letter will be sent and possibly the students taken to lunch.

Dean Boocoker reported that this is the Arts and Sciences centennial year. Each program will bring back one distinguished alum. He invited Carol Geary Schneider, president of AAC&U [http://www.aacu.org/About/schneider/cgs.cfm] to speak. Under her leadership the AAC&U launched Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP).

Linda Mannering anticipates we may reach a record in credit hour production this year with the growth of part time students converting to fulltime. We will know Sept 4.

Jim Freeman reports they have a new space to help increase retention. There will be new staff since Monica Green departed. There were 100 applications for that position. Continuing studies has a new adult web portal [http://www.chooseuno.com/](http://www.chooseuno.com/) [site was live 2009 August 27. (not yet live 2009 August 13, when checked it was parked by goDaddy!)]. There will be a link to general studies for adult students and to a landing page that links to the main UNO site.

Rosalie Saltzman reported 172 new students in the honors program. They have their perennial problem of not enough honors classes.

Recruitment will be going to college fairs including a large national one in Minneapolis where typically 25,000 people attend the hopes of reaching Midwestern students. 470 students are lined up for a service learning activity on Friday. The move to Hayden House will probably be in March 2010 at spring break. They need to visit with Paul Kosel about how to utilize the parking lot near annex 24. On Sept 16 from 11-2 at the Scott Conference Center will be a high school councilor update. Tables to visit with the HS councilors will be available. Admission and Recruiting will travel to six towns in Nebraska: Norfolk, Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney, Scotts Bluff (with a satellite link to O’Neil) and one other [?].

UNO Ambassadors have twelve students; if you can use their help contact recruiting. [http://www.unomaha.edu/ambassadors/](http://www.unomaha.edu/ambassadors/)

The HPER building’s first phase will open in August men's locker room, weight training-south. Additional openings will be phased in. The whole thing will be open in 2010 and this should be a boost for recruiting tours.

Updates to the student center are being finished up. The ballroom has new ceiling, walls and carpet. The food court has also been renovated to improve throughput. The major change two years ago with a food court provides a real wow factor when trying to recruit students. The hours will be about the same as the old.

**B. Treasurer’s Report:** Senator Laquer submitted the July 2009 Budget Report.

**IV. Non-Senate Committee Reports**

**A. Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON):** Senator Paterson reported the AFCON Board Meeting was held July 9, 2009, at the Walt Public Library, Lincoln.

Present: Dwayne Ball, President, representing ACLU and NAS; Linda Parker, President-elect, co-representing NLA; David Moshman, Policy Coordinator; Miles Bryant, representing AAUP-Nebraska State Conference; Bob Haller, representing AAUP-UNL Chapter, Acting Secretary; Peggy Adair, Legislative Liaison; Karen Dreim, co-representing NLA; Mary Reiman, representing LPS; Cathi McMurtry, Treasurer for life;
Laurie Thomas Lee, representing Faculty Senate, UNL; Doug Paterson, representing Faculty Senate, UNO.

Meeting called to order by President Ball, 10:15; introductions were made

Agenda approved

Minutes of last meeting approved as presented by Ball in the absence of Buckley
President’s report: Ball reported another $100 donation in support of Annual Meeting
Ball raised the question of how to present to the media and the public our inviting Bill Ayers to address the Annual Meeting so as not to alienate our member organizations and not to undermine our efforts regarding public education on the Student Expression Bill passed. He proposed that we emphasize that Ayers is speaking on Academic Freedom, and that AFCON is taking no stand on his political and educational views. A discussion dealt with the questions coming from the UNL Faculty Senate as signs of ignorance of AFCON and showing need to keep institutional members informed and reading the Sentinel. It was further noted that the UNL ad hoc Committee exploring the Ayers disinvitation would be reporting in August and that an article would appear in Prairie Fire.

There was further discussion of security needs and of pre-registration and a fee as deterrents to possible demonstrations or interference.

The discussion ended with a reaffirmation that the President would be the point man and that the statement which would serve to guide responses would be subject to email discussion among the Board members.

Treasurer’s Report: Approved as presented by Treasurer McMurtry

Newsletter: Next deadline is August 20

Policy Coordinator: Moshman explained three cases of interest to AFCON.

--- Fine of $250 on charge of “disturbing the peace” for a student who continued to send emails to Bill Avery (in his role as Professor) after being told not to. The Judge asserted that the judgment was not based on content but on personal epithets which might be classified as “fighting words.

-- U.S. Supreme Court: 8-1 judgment that school strip search of a 13-year-old girl violated student’s civil rights (4th amendment). Affirms that students do have civil rights.

-- Colorado District Court vacated jury decision that Ward Churchill was illegally fired and should get his job back. Decision based on standard of proof when suing Regents individually rather than as a Board. Hailed by some in Colorado as victory for “faculty governance” but by others as permitting firings based on speech. Under appeal.

Legislative Report—Student Expression: Adair presented changes in wording from the free expression group which eliminated “parents and guardians” from those immune from suit and added a specification that advisors operate within applicable state law. She reported that, reading the earlier floor debate, it was essential to explain why the bill was needed and to explain how it would help rather than hurt. As the student expression group writing the bill is not an AFCON function, no approval of the changes was required.

Haller reported a good meeting with John Beniauto, Director of NASB, who promised to encourage Mike Delaney of NCSA to meet with AFCON, so far without effect. Haller is scheduled to meet with Senator Campbell on the 21st. Ball volunteered to join him.

We are still trying to get Senator Adams’ support. There will be a meeting with Senator Haar to discuss strategy.

Annual Meeting—Parker presented a proposal with a budget with figures that included the money put up by outside donors and the costs associated with meeting. A discussion of the budget ended with an approval of the proposal, including a $35 registration fee.

Academic Freedom Award: Paterson proposed William Ayers as a recipient. Adair read the student expression policy promulgated by the Lexington School Board, and nominated
this school board for the award. It was noted that Paterson and Haller were an ad hoc AF Award Committee, and that both nominations required further thought and investigation. Consideration was put off to the next meeting.

Banned Book Week: reaffirmed vote to contribute $100 in support of ACLU plans for the week.

V. Old Business

A. The Retreat Schedule was fine tuned and decisions were made on handouts.

VI. New Business

A. A request was received 8/3/09 to submit at least two names for the search committee for the position of Assoc. V.C. for Academic and Student Affairs. Sr. V.C. Hynes will select from these nominees. Dr. Smith-Howell is chairing the committee. The following resolution will brought to the full Senate next week.

Resolution: Search Committee for Position of Assoc. V.C. for Academic & Student Affairs

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following two faculty members are nominated to serve on the Assoc. V.C. for Academic and Student Affairs Search Committee, with Sr. V.C. Hynes selecting one to serve on the committee:

Suzanne Sollars
___tba______________.

B. A request was received 8/11/09 from Assoc. V.C. for Academic and Student Affairs Deb Smith-Howell (re: General Education Action Project):

As you know, General Education is one of UNO's AQIP action project. I've attached the project declaration for your information. We would like to have a representative from or appointed by the Faculty Senate. Each college will also have a representative on the steering committee. If you could provide the name of the Faculty Senate representative after the August 19 retreat that would be great.

The following resolution will brought to the full Senate next week.

Resolution: Appoint to the General Education Action Project Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following faculty member be appointed to the General Education Action Project, as requested by Assoc. V.C. for Academic & Student Affairs Deb Smith-Howell:

Shelton Hendricks.

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