Members:  Eesley, Gershovich, Grams, Holley, Nordness, Scherer, Sollars, Woody

Excused:  Kreiling

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 by President Woody.

II. The June 3, 2015, Minutes were approved as submitted

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report:  Senator Woody noted that the Chancellor has reiterated that, with the new NU President in place, he is not always in control of his own schedule.

B. Vice President’s Report:  Senator Grams reported University of Nebraska Board of Regents met Friday, June 12, 2015.

   1. Budget: 8 million in reductions (or growth) will be needed, distributed among the four campuses roughly at 50% UNL, 25% UNMC, and 25% divided between UNO and UNK.

      Tuition will increase at UNO from the current mark of $196.75 per credit hour to 200.25 in 2015-16 academic year and 205.25 in 2016-17 (by that point representing an extra $75 per semester for a standard 15 hour load). Resident tuition increases over the past five years and the proposed new increases are: 6% (2011), 5% (2012), 3.75% (13), 0% (14), 0% (15), 1.75% (16), and 2.5% (17).

      In presenting the budget, NU President Bounds affirmed that he is absolutely committed to core principles of faculty governance and this requires a difference between university processes and other types of e.g. state and governmental budgets. Uncertainty has a different role here due to the need for campus input. He emphasized that tuition increases are justified because tuition is still low compared to peer institutions (only UNC-Charlotte is lower than UNO among its peers, and only Iowa and Iowa State are lower than UNL among its peers) and we are competing for both faculty and students.

   2. UNO Student Code of Conduct revisions were approved; Regent Schroeder requested a document highlighting differences between the older and newer versions.

   3. UNO will be developing the Center for Educational Partnership along with the Tetrad Property Group; will house new UNO CDC and other community partners (e.g. Metro CC, Avenue Scholars).

      Regent Whitehouse strongly advocated for this project as a “win-win” for UNO’s mission and the community. This project required 2 million from the university, for which investment UNO gained a lower occupancy rate on the 35 year lease. The building will be under a 30 year lease.

   4. Approved Naming of Baxter Arena at UNO.

   5. Approved a new Housing/Mixed-Use Lease on Pacific Campus [Regent Pillen voted
This proposal is for a new building with 400-450 housing beds and 14000 sf of mixed use space (e.g. academic advising, offices, etc.), at the NE corner of Pine and 67th streets.

It impacts parking insofar as around 300 ground spaces are lost, but a new parking garage east of PKI across the street will add 1300 total for a gain of @1000.

The need for new housing is driven partly by large demand: 205 on housing waiting list, and 50 student applicants withdrawing due to low spot on housing waiting list.

Regent Hawks proposed exploring a six-floor option in addition to the current four-floor option, in case an expansion is warranted by the time the project is at that stage or the additional floors make sense financially.

UNO will be in charge of the room rates. Financing of the project is in conjunction with the Scott Foundation and the leasing is with the Tetrad Property Group (affiliated with the Scott Foundation), as UNO could not have financed this project alone.

6. External Research Funding

It has dropped at all campuses. UNO was at @ 8 million in 2011, down to @6.5 mil in 2012, and @6.3 mil in 2013. Competition for a declining funding pool remains high. Declines have been mitigated by non-federal funding sources; campuses are broadening their sources.

7. New Program Approvals at other campuses

Issues that might be worth noting were that some Regents wanted more information about how the proposed credit hours for new programs compared to similar programs at peer institutions.

8. Buffett Cancer Center at UNMC will open in 2017 with state of the art facilities and enhanced collaboration between research and clinical faculty.

C. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report: Senator Eesley gave the June 2015 budget report.

**2015-2016 Resolution Action Table**
**(Action Pending and Current Resolutions)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Res. #</th>
<th>Date Senate Passed</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Admim Acce</th>
<th>Sent for Senate Action</th>
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<th>Deferr ed</th>
<th>In Progre ss</th>
<th>Final Action/Resol ved</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4188</td>
<td>3/11/15</td>
<td>Revise and Separate Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Policies</td>
<td>3/18/15</td>
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<td>Chancellor supports &amp; will write a response</td>
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<tr>
<td>4185</td>
<td>2/11/15</td>
<td>Regarding Establishing Clear and Communicable Policies for Emeritus Status</td>
<td>2/18/15</td>
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<td>Acknowledged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Status/Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>4074</td>
<td>2/13/13</td>
<td>Criminal Background Checks at UNO</td>
<td>2/18/13</td>
<td>Not supported. As with Resolution 4073, which I opposed, in part, because of its reference to all NU campuses, I also believe this to be a safety issue for which we have legal and fiduciary responsibility. In summary, the absence of some form of background checks for persons employed on campus seems in opposition to best practices.</td>
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<td>4054</td>
<td>7/11/12</td>
<td>Determine Contractual Implications of Background Check Policy (w/participation of bargaining unit and Central Admin.)</td>
<td>9/6/12</td>
<td>The chancellor acknowledges receipt of the resolution and has provided the legal opinion requested.* (UNO Faculty Senate is not satisfied with this response.)</td>
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</table>

*4074 (From Chancellor Christensen via Nancy Castilow in an e-mail sent on 2/18/13: Not supported. As with Resolution 4073, which I opposed, in part, because of its reference to all NU campuses, I also believe this to be a safety issue for which we have legal and fiduciary responsibility. In summary, the absence of some form of background checks for persons employed on campus seems in opposition to best practices.)
*4054*(Legal Opinion): **From:** John C. Hewitt [mailto:jhewitt@clinewilliams.com] ; **Sent:** Tuesday, July 17, 2012 9:11 PM;  
**To:** Ed Wimes; **Subject:** Background Checks.

Ed,

In a response to my email of July 14, you have indicated that at this time you anticipate that the “background check” at the University of Nebraska at Omaha will consist of the University reviewing public records (i.e., sex offender registry, criminal convictions, etc.) for **applicants** for employment. Based on the foregoing you have inquired whether such an approach would constitute a mandatory subject of bargaining.

The simple answer is that the University could, in my opinion, proceed to implement such an approach for **applicants** without any discussions. The obligation to bargain in good faith concerning mandatory subjects is generally limited to the current employees of an employer. There is generally no obligation to negotiate concerning prospective employees. *Star Tribune*, 295 NLRB 543 (1989).

If there remains any discussion about expanding such an approach to **current employees**, then the answer becomes more complicated. Nevertheless, I do not believe that the University would be required to bargain over the decision to review public records at its own cost and expense. As I indicated previously, this decision would likely be within the employer’s managerial discretion. However, I also believe that the University would be required to bargain over the “effects” of such a decision; such as (a) whether any information in a person’s criminal record would remain confidential; (b) whether certain employees would be exempted based upon length of exemplary work records; (c) the appeal rights of employees who claim that they have been incorrectly identified of having been convicted of a particular crime or who believe there are extenuating circumstances that would exclude their disqualification; and (d) the categories of offenses that would result in automatically exclusion from employment.

If you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to call.

John C. Hewitt; jhewitt@clinewilliams.com ; CLINE WILLIAMS WRIGHT JOHNSON & OLDFATHER, L.L.P.; 1125 S.103rd Street, Suite 600; Omaha, Nebraska 68154; Phone 402.397.1700/Fax 402.397.1806

**IV. Standing Committee Reports**

A. **Committee on Professional Development:** Senator Sollars reported that there will be a meeting with SVC BJ Reed to discuss Adjuncts.

B. **Committee on Rules:** Senator tbd

**V. Other Faculty Senate Committee Reports**

A. Past-President Scherer reported the **Ad Hoc Survey Groups (Student & Faculty)** is still processing information.

**VI. Non-Senate Committee Reports**

A. **Facilities Planning Committee:** Prof. Bob Blair reported in an e-mail received 6/18/2015, replying to a “thank you” for completing his 3 year term of service on this committee:  

_Hi Sue, I am glad I could serve._

_However, to be honest, I was quite disappointed in work of the committee. I really looked forward to being an active member of the campus planning activities. We maybe had 4 meetings in 3 years._
I felt that the communication between the Facilities Planning team in Administration to the faculty was minimal at best. We were rarely informed of any major campus building activities (the Bell Tower renovation plaza, and the 67th and Pacific parking garage, for instance). Progress reports were rare. Input was not requested. The level of participation and involvement by faculty and students was at a low level. There was never a chance for students to be involved in any planning activities.

I know that planning on campus is a moving target but I feel that there is much room for improvement.

Those are my thoughts. Not sure how others felt, but as director of Urban Studies I felt that there were opportunities for more collaboration. I volunteered students in my Community Development class to participate but my offer was not taken. The students could have worked with neighborhood associations around campus for instance.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,
Bob
Robert Blair, PhD
Associate Professor of Public Administration and Urban Studies
Director of Urban Studies Program
College of Public Affairs Building, Room 111C
University of Nebraska at Omaha
6001 Dodge
Omaha, Nebraska 68182-0276

VII. Old Business

A. Rational & Goals of the DCS Adjunct Training & Professional Develop and Participant Checklist (continued until at least September 2015)

B. SPAGS
   • Continue SPAGS on a volunteer basis?
   • Continue each SPAG discussion on Blackboard, with any action items given to Faculty Senate President to bring to EC&C or Standing Committee

C. Communication
   • It is respectfully requested: A copy of any written communication about or aligned with one’s affiliation sent to any source should be copied to Sue Bishop for selective distribution to the Executive Committee.

D. Faculty Senate College Liaisons
   • Each liaison (one senator from each college) would be asked to send a monthly note, by e-mail, to their constituents. Liaisons will be chosen/appointed at Retreat.

E. Responsibilities of UNO Faculty Senators (agenda attachment – page draft 8-11)
   • Discussion/Feedback

F. Faculty Senate Meetings (Sept-May)
   • Meeting Room to be reconfigured (volunteers?)

G. Retreat Planning
   • Goals
H. University Communications for Retreat?

- Erin Owen or her colleague (Jason …?)
- Presentation (1 p.m.? for 15 minutes?): Possibly on the Integral Involvement of Faculty Telling the University Story
- Then Regarding the Web Pages: What faculty will be involved in, not only the web page, but what is necessary?

VIII. For the Good of the Order

IX. New Business

A. Senator Holley moved the following resolution and Senator Eesley seconded. The resolution passed.

RESOLUTION 4210, 7/1/15: Appreciation for UNO Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Systems John Fiene

WHEREAS UNO Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Services John Fiene and his team have responsively and proactively cooperated with the UNO Faculty Senate during 2014-2015;

WHEREAS the Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Services John Fiene and his team have provided advice and information during the 2014-2015 Faculty Senate initiatives and responses to various concerns (e.g. implementation of ACE, concerns about Blackboard contract) and have helped the UNO Faculty Senate to respond to and ameliorate or avert negative consequences of decisions made without faculty voice, and to inform the Faculty Senate initiatives of 2014-2015;

WHEREAS Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Services John Fiene and his team have not only in these instances but also in an unnoticed but continuous and often heroic defense of our information systems against cyber-attack served this university with competence and dedication that have contributed to the growth and prosperity of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha recognizes and appreciates the support of Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Services John Fiene and his team, especially as it has been expressed during 2014-2015 in support of the Senate, thanks them for their service, and wishes them continued success.

B. Meeting w/4 NU Faculty Senate Presidents and Senate Feelings about Faculty Membership on the Board of Regents will be held until after President Woody’s August meeting with the Chancellor.
C. **Reformatting Faculty Senate Minutes:** Senator Eesley sent the following e-mail to Sue on 5/27/15:

> I know you are going to regret asking me for help, but I proofed this pretty heavily for formatting. These reports are difficult to read when everyone is using different fonts, margins etc. If we can, let’s standardize on everything being 12point Times New Roman, 1” margins all around.

> Let's not have more than four levels of Headers:
> I, II, III, IV
>   A, B, C, D
>   1, 2, 3
>   a, b, c

> If the headers are done right, you can automatically create a table of contents, which I think is needed for a 35 page document.

> Don’t try to indent by level, it gets very jumbled after awhile. You can use this version as a template for future one, I will be happy to help you out with it.

The EC&C agreed with most of Senator Eesley’s suggestions.

D. **Homecoming Steering Committee Faculty Representative**

An e-mail received 6/24/15 from Jordon Koch:

**From:** Jordan Koch <jekoch@unomaha.edu>
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 24, 2015 12:37 PM
**To:** Laura Grams; Robert Woody; Lisa Scherer
**Cc:** William Pickett

Subject: Homecoming Committee

Hello Faculty Senate officers,

It’s that time of year…we’re gearing up another Homecoming steering committee for this coming year. There are many different representatives from offices across campus, and we thought it was vital for faculty participation and feedback.

Please email me by July 6 with a representative from Faculty Senate if you feel you would like to participate.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Best wishes,

Jordan Koch
jekoch@unomaha.edu

The EC&C suggested that, as there is not yet a chair person for the Rules Committee, that Sue Bishop, Faculty Senate coordinator, contact two UNO Emeritus faculty members, Jim Thomas and John Hill, to see if either would like to serve.

E. **Faculty/Staff Picnic (8/18/15 HPER 128)**

An e-mail received 6/26/15 from Anthony Flott:

Dr. Woody:

Hello. Anthony Flott here, director of communications at the UNO Alumni Association and recently voted president-elect of the Staff Advisory Council.

First, let me say how great it was to see the increased collaboration between SAC and the UNO Faculty Senate, thanks to the efforts of our past president, Melanie Krings, and yours, Lisa Scherer. I’m hoping we can build on that and accomplish even more for UNO and its faculty, staff and students.

Second, as president-elect, I’m in charge of overseeing the faculty/staff picnic, set for Aug. 18. As you likely know, UNO Faculty Senate has contributed $300 to the picnic each year to cover the cost of ice cream. It appears that cost will go up slightly in 2015, so I’m
requesting that the Faculty Senate increase its generous contribution to $350 in 2015. Also, we’re hoping Faculty Senate representatives once again will be on hand to man the ice cream station and greet UNO faculty and staff on behalf of the Senate.

Let me know when you get the chance if we can once again count on UNO Faculty Senate’s help at the annual picnic.

Sincerely,

Anthony Flott
UNO Alumni Association
President-elect, Staff Advisory Council (2015-16)
(402) 554-2989

Faculty Senator Coordinator, Sue Bishop, noted that she had already been in touch with the current SAC Treasurer and would be transferring $500 to SAC towards the ice cream, as promised last year. She plans to take care of scheduling ice cream servers at the August 12, 2015, EC&C meeting.

F. Compliance Officer at UNO: Senator Graham reported Drew Nielsen, a Compliance Officer at UNO, has compiled and is still refining a matrix of all Compliance-related issues at UNO (everything from Disabilities and Financial Aid to Grants Management, Information Security and Title IX, and much more). It notes any legal regulations involved, reporting requirements, and UNO contact persons. Faculty who have questions about compliance matters and need this information can contact Drew. This is a great resource to have gathered together.

G. Replacement Membership on Campus/University Committees: The following will be moved to Old Business until a Rules Chairperson is appointed.

   Rene Erlandson leaving UNO (term: 8/1/14-7/31/17)

2. UCAT (University Committee for the Advancement of Teaching)
   From College of Education (term: 7/1/15-6/30/15)

3. *UCRCA (University Committee on Research & Creative Activity)
   Jukka Savolainen, CPACS, is leaving UNO (term: 8/1/15-7/31/18)

4. Judicial Committee
   To replace Candice Batton, who is moving to OASA. (term: 8/1/15-7/31/15)

X. The meeting Adjourned at 4:14 p.m. with announcements.

XI. Announcements
   A. EC&C Mtg.: Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 2 p.m., ASH 196
   B. Faculty/Staff Picnic: Tuesday, August 18, 2015, HPER 128
   C. Faculty Senate Retreat: Wednesday, August 19, 2015, Mahoney State Park

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Schedule for 2015-2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC&amp;C Meetings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Usually 1st Wednesday of month)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
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*Executive Committee & Cabinet Minutes – 7/1/15*
| *August 12 | August 19, 2015 (Retreat) *(3rd Wednesday)*  
| Classes begin 8/24/15 |
| September 2 | September 9 |
| October 7 | October 14 |
| November 4 | November 11 |
| December 2 | December 9 *(Prep Week)*  
| Commencement 12/18/15 |
| January 6th *(Semester begins 1/11/16)* | January 13 |
| February 3 | February 10 |
| March 2 | March 9 *(Spring Break 3/20-3/27/16)* |
| April 6 | April 13 |
| May 4 *(Finals Week)* | May 11 *(Commencement 5/6 & 5/7/16)* |