I. Vice President Coyne called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

II. Presentation and Approval of Minutes: Senator Coyne asked for approval of the August 22, 2001, Faculty Senate Retreat minutes. The minutes were approved as modified.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs: Senator Landis

On behalf of the Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs, Senator Landis moved the following resolution be placed on the agenda of the September 11, 2001, Senate meeting:

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska at Omaha has implemented a new plus/minus grading scale taking effect fall 2001, and

WHEREAS, a number of UNO academic programs currently require students to retain a C average or 2.0 for eligibility, and

WHEREAS, a C minus under the new grading scale is equivalent to a 1.67 on the 4-point scale,

WHEREAS, the C- is a variant of the C, normally awarded to work that falls at the low end of the C range; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha endorses the general principle that programs and departments allow a
C minus average to qualify students 1) for admission to programs formerly requiring a C average and 2) for credit in courses formerly requiring a C average.

Discussion: a motion by Senator Hagen, to refer the resolution back to the committee for rewording to clarify the responsibilities each College has, passed. The body agreed to a request from Senator Landis to read and vote by e-mail on a revised resolution if the Committee for Academic and Curricular Affairs is able to meet and agree.

B. Committee on Educational Resources and Services: Senator O’Connell reported that it was felt that there should be more faculty participation in Dean’s Searches. The committee will contact each Dean and ask for written guidance for Dean’s Searches.

C. Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Shroder reported on the following items:

1. Parking Advisory Committee: He has notified the committee that he is the representative from the Faculty Senate, but there has been no response.

2. Emeritus Status: The committee is working on a survey. The questions will cover who is Emeritus, what are they doing, where do they work, etc. There also will be questions for the departments

D. Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Hagen reported that they are still in the decision making process regarding their direction this year.

E. Committee on Professional Development: Senator Engelmann reported that the committee met at the retreat and have not met since. They submitted a resolution which will be covered in Old Business.

F. Committee on Rules: Senator File reported that he is working to fill positions on a large number of committees.

V Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Hagen

Senator Hagen reported that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting times conflict with the Faculty Senate meetings. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee meets at 3 p.m., on the second Wednesday of the month. The Faculty Senate meets from 2-4 p.m. on that same day. He also asked the Faculty Senate Coordinator to officially notify the chair of the Strategic Planning Committee that he is the Faculty Senate Representative, which Ms. Bishop agreed to do.

VI Old Business

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee, Senator Engelmann moved the following resolution be placed on the agenda of the September 11, 2001, Senate meeting:

WHEREAS both the potential benefits and the potential risks of the proposed
Global e-Learning Initiative at UNO are significant, and

WHEREAS the English curriculum has been identified in Senate discussions as the linchpin of the proposed project, and

WHEREAS serious pedagogical concerns have arisen with the current CD-ROM model for delivery of IIIST English courses; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNO Administration is urged with all due haste, working with the leadership of the Department of English, to address quality control and resource issues, in particular staffing concerns both at UNO and IIIST; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that when and only when these issues are addressed to the satisfaction of the Department of English, could the Senate approve the concept of the Global e-Learning Initiative.

VI New Business

On behalf of the assembly, Senator Paterson moved the following resolution be placed on the agenda of the September 11, 2001, Senate meeting:

WHEREAS the Global eLearning Project has the potential to offer unprecedented benefits to students in China and in Omaha in the form of opportunities for intercultural exchange; and,

WHEREAS the Global eLearning Project has the potential to build people-to-people bridges between American and Chinese citizens at a historical moment when such relationships are of particular importance; and,

WHEREAS an immediate benefit of the project will accrue to American corporations in the form of an English-speaking, technically proficient labor pool overseas and a foothold in the Chinese market; and,

WHEREAS the benefits accruing to UNOmaha students might include overseas exchange programs, the development of a graduate program in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language), and other possibilities not yet foreseen; and,

WHEREAS this potential can be realized only if the program adheres to high standards of academic quality consistent with those upheld by existing UNOmaha programs; and,
WHEREAS academic quality requires committed action in the form of resource allocation, selection of qualified personnel, respect for established university procedures, and genuine collaboration among participating academic units; and,

WHEREAS academic quality requires that the background and needs of students be considered in the course planning; and,

WHEREAS it is the right and the responsibility of the UNOmaha faculty to determine the content and pedagogy of any course offered as part of a degree program; and,

WHEREAS we value open communication among all partners in the educational enterprise and recognize the right of Nebraska citizens to accurate information about university programs and budgets; and,

WHEREAS we fulfill our mission as a metropolitan university within the context of limited resources, so that resources allocated to the new program must either be awarded through external funding or reallocated from existing programs; and,

WHEREAS the Global eLearning Program has already involved the expenditure of significant sums (estimated at $200,000) in faculty and administrative time and travel expenses;

Therefore, Be it resolved that Professor Peter Ng and Dean Thomas Gouttierre are to be commended for their vision in proposing a partnership between UNOmaha and IIIST; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the further development of this program if and only if the following are firmly in place:

1. an approval process requiring that any UNOmaha course offered through IIIST be subject to review and approval by the appropriate academic department at UNOmaha;

2. a hiring process which gives UNOmaha faculty a central role in selecting overseas tutors commensurate with the faculty’s usual role in the selection of instructional staff;

3. adequate opportunities for UNOmaha faculty to assess the academic background and needs of an unfamiliar student population;

4. additional faculty lines for any departments in which these duties will create an extraordinary and continuing administrative burden;

5. a compensation plan for course development which recognizes the substantial labor involved in designing a high-quality distance-learning course and which honors the intellectual property rights of participating faculty;

6. a written document outlining the goals and design of the program, including an accurate accounting of steps already taken, a timeline for future steps, and a plan for program evaluation;

7. a budget, available for public scrutiny, which accurately reports expenses already incurred in faculty
and administrative time, travel expenses, and course development; realistic projections of future income in light of the dramatically reduced tuition Chinese students are expected to pay; and a description of present and projected funding sources detailing the role of corporate donors.

Discussion: The committee decided that this resolution would be brought up from the floor during the September 11 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion passed.

8. **Adjourn**: The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.