Presentation of UNO's Institutional Portfolio (Sheri Rogers)

Official Call To Order

Introduction of Guests

Presentation and Approval of Minutes: September 11, 2002 minutes (agenda attachment - pages 1-12)

Officers Reports

President's Report: Senator Sadle

Proposal to report Senate business monthly to UNO faculty by email newsletter.

Executive Committee and Administration Meeting: 9/18/02 (President Sadle)

The Senate Executive Committee and members of the administration reviewed recent resolutions of the Faculty Senate. All the resolutions concern appointments to various committees, and there was little feedback on these resolutions.

Most of the meeting was taken up with a discussion of an open letter from Senator Sadle and AAUP President Michael Peterson on the recent layoffs. Sadle reviewed the reasons for the letter and the letter's objectives. An open discussion of the text followed, and these comments were considered as the letter went through additional revisions. The letter was distributed on 9/23/02.

The Senate leadership also reported that the results of the Senate's study on the success of Metro CC students in UNO's entry-level math and English courses was discussed at the meeting of the Articulation Task Force on 9/16/02. As a result of this discussion, the task force decided to sponsor discussions on transfer students between the faculty in the corresponding UNO and Metro math and English departments.

Chancellor's Council: Vice President Bragg's report of the September 19, 2002 meeting.

REQUESTS:

The Chancellor is trying to find some way to obtain faculty and staff input on how we might better proceed with future layoffs, etc. that will avoid repeating the difficulties of the past. Specifically, she requested that the Faculty Senate (and other units across the campus) discuss means by which she might receive this kind of input. She indicated that she's trying to provide some means by which anyone with positive suggestions might funnel that information to her. I figure that we can discuss this at a future Exec. Committee meeting.

The Chancellor asked all to encourage attendance at this year's Convocation. I didn't get the date but apparently it will be at 9 AM and will not include a lunch - budget cutting) in Strauss Performing Arts Center.

DISCUSSIONS:

Layoffs: The first item of discussion at the meeting (before the request above) dealt with the same problem that we've all been discussing - the fallout of the layoffs. There really was nothing new since it went much like our discussions have over the past week.

Collaborative Report: A collaborative report must be provided to the President on Monday, 23 September. Essentially, this is the report that is to indicate ways by which the university can collaborate between and among campuses to save money. Input was needed by Friday, 21 Sep or early Monday. There didn't appear to be any
suggestions from anyone in attendance at the meeting and I didn't feel that we had discussed anything enough to propose any ideas (nor, do I feel, that we had wanted to get into that position).

Budget for the next biennium: Really nothing will be known until the legislature meets and determines the impact on the university. For now, we are assuming a decrease in funding which is equivalent to a cut in $20M due to automatic cost increases. While there may be some increase in revenues (e.g. increases in tuition, etc.) we cannot wait to see what they will be. We need to address how to make cuts as soon as possible.

There will be no Holiday Gala this year - it has been discontinued (budget cutting).

President Smith's meeting with 4 Faculty Senate Presidents: September 19, 2002 (President Sadle):

Meeting of the Faculty Senates/Presidents with President Smith and Provost Noren

The meeting opened with a discussion of the US Patriot Act, a summary of which is appended to this report. The act will have three areas of impact on the university. First, it will require the university to register all foreign students on campus using SEVIS, the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System. Second, the university must inventory its labs and report on those containing select toxic substances. Third, the university must closely regulate those having access to laboratories that contain those toxic substances. This will require background checks of all foreign students who have access to such labs. Points two and three will have greater impact on UNL and UNMC than on UNO or UNK. However, the question posed by President Smith was: How can we comply with this law and still preserve our academic freedoms?

The budget situation was discussed at length. No one knows exactly what the magnitude of future cuts will be. The Governor has said that the most optimistic forecast calls for a 0-2% increase in university funding for the biennium. Even with 0% increases in faculty and staff salaries, however, the university system's fixed costs will rise $18 million per year. At this point, then, he is assuming a $20 million cut each year of the biennium.

President Smith said that university restructuring must continue. He wants to completely restructure the business operations on all four campuses. He wants to merge duplicate business functions such as purchasing, accounting, architecture, etc.

He would like us to continue our attempts to restructure academic departments as well. He has asked the chancellors to look closely at schools of education and business. He has asked the Senate to survey all courses and see which ones have not been offered in some time. These, in theory, should be eliminated.

Lobbying: Central Administration is putting together a package of talking points for everyone. Administration would like more faculty and university employees to get involved in getting our message across to state legislators and to the public. There are currently marketing plans in the works to sell the value of the university to the state.

Finally, it looks like health insurance premiums are going up again. Nationally, health expenditures are rising at 11% or higher per year. The gap between those who use insurance heavily, particularly the elderly, and those who do not is growing considerably. One problem is that Medicare does not provide prescription drug benefits, and thus, the university's health care program must cover drugs for our retirees. We should find out what the increases will be in health insurance in about a month.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Senator E. Williams

October Budget Report: (agenda attachment - page 13)

Executive Committee Report: Senator Bragg

Motions from the Executive Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED that UNO students with established residency in the Iowa counties of Pottawattamie, Harrison and Mills should be treated as Nebraska residents for purposes of determination of tuition owed. (agenda attachments - pages 14-17)
BE IT RESOLVED, that the senate president appoint the following senator to be the senate representative for a one year appointment, through 05/14/03, to the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON):

Beth Ritter

Standing Committee Reports

Committee on Academic and Curricular Affairs:

Senator N. Bacon (September 25, 2002 meeting) Those present were Nora Bacon (chair), Jody Neathery-Castro (vice-chair), Ethel Williams, James Akers, Joan Latchaw, Gary Kraus.

Following up on our work last year, the committee discussed two issues: implementation of Resolution 2600 (C-grades) and articulation with Metro Community College.

Implementation of Academic Policies

We request that the executive committee investigate two questions about implementation of faculty senate resolutions:

What power does the senate have to make academic policy? Are we responsible for deciding on academic policies, or is our role merely advisory? What, for example, happens in the hypothetical case that the senate approves a policy and the administration withholds their approval? Does the policy go into effect or not? Is the senate leadership’s understanding of our role consistent with the administrations understanding? Who is responsible for implementing policy - for ensuring that copy in the catalog is revised and that advisors and faculty are informed? Is there an established, step-by-step process for enacting new academic policies?

MCC Articulation

Nora Bacon reported on a meeting of the MCC/UNO/UNMC Articulation Task Force which she had attended on September 16. The task force discussed data indicating that MCC transfer students have a higher failure rate than "native" students when they take the second-semester algebra and composition courses (Math 1320, English 1160/64). Acting upon a request from the senate Executive Committee and Cabinet, the task force recommended that math and English faculty from the two institutions meet to discuss curriculum and academic standards. The task force will coordinate the meetings, and the relevant faculty will report back to the task force in January. If the meetings prove productive for faculty in math and English, the task force will coordinate meetings in other departments in the spring.

Committee on Educational Resources and Services:

Senator Dickson (September 25, 2002 meeting)

Laura Dickson reported that there is about $1,100 in the Paul Beck Scholarship Fund. This is not an endowed scholarship; all monies come from the donations. The amount of the donations has been declining each year and we currently do not have enough money to cover all the scholarships normally offered. Given the current economic situation in the state and the bleak outlook for the University, the committee did not feel we would collect enough to cover the scholarships. The committee recommends that we do not collect donations at this time. We will explore some options for the scholarship so we can make a recommendation to the Senate. Discussion about changes included renaming the fund, making it an endowed scholarship, broadening the support, or ceasing the scholarship. We also intend to explore how local scholarships are advertised on campus and how Financial Aid keeps track of local scholarships. Regarding the new student IDs, the committee felt we did not have enough information to proceed. We will ask Professor Allen to attend the next meeting to explain the problems his department has experienced. Laura Dickson will find out who made the decision. Problems with the department chair search procedures were referred to the AAUP for possible changes in contract language. Bonnie O’Connell will report back to us on this issue after attending the AAUP meeting. The committee had talked about sponsoring a colloquium on Serials Pricing Issues. After some discussion, the committee would like to get some feedback from the Senate on interest in such a colloquium. The Library is interested in co-sponsoring if we proceed. Laura Dickson reported that the Serials Review this year will not require cuts if no major changes occur in the budget. Desired additions will
require cuts of an equal dollar amount. The process may take place earlier this year to give colleges and departments more time to make decisions.

Committee on Faculty Personnel and Welfare: Senator Johnson

The committee met and set their agenda for the year.

Committee on Goals and Directions: Senator Garver

On Wednesday, Sept. 25, Bruce Garver attended the monthly meeting of UNO's Strategic Planning Steering Committee on which he serves as a representative of the Goals & Directions Committee of the Faculty Senate. The G&D Committee did not meet in September because its traditional meeting time overlapped that of the SPSC. Professor Rebecca Morris convened the Sept. 25th meeting of the SPSC and reported on the organization and projected activities of the two Community Forums scheduled to be held at UNO in November 2002. Chancellor Nancy Beleck presented a "strategic update" in which she emphasized long-term strategic advances as opposed to short-term tactical retreats by UNO. The next campus-wide "Strategic Advance" is scheduled to take place on November 15, 2002, with a view to following-up on the work of the "Strategic Advance" and the Community Forums held in May 2002. To date, little has been done to modify the hopes and expectations of May 2002 in light of UNO's continuing budgetary crisis and prospects for having to dismantle additional programs and lay-off more personnel. The SPSC meeting concluded as sub-committees (aka "task forces") met to discuss implementation and refinement of the SPSC's broad goals of improving teaching, scholarly & creative achievement, and community service. At its October meeting the Goals and Directions Committee of the Senate will discuss ways in which the Faculty Senate can encourage and facilitate faculty participation at the Community Forums and the "Strategic Advance" to take place in mid-November. So as not to conflict with the Oct. 23rd 3 p.m. meeting of the SPSC, the Goals and Directions Committee will meet at 2:20 p.m. on Oct. 23rd in ASH 288-D.

Committee on Professional Development: Senator Blair

Committee members Robert Blair and Harvey Leavitt were present to hear Marilyn Leach, Director of the Center for Faculty Development, and Joanne Sowell, Art Department and Chair of the University Committee for the Advancement of Teaching. Marilyn indicated that $75,000 had already been cut from the Center and she anticipated more next year. There are still 3 vacancies on UCAT, and as soon as they are filled the Committee will discuss procedures for awarding grants, depending on the availability of funds.

They also discussed Teaching Circles. Last year 147 people signed up for more than 20 circles. About 105 participants attended 7 teaching circle sessions, making them eligible for the $300 stipend. In 2001-02, more than half of the participants were assistant professors or instructors. At the Teaching Circle celebration at the end of last year, 40 participants filled out evaluation forms. They indicated that peer support, learning about new methods, and sharing were important reasons for participating. Interestingly, the stipend appeared to be a moderate, or very important, reason for participating in Circles according to about two-thirds of the respondents.

The Center plans on organizing another Teaching Circle program this academic year. The additional teaching load of many instructors may affect Teaching Circle participation. In addition, the Center will also be surveying past participants in Center activities regarding their assessment of activities and programs.

Committee on Rules: Senator Littrell

University Committee for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT):

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward to for a three-year term (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2005) to the University Committee on the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT):

Pam Smith, CPACS
Bruce Chase, A&S

University Committee on Athletics:
BE IT RESOLVED, that the following name go forward as a three-year appointment from 08/01/02, through 07/31/05, to the University Committee on Athletics:

Leah Pietron (to replace Michael Stewart)

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with section 6.1 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws the following nominees for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee are brought forward by the Rules Committee for senate nomination. If approved, a ballot will be presented to the UNO faculty.

One faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve a three-year term from October 16, 2002, through October 15, 2005, to replace retiring member, Bruce Chase:

Elaine Lahue, Assistant Professor, Biology
Lisa Boucher, Assistant Professor, Biology

One faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve a three year term from October 16, 2002, through October 15, 2005, to replace retiring member, David Helm:

Tim Yontz, Assistant Professor, Music
Steve Williams, Associate Professor, Theater

One faculty member will be elected from the following two nominees to serve a three year term from October 16, 2002, through October 15, 2005, to replace retiring member, Michael O’Hara:

Bill Corcoran, Associate Professor, Economics
Richard File, Associate Professor, Accounting

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Budget Committee: (Senators Blair, Johnson, Litrell)

Non-Senate Committee Reports

Academic Planning Council: Senator E. Williams

The Academic Planning Council held its initial meeting for the year on Friday, September 13. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Council's responsibilities, establish a meeting schedule, and appoint committee chairs for the programs to be reviewed. The departments identified for review by the Academic Planning Council during the present academic year are as follows:

Chemistry
Geography/Geology
Physics

Program reviews have been tentatively scheduled to take place between Feb. 10-21, 2003; specific dates have not yet been set. Dr. John Farr is in the process of identifying outside reviewers for each program. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Council was scheduled for Friday, October 11.

Alumni Association, Board of Directors: Senator Blair

The Board met in regular session September 17, 2002. Pat Ribar, Coordinator of Showcase UNO!, made a short presentation. Supported by the Alumni Association, this Broadway-based, high-energy, song-and-dance choir performs at community events and showcases UNO talent and the University.

Jim Leslie, Association Director, reported that the Association will be surveying the alumni groups of UNO's peer institutions to learn about the range of their activities.
Vice-Chancellor Jim Buck was a guest speaker at the Board meeting. He discussed several issues associated with the latest round of budget reductions. The Board asked a few questions but the Vice-Chancellor did not suggest any formal actions they could take.

As an ex-officio Association Board Member, I also attended the September 18 Alumni Association Roundtable with Mayor Mike Fahey. The Mayor discussed several issues relating to UNO-City relations, including collaboration, road improvements, and campus access. Elmwood Park traffic congestion caused by transportation between the main and south campus was only briefly addressed. Mayor Fahey did recognize the assistance the City received from many UNO faculty and commented on the number of UNO graduates employed by the City. The Mayor employs several UNO graduates on his staff.

American Association of University Professors (AAUP): Senator O'Connell

Graduate Council: Senator Daryll Lewis

Minutes of Committee B (March 26, 2002) and Committee A (April 15, 2002) (agenda attachments - pages 18-19)

Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Senator Garver

Old Business

Feedback/Discussion on Chancellor Belk's Open Letter of 9/27/02: (President Saddek) (agenda attachment - page 20)

Community Service Project (Senator Schulte): Habitat for Humanity

For the Good of the Order

New Business

Discussion of the Patriot Act and its effect on Academic freedom. (agenda attachment - pages 21-22)

Adjourn.