UNLV 2012-2013 Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Location: SU Building 208 B/C
Times: 12:15pm to 2:10pm


Single Meeting Proxy: Matthew Wright for Peter Bayer, Eugene Moehring for Andrew Bell; Matt Pedersen for Bill Culbreth; Marcia Ditmyer for Susan VanBeuge.

Long term semester Proxy: Al Izzolo for Carola Raab. Excused: Deborah Hart

I. Called to Order: Chair Shannon Sumpter at 12:15pm

II. Approval of the minutes. The minutes from April 17, 2012 were approved without any corrections. Minutes from the August 2012 retreat were approved without any corrections.

III. Elections and Appointments
A. Replacement for administrative faculty to the FS executive committee. Bios of candidates included in the packet emailed prior to the meeting and handed out at the meeting. Candidates Michael Lawrence and Michael Wilde. Both provided a short synopsis of why they would be good for the position. Vote was taken by paper ballot. After votes were counted, the 2012-2013 Senator to represent the Administrative Faculty on the EC was Michael Wilde.
B. Three (3) members to the University Bylaws Committee. Three have been nominated for the open seats. Motion to approve by acclamation proposed by Senator Filler. Motion approved and William Culbreth, Bryan Spangelo, and Shaun Franklin-Sewell were elected to University Bylaws Committee by acclamation.
C. Two (2) positions for University Parking Committee. Two have been nominated for the open seats. Motion to approve by acclamation. Motion
approved and Richard Havey and Michaelyn Haslem were elected by acclamation for the University Parking Committee.

D. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate has the responsibility of appointing to various Committees. The following were appointed:
1. Faculty Technology Advisory Board: Daniel Young
2. Faculty Senate Representatives to the Graduate College committees:
   a) Executive Committee – Paul Werth
   b) Graduate Faculty & Student Issues – Susan VanBeuge
   c) Graduate Program Review – Clemens Heske
   d) Professional Development – Nancy Lough
   e) Graduate New Programs – John Filler
   f) Graduate Curriculum – Wolfgang Bein
   g) Graduate Student Funding – Vicki Rosser

IV. Invited Speakers - Neal Smatresk
Spoke of the enrollment. Enrollment is up 8-9% in graduates. As enrollment has fallen in freshman year, it creates a bubble. Students seem to be responding to new General Education Initiative. Spoke of the issues addressed at the State of the University:

A. Funding Formula: recently approved by the legislative committee. The Board of Regents has approved the budget based on the new funding formula model, with the exception of the performance funding. This has been changed to an add-on, versus a carve-out which is better. This is good news for UNLV. The old formula hurt us and created inequities. UNLV and UNR will receive the same funding which will be above or at least the top tier of the Community Colleges. He believes that anyone can poke holes into it, but feels that it is much more fairly distributed and we should defend it. Tuition and fees have been separated and this helps make whole the inequities. Those in the north are opposed because it takes $13,000,000 away and gives to the south. Need to resist putting a wedge between the UNR and UNLV. Need to send strong, consistent message. Asks the FS to support it.

B. Master Plan: encouraged campus community involvement.

C. NSHE budget: they have passed the budget which has adopted the new funding formula with some “hold harmless” clauses for those who are most affected. It favors the restoration of the salary cuts and benefits. Would like to see full pay restoration and merit and COLA. Not sure full restoration is achievable but we will fight for it. The benefits piece is more concerning and will look at as we move into the legislative session.

D. The Faculty/staff health services are now available in the campus health clinic. These services are provided for our campus community for reduced rates.

E. Interim Positions: Asked Exec. VP and Provost John White to speak to this topic. Two (2) Dean Search Committees (Law and Lee Business School) have been formed and charged to move forward with the searches. There will be at least one more this year. For the Lee Business School search, a consultant will be hired to help in this process because the previous search did not produce viable candidates. The goal is to fill all the interim positions by next year. Prioritizing the Deans’ positions first.
F. Theme for this year is rebuilding. Budget is stable and enrollments are increasing. In 2012-2013 hired 78 faculty; both junior and senior ranks. There were 3-4 major themes in the state of the university: 1) Academic renewal. Campus master planning is going on this week. 2) Commitment on General Education Initiative. The General Education initiative will be spotlighted. First year programs are off with a bang. Continue to evolve the education - the AACU said this is the most ambitious program to be launched. 3) CoRE: Collaborative Research and Education – This initiative will focus on how we can do better with collaborative efforts, including multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research and education initiatives. Begin launching initiatives to allow for open discussions for mandatory multidisciplinary. How UNLV creates platforms for educating students in critical areas that work across the disciplines. Start meetings as free form such as lunch/brown bag meetings to discuss broad spectrum that will move into more focused groups. Where should UNLV house broad discipline initiatives that do not fit in to any area. Will focus on economic development and diversification.

G. L2D2 project: listening to departments, step 2. John White will lead this effort and re-visit academic departments as an opportunity for him to pick up the conversation where it was left off and allow for more concrete strategies. Phase 2 will be started where President visits with all the non-academic units.

**Question:** Senator Peterson (proxy Opfer). Is there was any plan to create an office to bring research together across the departments.

**Response:** Yes that is what CoRE is. Identify brand and sponsor some space and make sure it is facilitated and supported. Where there is a series of faculty that are trying to work together we can provide support such as grant writing support, such as help in professional writing skills. We will make a resource map as we move forward. There will be a physical presence, modicum of staff to help move ideas forward.

**Question:** Senator Bein. This is more a comment. Was heartened to see that you sent email about ethics. Just say that having seen both institutions (UNLV and Penn State) - we can be proud of our openness. Both in listening to departments, our retreat, and listening to faculty. We all should want to be a part of a caring community.

**Response:** This is not the time to say tough times are over and fall back, but we should move forward and set the bar for everyone else. By doing that everything else works.

**Question:** Senator Wilde. You mentioned benefits. We know how painful it has been. Is there any further update on separating from PEBP?

**Response:** We all want out. Not sure if the rest of the state wants out, but we want out. Not sure if this will come out of this next legislative session. Now we are trying to get back salary, merit and COLA. Not sure where it will be on the legislative agenda. I cannot give a realistic promise when this might be done at this time.
V. Reports
A. Presentation by Associate Vice-Provost for Academic Programs, Dr. David James on course assessment process. Dr. James gave a brief history on the taskforce, the questions raised regarding evaluation of online education. The inquiry across the campus revealed there are many inconsistencies on the approaches to academic assessment. The taskforce addressed the following: 1. How can data be collected to obtain better information, 2) how can the information be more equitable and comprehensive, 3) how can course evaluations be more consistent across the units, and 4) how can the information be used and meaningful. The Board of Regents handbook does not limit the type of evaluations that must be conducted on instructional faculty. It states that these evaluations should be used for the purposes of developmental feedback. Currently the course evaluations across the campus are not consistent. They use different questions, rating scales, and how the comments are used also vary widely. The taskforce was charged with collecting information through meetings with faculty, staff and students. Also obtained information from other large, public universities across the country: Indiana University, Purdue University, University of Iowa, University of Michigan and University of Washington. Issues to consider: 1) can students identify good teaching, 2) how to handle low response rates, 3) lack of comments and how quickly they are forwarded to faculty, 4) how to ensure this isn’t just a popularity contest, 5) how to differentiate between popular courses and those that are not, 6) how the information is used for faculty evaluation purposes, 7) how to deliver the surveys, and 8) what additional workload would be created to complete this process. The use of e-surveys was discussed. Some units use these programs and the funding is drawn from their internal budget. They are costly and the concern is the lower response rates. How do you ensure high response rates and ensure the information collected accurately evaluates the instructional faculty. Additionally, the Promotion and Tenure committees find it difficult to compare when each unit uses different questions and scales, and the biases that are inherent in student evaluations. One suggestion is to adopt uniform template. Cover areas where students can actually rate and avoid where they cannot. Include self-rating. The areas where students can rate include: 1) organization of the instructional faculty, 2) content of the course, and 3) student support. This will be divided into two focuses. Taskforce 1: the what: design, areas, topics and the use of responses, and Taskforce 2: on how to get high response rate and get feedback to faculty in timely manner.

B. Ad Hoc Governance Committee: Report given by Dr. Kathy Lauckner, Co-Chair. Faculty Governance Survey - Ad Hoc Governance Committee - 2012/2013 regarding the governance UNLV. The committee started to gather data about this committee March 2010 through Feb 2011. Constructed surveys to FS and P&T and graduate college. Results were presented. Reports that there is still a disconnect with administrative faculty on faculty senate. There are some who want to separate them, etc. Until we can come together - we will find there are both feelings. Maybe the question hasn’t been answered yet. There were many comments on where this will go from here. Chair Sumpter will discuss the issue with the executive board and report back their recommendation to the Senate. She asked for all suggestions and comments to be filtered through her.
C. Ombudsman Search: Report given by Dr. Cecilia Maldonado. The Ombuds search is moving forward. This will be an internal search. The taskforce has met 4 times since June. The job description will be finalized this week and then the announcement will be made in order to move forward. The goal is to have the job filled by January 2013.

D. Chairs Report.
1. Curricular review was passed by the Board of Regents. Therefore a joint committee regarding academic planning process for curricular review will be formed to develop the process.
2. Master Planning is meeting this week. Open house is tomorrow.
3. Retirement planning committee. They will come next month. Fairly lengthy presentation so need to schedule them accordingly.
4. The e-learning consultant has been on campus and will be here through tomorrow. There is thinking this is more “outsourcing,” however, will need to see their report. Faculty Senate chairs scheduled to have a video conference in October/Nov of their findings.
5. The shared governance survey results are in the packet that you have done.
6. The chair expressed her thanks to all for support and participation.

VI. OLD BUSINESS
A. Ad hoc on executive administrative hires. Recommended last spring. The EC worked on creating the charge listed in your packet. Senator Bayer who suggested the idea, is chair of the Ad hoc committee. Senator Montgomery will also represent the Faculty Senate. Have requested to have the report completed by December 15th.

B. Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. Brought up in April by Senator Spangelo. Recommended at the time to be referred to committee. Senator Filler made a motion that steps be taken to join that organization. The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 32 yeas, and 2 nays.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:
A. 2014-2015 already voted on, however, 2015-2016 calendar needs to be voted on. This will be an action item at the October faculty senate meeting.
B. New Business from the floor: None

VIII. Public comment: Senator Maldonado brought up the campus climate survey. Several recommendations were made and need to follow-up.

IX. Motion to adjourn 2:10pm
Respectfully submitted
Marcia M Ditmyer, Secretary UNLV Faculty Senate