The meeting was called to order by Chair Daneshvary at 12:20 p.m. in the Student Union, room 208 AB.


Single Meeting Proxies:  Cate Weeks for Amy Brooks; Cheryl Tillotson for Adam Sikula; Cory Tucker for Caroline Smith; Long term proxy:  Marcia Ditmyer for William Davenport.

Absent:  Carolyn Hensley, Greg Ginn, Kathy Lauckner, An-Pyng Sun.

Chair Daneshvary welcomed the Senate with words of hope and optimism for our university and country as our nation today welcomes a new administration (indeed also facing economic challenges) with the morning inauguration of President Barack Obama.  Vice Chair John Filler sharing his thoughts, echoed the same sentiments, stating that the unprecedented budget cuts of nearly 51% that threaten to shut down higher education can be challenged with solidarity, positiveness and collegiality.

Senator Klaassen moved, seconded by Senator Tillotson, to approve the minutes of December 9, 2008. The Senate votes unanimously to approve the minutes without correction.

Guest speaker, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Michael Bowers updated the Senate with previously reported Programs Evaluation Committee recommendations. To read the Committee’s report click http://www.unlv.edu/budget/pdf/ProgramEvaluationCommitte.pdf. Based on the committee’s recommendations, the President created a Joint Evaluation Team (JET) composed of three Faculty Senate Representatives and three appointed faculty and staff by the Provost. The JET is charged with organizing, evaluating, and recommending program/unit improvement, reorganization, modification and elimination as may be needed during our budget crisis. For the first step of the process, deans and vice presidents will rank their programs/units as high, medium, and low performers. The JET will evaluate all deans and VPs rankings for the entire campus and make recommendations to the President.

Chair Daneshvary next reminded the Senate and guests that a student rally is being held on the Academic Mall this Thursday, January 22 at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All news media will be covering the event and all faculty, staff and students are encouraged to show a united presence. The Chancellor and many other speakers will attend the rally to protest the Governor’s proposal and send a clear message to the legislature that we oppose cutting the higher education budget without considering alternatives. A Town Hall meeting is also being held on January 26th, in the MSU Ballroom at 6 p.m. A strong show of public support is encouraged at this event also. Everyone was asked to bring friends, neighbors and colleagues to all events.
Chair Daneshvary reported on studies done by economists from prestigious schools that found when health coverage is removed from a retiree’s health benefit, he/she then tend to delay retirement by 2-3 years. Thus, the proposed benefit cuts would not be a good option to encourage employees to take early retirement.

Chair Daneshvary also read a statement from President Ashley in which he encouraged all faculty and staff to not give up hope and know that he is working hard in support of blocking the additional proposed cuts by the Governor in order to retain and attract faculty and employees and ensure a retirement for those who worked many years. Link to the President’s statement: [http://facultysenate.unlv.edu/budget_memos/President_Ashley_Statement_to_FS-1_20_09.doc](http://facultysenate.unlv.edu/budget_memos/President_Ashley_Statement_to_FS-1_20_09.doc). Senator Nicol mentioned that perhaps we should send letters to all incoming freshman and parents as done in California in the past and announce that we simply would not be able to admit any new students due to lack of money. Chair Daneshvary said he would try to mention that to the Chancellor.

**Action items:**

Proposed changes to Faculty Senate Bylaws:

**A. Deletion of New Undergraduate Programs Committee** – Senator Nicol, seconded by Senator Able-Santos moved to approve deletion of Faculty Senate Bylaw 6.11 – 6.11.2 However, Senator Richards made a friendly amendment, accepted by Senator Nicol to move 6.11.1 and 6.11.1.1 to the Curriculum Committee Bylaw. And additionally adding the word “new”. This motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 44 yeas.

Section 5.0 Article 5: Committees

5.8 [New Program Committee]

Section 6.0 Article 6: Functions of Standing Committees

6.5 Curriculum Committee

6.5.6 Screen and review all new programs and make recommendations, regarding their priority, to the Executive Vice President and Provost, with copies to the President, after appropriate campus consultations.

6.5.6.1 Criteria and procedures for new program review shall be established by the committee.

Senator Schibrowsky also brought up that he would like to see course descriptions and names of new courses approved prior to going to the BOR. It was discussed that his committee might work with Dr. Bowers and the Provost office on a policy and procedure change.

**B. Addition of Faculty Senate Graduate Programs Committee** – Senator Thistle moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Senator Able-Santos. Approved by a vote of 43 yeas, nay 1. Adds representation from the Senate to the Graduate College committees. This will improve communication between the Senate and Graduate College and departments.
Section 5.0 Article 5: Committees

**Faculty Senate Graduate Programs Liaison Committee**

1. Faculty Senate Representative, Graduate College Assessment Committee
1. Faculty Senate Representative, Graduate College Professional Development
1. Faculty Senate Representative, Graduate College New Program Evaluation
1. Faculty Senate Representative, Graduate College Curriculum Committee
1. Faculty Senate Representative, Graduate College Program Review
1. Faculty Senate Representative, Graduate College Faculty and Student Issues
1. Faculty Senate Representative, Graduate College Graduate Student Funding
1. Graduate Council President

Section 6.0 Article 6: Functions of Standing Committees

6.19 The Chair of the Faculty Senate, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will appoint one member with graduate-faculty standing to each existing and future Graduate College committee. The Chair of the Faculty Senate Graduate Programs Liaison Committee will be appointed by the Chair of Faculty Senate, in consultation with the Executive Committee, from members of the Faculty Senate Graduate Programs Liaison Committee. Membership will be for two years. The Chair will be a member of the Graduate Council Executive Committee. The Faculty Senate Graduate Programs Liaison Committee shall perform the following functions:

6.19.1 Participate in Graduate College committees representing the Faculty Senate.
6.19.2 Provide a written report and present it to the Faculty Senate each semester.
6.19.3 Make recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Senate regarding general issues related to graduate programs which are forwarded to it by the Senate Chair, Executive Committee or the Senate itself.
6.19.4 Make recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Senate on any issue affecting graduate programs not specifically charged to any other Senate Committee.

C. Sense of the Senate on health benefits reduction proposals (PEBP and SAGE)

Chair Daneshvary thanked Greg Brown for his assistance in submitting data used in regard to the anticipated health cuts. This Sense of the Senate is addressed to the legislature and to the general public, message being that in the long run it will cost the state more than any perceived short savings. The SAGE figures are based on faulty data from a Chamber of Commerce document. Several senators expressed views. There were some minor word changes made and suggestion of adding footnotes to emphasize where data was obtained. Senator Richards suggested that some sentences could be bolded and used as action sentences at the beginning of several paragraphs. Senator Carlton moved to approve the Sense of the Senate, seconded by Senator Schibrowsky. Senator Abel-Santos moved, seconded by Senator Bayer to change word “reasonable” to “less objectionable,” and was approved by 28 yeas, 7 nays. The entire amendment was approved unanimously (44 yeas) with footnotes. A link to the complete document is:

http://facultysenate.unlv.edu/budget_memos/UNLV_Sense_of_Senate_on_Health_Care_Benefits.doc.

Senator Thistle also wrote a short “Sense of the Senate” regarding the pending budget. Senator Carlton moved for approval, seconded by Senator Abel-Santos. The motion passed by a vote of 40 yeas to 3 nays.
The Governor’s proposed budget will effectively destroy higher education in Nevada for generations to come. This is bad public policy in both the short term and the long term.

We call upon the Legislature to provide adequate funding for higher education in Nevada, to ensure that the citizens of Nevada have the opportunity to obtain an appropriate college education.

A document was distributed to the Senate by Greg Brown who gave some background on its purpose as supported by the NFA. He asked that a final version of the document be adopted and presented to officials as a “Sense of the Senate.” The final document describes the long range implications of the budgetary cuts on higher education faculty and staff. Senator Klaassen moved to support the document, seconded by Senator Frink. The amendment was approved unanimously, 40 yeas. A link to the finalized document is: http://facultysenate.unlv.edu/budget_memos/UNLV_Sense_of_Senate-Budget_Resolution.doc.

Future Action Item:

A. Proposed Change in Admission Committee Membership

New Business - none

Adjournment

Meeting was moved for adjourned at 1:45 p.m. by Senator Bein, seconded unanimously. The next Senate meeting is February 24, 2009, in the Student Union, Room 208 A/B at 12:15 p.m.