A regular session of the Faculty Senate was held on February 20, 2007. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Robinson at 12:15 p.m., in the Moyer Student Union, room 208-AB.


Single Meeting Proxies: Gary Larson for Gregory Borchard; Mary Warner for Margot Mink Colbert; Nasser Daneshvary for Paul Thistle; Cecilia Maldonado for Kendall Hartley; Adam Sikula for Carolyn Hensley; Dan Cook for Wolfgang Bein; Bill Robinson for Alan Schlottman.

Absent: Cyndi Giorgis, Helene Jackson, Jennifer Smith, Matthew Wright

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 12:15 p.m. Invited guest speaker Regent Michael Wixom was introduced by Chair Robinson to the Senate. Regent Wixom shared background on his personal experience, professional life and passion for working on the Board of Regents. He touched briefly on some of the important issues facing the BOR such as capital infrastructure, strengthening admission standards, the new health science center, the Midtown UNLV project on Maryland Pkwy that would improve the culture on campus: safe campus environment, housing accommodations, incorporating a mass transit system linking the stadium with entertainment venues and cultural life.

Regent Wixom hopes that the Regents will take the opportunity to visit Arizona State University and see how they have interfaced with the local area with a similar project.

Senator Nicol asked a question of the Regent regarding possible parking structure across Maryland Pkwy with an under or over pass. Regent Wixom thought it a good suggestion. Senator Sikula asked the Regent’s opinion about CCSN possibly becoming a 4-yr institution. Regent Wixom thought the community college system in Nevada was exemplary. He thought the quality and the ability to serve as they do now would be affected. Certainly China is out of the service area. Chair Robinson posed the question about the name change for the community college, but Regent Wixom said he has not been convinced yet. There are approximately 2000 acres in N Las Vegas available for the NSHE. There are no capital improvement funds, it was all budgeted to the prisons. UNLV will have to approach the Governor for additional funds and offer some naming opportunities to donors in order to raise additional funds.

December 12th meeting minutes and January 23rd (corrected) meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Robinson announced that Executive Committee nominations will open on March 6th and close on March 20th. The positions to be elected are: Vice Chair (tenured faculty), Secretary (academic faculty), Prostaff rep, and 2 At-large reps.

Chair Robinson then displayed two graphs. National Science Foundation funding since 1994 has not kept up. There was a jump in 2000, but since then it has remained flat. We are not staying competitive with other institutions in the amount of NIH research dollars received. UNR’s productivity flows in through their med school so they do not face the same problem.
Action items:

A. Chair Robinson stated that he and Senators Bunker and Maldonado will be meeting in the next week with several deans and the Provost office to discuss the schedule requirements policy that once approved by the Senate can be added to the workload policy. Senator Daneshvary, seconded by Senator Lauckner, moved to take the previous policy off the table for discussion. Whatever policy is passed has to go to the faculty for a vote.

It has been noted that schedules change too frequently at the last minute for instructors and students alike; also the Noel-Levitz study stated that course offerings should ideally be 2 years out so that students and instructors can plan their schedules in advance. This does not mean that last minute changes could not be made by the chair or dean if need be.

Senator Sikula moved, seconded by Senator Fitzgerald, to vote on preparing a Schedule Requirements policy for Senate approval. The motion was passed with 30 yeas, 3 nays, no abstentions.

B. Summer Term Independent Study Policy:

If a college does not mention independent study policy in its workload policy, a faculty member may not receive retirement benefits whereas a faculty member in a college with an independent study policy in place does. Additionally, a summer independent study workload can create an overload during the regular academic year. Units need to address this and within their college workload policies so that there is uniformity and equity throughout the university. Retirement funds come from out of state fees per Dawn Neuman. Chair Robinson entertained a motion from Senator Nicol that the colleges go back and review their workload policies, seconded by Senator Muleshkov. The motion passed with 33 yeas, 2 nays. Deans without policies will be given copies of the policies from those colleges that have it.

C. Chair Robinson discussed Chapter III Sec. 6.1A & B bylaw changes recommended by the P&T committee in section 1. Changes wording of titles; removes section that administrators are voted on by simple majority; and college or school level committees must be composed of elected tenured members.

Senator Nicol suggested that the proposal should be amended to state that at least one P&T cycle of 12 month pass before the Bylaw goes into effect. Senator Nicol made a motion, seconded by Senator Davenport. Discussion followed wherein Co-officer in Charge Michael Bowers spoke in favor of the proposal. A vote was called and the motion amendment passed with 32 yeas, and 4 nays. A vote then was called on the main motion, which then passed with a vote of 31 yeas, and 3 nays.

A task force will be set up for peer review.

D. Chair Robinson asked Senators to please go back to their units and discuss the handout on full professor criteria. The corrected version is on the web site. Faculty at UNR has to have a document called a “Role Statement” that is done every year.

Future Action Items:

A. Diversity and Faculty Retention will be at our next Senate meeting.
B. Policy on Senate Representation – HR list, Dean’s list, Provost list to be consolidated
C. Committee Reports

Information/New Business

P&T committee will be at our next meeting

Senator Burns made a motion, seconded by Senator Lauckner, to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. The next scheduled Senate meeting will be held on March 6, 2007, at 12:15 p.m. in the TAM.