A regular meeting of the Senate was called to order by Chair John Filler at 12:15 p.m. in Student Union, room 208-AB.


Single Meeting Proxies: Ernesto Abel-Santos for Eduardo Robleto; Anne Stevens for Andrew Bell; Christian Hardigree – longtime proxy for Bill Brady, Ken Fernandez for Liam Frink; Margot Mink Colbert for Peter Jakubowski; Matt Pedersen for Aly Said; Caroline Smith for Cory Tucker.

Absent: Rebecca Nathanson

Both minutes for December 9, 2009, which had been postponed, and minutes for January 26, 2010, meetings were approved unanimously without correction.

Chair Filler introduced guest speaker: Regent Michael Wixom who was appointed to the Board of Regents in 2005, and elected in 2006. He has served two terms as chair of the BOR. Having served on several subcommittees, he currently serves on both the Business & Finance Committee and the Health Sciences System Committee. Regent Wixom elaborated on the positive aspects of the BOR such as their qualities of being unified, productive and credible. Also, that they are not willing to sacrifice quality of education, because it means the future of this state. Senators asked many questions of Regent Wixom regarding budget decisions being considered by the BOR as well as his perception of the public’s view of higher education’s role in the community.

President Smatresk also addressed the Senate in regard to the pending Special Session of the Legislature. He stated that he has heard from several officials in Carson that the emails from UNLV constituents are having an effect. President Smatresk said to keep up the good work. All hope that the final figure budget cut to the NSHE institutions will be less than 10%. UNLV and UNR have already taken deeper cuts than the community colleges and K-12. Potentially, UNLV’s funding cuts may be 12-22%, which would carry over into the next biennium. This means layoffs, program elimination, salary reduction, increase in student fees and tuition, reduced support services, buy outs, fewer classes, reduced student admission, to name a few.

A list of the 20 most expensive departments has been circulated to the Deans. These departments’ programs have an average cost of $10,000 per full time student. President Smatresk stated that an “Ad Hoc Curriculum Review” committee is being formed to determine
which and/or how many high-cost departments could be eliminated. The committee may consider these and other departments not listed as well. Composition of the committee will be faculty, students, and administrators. Final decision on issues to be made by June.

**Announcements:**

1. Chair Filler reminded Senators that the Board of Regents meets at the Charleston campus of the College of Southern Nevada on March 4th and 5th.
2. Senior Senators will have their regular monthly meeting on March 1 in FDH 218.

**Action item:**

**Faculty Senate Bylaw change, Section 5, Article 5 and Section 6, Article 6 (Establishment of a University Bylaw Committee)** Due to the length of this meeting, several Senators had to leave, thus a quorum was lost. The action item was postponed until the March 9th Senate meeting. It will be the first item of business at that meeting.

**Future Action Items:** Vice Chair Maldonado explained the election process for the “Curriculum Review Committee” (referenced earlier in the meeting during President Smatresk’s remarks). All members of the Senate are eligible candidates for this committee. Members names will appear on the ballot at the March 9th Senate meeting. Any member not wishing their name to appear on the ballot should notify the Senate office immediately. One Administrative Faculty and 5 Academic Faculty will be elected from the ballot by # of votes received. Of the 5 academic members elected, the one with the highest number of votes will chair the committee.

**New Business:**

- Senator Spangelo would like to bring up for discussion information regarding open faculty and professional searches.

**Adjournment**

Senator Schibrowsky (seconded by Senator Klaassen) moved to adjourn at 1:30 p.m. It was approved unanimously. The next Senate meeting will be held on March 9, 2010, in Student Union 208 AB.