A regular session of the Faculty Senate was held on March 6, 2007. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Robinson at 12:15 p.m., in the TAM Alumni Center, Grand Hall, since the Moyer Student Union was unavailable.


Single Meeting Proxies: Georg Mauer for Wolfgang Bein; Gary Larson for Gregory Borchard; Nasser Daneshvary for Paul Thistle; Giuseppe Natale for Ralph Buechler; Dennis Bazylinski for Malcolm Nicol; David Pinelle for Matt Pedersen.

Absent: Margo Mink Colbert, Helene Jackson, Steve Phelan, Jennifer Smith, Matthew Wright

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 12:15 p.m. Chair Robinson introduced the University Chamber Chorale conducted by David Weiler, which sang a specially chosen selection “Sometimes I Feel Like a Morning Dove” in the honor of Distinguished Professor Hal Rothman who recently passed away. The Senate appreciated the choir’s exquisite presentation and very moving performance.

A prepared resolution honoring Distinguished Professor Hal Rothman was displayed on a screen for Senate approval. Senator Kathy Lauckner moved for approval, it was seconded, and passed unanimously.

The minutes from February 20, 2007, Senate meeting were approved unanimously.

Invited guest speaker Sylvia Lazos, who holds the Justice Myron Leavitt Professor of Law position at the Boyd School of Law, has been serving on the President’s Task Force on Equity and Diversity. She as well as Henry Villanueva of Student Life gave a detailed overview of the Task Force report, results and recommendations. Interestingly, minority student enrollment has decreased even using alternative admission policies. Undoubtedly, faculty retention and recruitment is affected by whether minority diversity is encouraged and facilitated at UNLV. Mr. Villanueva went into detail about the significance of the Noel-Levitz report done in 2005 that surveyed students’ needs and need for improvement requests in various areas such as advising, financial aid, safety, and registration among others. It was also noted that the minority students who feel the most underserved are of Asian ethnicity. Minority enrollment was also down at the community colleges as well, but up slightly at Nevada State College. Two possible reasons for the decrease at UNLV is that entrance requirements are up, and there is a loss of lower level courses and fewer remedial courses offered.

Chair Robinson reminded Senators that nominations for upcoming Senate Executive Committee are being accepted until March 20th with elections on March 27th. Senator Lauckner stated that she had two nominations for prostaff representative: one from Senator Adam Sikula and another from Carolyn Hensley.

Chair Robinson said nominations should be emailed to himself or directly to the Faculty Senate along with short bios.

**Action items:**
A. Chair Robinson introduced Senator Daneshvary who gave a detailed report with graphs of the merit review that the Fiscal Affairs committee he chairs has been preparing. Charts compared merit received by faculty, deans, assoc deans and prostaff by the amounts. With information from the Provost office, he also had a chart detailing which colleges used all their merit compared with those who returned partial funds. It was stated that Deans and above do not allocated merit on state funds. A preliminary analysis of the merit data indicates that the merit system may need to be redone. His committee also looked at the summer surplus fund distribution. Senator Daneshvary is recommending changes to forms to be used by colleges to show how their summer revenues are distributed. This would also make analysis of these funds clearer. Several Senators voiced that they would like to find out where the parking fees go, where do the student recreation fees go?

B. Chair Robinson next introduced Promotion and Tenure Committee Chair Skip Swerdlow to speak about the proposed changes to the Full Professor Criteria. His full suggestions have been disseminated to the Senators already through the chair’s website for review. The criteria in practice currently does not match was is written. His committee is trying to remedy that by updating the criteria. Senators asked for clarification on various parts of the proposal: collegiality; enhanced reputation through national, international reputation; publication recognition; teaching, service, research quality; etc. Committee Chair Swerdlow stated he would report back on March 27th with answers to the remaining questions.

Future Action Items:

A. Election of 2007-2008 Executive Committee
B. Diversity and Faculty Retention
C. Policy on Senate Representation
D. Committee Reports and Task Force Reports

Information/New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. The next scheduled Senate meeting will be held on March 27, 2007, at 12:15 p.m. in our regular location, MSU 208 A-B.