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: Gregory Brown for Andrew Bell; Al Izzolo for Bernard Fried; Christian Hardigree – longtime proxy for Bill Brady, Margot Mink Colbert for Peter Jakubowski; Mike Wilde for Kathy Lauckner; Jeff Waddoups for Mary Riddel, Priscilla Finley for Caroline Smith; Michael Nussbaum for Shannon Smith, Margot Mink Colbert for Mary Warner, Eva Stowers for Cory Tucker.

Absent:

Minutes for February 23, 2010, were moved to be approved by Senator Bein with a minor word correction on page 2 as requested by Senator Nussbaum. It passed unanimously with correction.

UNLV President Smatresk has formed the President’s Review Committee (previously known as the Curriculum Review Committee) to advise him in decisions related to program cuts. The committee make up is: 5 academic Senators, 1 administrative faculty (prostaff) Senator, and 5 administrators appointed by the President. The committee will review a list of approx 20 of the university’s most costly degree programs for possible cut (deletion). The PRC recommendations will then go to the Priority and New Program Review Committee (a standing senate committee) and to the President’s cabinet at the same time. Membership of the Priority and New Program Review Committee will be elected through normal college elections. Both of these bodies will review the cut list and return recommendations. The Priority and New Program Review committee will give its recommendations to the Senate and to the President. The President will take both the Priority committee recommendation and the Cabinet recommendation to make a final decision by graduation (May 8). The final list will then be given to the Board of Regents by June. Of the $9 mil current fiscal year budget shortfall, $5 mil cuts come from non-academic areas. Increase in student tuition is highly likely.

Senator Nussbaum moved to amend the PRC senate membership election procedure so that the top 10 faculty and top 2 prostaff from the initial ballot should be part of a subsequent run-off election for the final six members. The motion was seconded by Senator Bayer. By a vote of 12 ayes to 35 nays, the motion failed.
By secret ballot, the following Senators were elected to serve on the President’s Review Committee: Senator Wolf Bein, Senator Janice Klaassen, Senator Kathy Lauckner, Senator Jack Schibrowsky, Senator Bryan Spangelo, and Senator Gregory Brown (as chair).

Announcements:
- Executive Vice President & Provost Michael Bowers and President Neal Smatresk discussed and answered questions from the Senate regarding the continued academic, non-academic, and administrative open position searches despite facing a budget deficit July 1, 2010. The President stated that horizontal cuts weaken the system, whereas vertical ones do not. And that it is necessary to keep all options open until the end of the budget crisis. These positions represent personnel investments, but are also critical hires for academic and nonacademic areas. Non-academic position pools are reviewed and often consolidated at the end of searches.
- Self nominations are due by March 15th for the 2010-2011 Executive Committee election to be held at the next Senate meeting (March 23, 2010). In addition to the self-nomination, a brief, one-page electronic biography needs to be sent to the Senate office for posting on the web.

Action item: Faculty Senate Bylaw change, Section 5, Article 5 and Section 6, Article 6 (Establishment of a University Bylaw Committee) –

Senator Richards moved, and it was seconded, to approve the bylaw change.
 Senator Klaassen, seconded by Senator Spangelo moved to amend the 5.1 University Bylaw Committee to read: 4 Faculty Senate Representatives “elected from the Faculty Senate.” By raised hands, the ayes counted, the amendment passed.
 Senator Richards then made two motions. 1) increase the composition of the committee by one member from each degree granting college and one prostaff member. A friendly amendment was accepted as well to add a member from the Library. The first motion was seconded by Senator Schibrowsky. General Counsel stated that an odd number of reps will help in breaking deadlocks. Senator Burns stated that more prostaff should be added. Most everyone agreed that it was good to have colleges represented. Senator Klaassen stated the original intent was more advisory. The amendment was approved, 26 ayes to 17 nays.
 Senator Bayer moved, seconded by Senator Frink, to replace in Section 6.6.2 the word “enact” to the word “make.” By raised hands, the ayes counted, the amendment passed.
 Senator Richards second motion 2) to move a charge from the Campus Affairs Committee, Section 6.4.1 and reword it to interpret UNLV Bylaws. (new Section 6.6.4) This motion passed by a show of hands.
 Finally, a vote was called to approve the amendment. By a count of raised hands, the ayes carried the vote to approval.

Future Action Items: none

New Business: none

Adjournment

Senator Schibrowsky moved to adjourn at 1:30 p.m., and it was unanimously approved. Next Senate meeting is March 23, 2010, in Student Union 208 AB. It will be the last official meeting of the 2009-2010 Senate and the last meeting presided by Chair John Filler.
Faculty Senate Agenda Item

Submitted By: Janice Klaassen, Ph.D.
Title of the Proposal: UNLV Faculty Senate Bylaw Amendment to Section 5 Article 5: Committees and Section 6.0 Article 6: Functions of Standing Committees

Description: Establishing a UNLV bylaw committee will provide timely, accurate maintenance and posting of approved bylaw changes, as well as periodic review and interpretation of UNLV bylaws to ensure compliance with Board of Regents policy.

Sections of Regents Handbook, Senate Constitution/Bylaws Affected:
UNLV Faculty Senate Bylaw Amendment to Section 5 Article 5: Committees and Section 6.0 Article 6: Functions of Standing Committees

Additions are underlined/Deletions are crossed out.

Section 5 Article 5 Committees

5.1 Unless changed in a manner consistent with the Senate Bylaws or Constitution of the Faculty Senate, the following committees, composed of the following membership, shall be maintained:

University Bylaw Committee
4 Faculty Senate Representatives elected from the Faculty Senate
1 Academic faculty from each degree granting college and school
1 Librarian
1 Representative from the Professional Staff Unit
1 Vice President and General Counsel (non-voting ex-officio)

Section 6.0 Article 6: Functions of Standing Committees

6.4.1 Review the NSHE Code, and division bylaws, and recommend revisions whenever desirable. It shall also serve to interpret the NSHE Code, and division bylaws, and recommend such interpretations to the Senate.

6.6 The University Bylaw Committee shall have the responsibility of maintaining the university bylaws (formally Title 5, Chapter 6 in the Board of Regents Handbook) and see to their timely and accurate posting on the faculty senate website.

6.6.1 The Committee shall conduct periodic reviews of the UNLV Bylaws to ensure compliance with the Board of Regents Handbook and Regent policies.

6.6.2 The Committee shall make changes to the UNLV Bylaws that are properly approved by the majority of the voting faculty.

6.6.3 As requested, the Committee shall advise the Faculty Senate Chairperson and the Executive Committee on interpretation of the UNLV and Faculty Senate Bylaws.

6.6.4 The Committee shall review UNLV and its division’s bylaws, and recommend revisions whenever desirable. It shall also serve to interpret UNLV and its division’s bylaws, and recommend such interpretations to the Faculty Senate.
Arguments For:
[1] This bylaw change will ensure the continued maintenance of the UNLV bylaws.

[2] The Faculty Senate initiates bylaw changes and will now update and monitor those changes.

Arguments Against:
[1] This bylaw change will add to the workload of the Faculty Senate through the addition of another standing committee.

[2] This bylaw change may have the unintended effect of removing individual responsibility for the bylaws that each senator should now feel.

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