The Faculty Senate meeting held on March 25, 2008, in MSU 208 B/C was called to order by Senate Chair Bryan Spangelo at 12:15 p.m.


Single Meeting Proxies: Gary Larson for Greg Borchard; Elaine Bunker for David Dickens; Giuseppe Natale for Kenneth Fernandez; John Filler for Kendall Hartley; Wolf Bein for Samir Moujaes; David Pinella for Matt Pedersen; Al Izzolo for Ken Teeters; Shannon Sumpter for Ralph Stern.

Absent: Ernesto Abel-Santos, Peter Bayer, Cyndi Giorgis, Mary Warner, Matthew Wright.

The Senate meeting was called to order by Chair Spangelo. Senior Senators are reminded to continue their college elections and notify the Senate office of the results. Special Hearing Committee nominees are still being accepted. These will be voted on at the Senate meeting on April 22nd.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for January 22nd and February 19th, 2008, by Senator Bein, seconded by Senator Klaassen. The motion was approved unanimously.

Senator Davenport, seconded by Senator Klaassen, moved to approve by acclamation the following non-opposed individuals for the 2008-2009 Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.

Vice Chair Senator John Filler
At Large Senator Kendall Hartley
At Large Senator Paul Thistle
Secretary Senator Elaine Bunker

Senator Hensley and Senator Burns were both nominated for the Executive Committee prostaff representative. The Senate held a secret ballot vote for the one Prostaff position on the Executive Committee. Ballots were tallied, Senator Phil Burns had the majority of the votes to assume the vacancy.

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Michael Bowers made an announcement regarding upcoming Accreditation team visits to alert faculty early on. A Steering Committee is already being formed and will be comprised of Vice Chair Daneshvary, many faculty, classified, prostaff, and others. A self study will be written in 2009, with finishing the accreditation in 2010. Senator Nicol asked a question about preparing for accreditation for programs in Singapore and Dubai. Basically, the Provost will be making sure the programs are the same in both places. It will take a lot of cooperation to get through the accreditation process.

Next on the agenda was a very extensive report from Senator Filler from the Campus Affairs Committee charged with evaluating the preparedness of UNLV in the event of a shooting event on campus. His committee evaluated reports, conducted surveys, statistics, interviews, and read articles to come up with a counter proposal to arming faculty with guns. They separated comments into 3 groups: Preparedness/Prevention, Response, and Follow up. Using these groups, they came up with 10 recommendations. It seems the alert system or reverse 911 is probably the most urgent. Senator Aizley,
seconded by Senator Schibrowsky, moved to support the Campus Affairs report. It was approved by 36 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention. The full report is available on the Faculty Senate website.

Information:

After several weeks of reviewing the Planning Document, suggesting changes, and discussion, Senator Filler, seconded by Senator Wrobel, moved to approve the following Sense of the Senate. It was approved by a vote of 36 yeas, and 2 abstentions.

Background:

The Focus: 50 to 100 Planning Document is submitted to the Faculty Senate following a series of university “town hall” meetings and a planning retreat.

Sense of the Senate:

“It is the Sense of the UNLV Faculty Senate that the 2007-2008 Focus: 50 to 100 Planning Document represents the time and commitment of many faculty and administrative staff. The Senate supports in principle the statements found in Part 1 (Identity and Values), Part 2 (Education), Part 3 (Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activity), and Part 4 (Infrastructure). While the Senate endorses this initial plan, we ask that the university administration continues to identify existing centers of excellence and utilizes faculty expertise in the implementation of the plan including its assessment through the development of clearly defined benchmarks.”

Action items:

A. NSHE Title 2, Section 5.13.2 revisions

1. Annual Performance Evaluation of Tenured Faculty – this item will remain tabled until General Counsel suggestions can be reviewed

B. UNLV Bylaws, Chapter III, Sections 16.4 & 16.5 revisions

1. Guidelines for Promotion or Appointment to Academic Rank for Academic Faculty

Senator Bein moved to approve this amendment, seconded by Senator Nicol. This then opened it to discussion. Senators Albert, Fried, Schibrowsky, Nicol, Aizley, Davenport, Robinson, and Fabbi to name but a few, had a lively discussion regarding the various aspects of the bylaw revision. Even Vice Provost Bowers offered suggestions. Senator Aizley, seconded by Senator Davenport, moved to change the minimum number of solicited letters to 4. Additionally, a friendly amendment was made to allow 2 letters from names suggested by the candidate + 2 names not suggested by the candidate. This amendment in regard to the letters was approved by a vote of 32 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention.

Senator Fabbi made a motion, seconded by Senator Nicol, to change the word “solicit” to “obtain” in both sections, as well as asking for only solicited letters to be forwarded by departments. This motion passed unanimously. The entire bylaw was then called to a vote. It was approved by a vote of 34 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. If approved by the Board of Regents, this bylaw change will become effective in Fall 09 and will also apply to FIRs.

Additions are underlined/Deletions are in [brackets]

16.4 Associate Professor.

3. Continuing satisfactory productivity in creative or research activity with due recognition for the different forms such productivity may take in the various [disciplines] disciplines. Review of such productivity shall include the use of external referees. The use of external referees shall be governed by the following regulations.
(a) For promotion to associate professor, the department will obtain not less than four letters from outside the university. At least two of these shall be from persons drawn from a list of names suggested by the candidate, and at least two shall be from persons not suggested by the candidate.

(b) All letters which departments solicit must be forwarded with the recommendation regarding promotion.

16.5 Professor

3. Continuing satisfactory productivity in creative or research activity, resulting in significant contributions to the discipline. Due recognition shall be given to the different forms such productivity may take in the various disciplines. [At the discretion of each academic unit, it is recommended that] Review of this productivity shall include the use of external referees. The use of external referees shall be governed by the following regulations.

(a) For promotion to professor the department will [solicit] obtain not less than four letters from outside the university. At least two of these shall be from persons drawn from a list of names suggested by the candidate, and at least two shall be from persons not suggested by the candidate.

[(b) There will be no restrictions on relationships between candidates and referees.]

[(c) Individuals shall always have the option of having their departments solicit letters from external referees for any promotion decision.]

[(d)] (b) All letters which departments solicit must be forwarded with the recommendation regarding promotion.

New Business

Senator Nicol speaking on behalf of the entire Senate thanked outgoing Chair Spangelo for an outstanding year of service to UNLV and its faculty.

Chair Spangelo thanked his Executive Committee for all their invaluable help during the past year.

Senator Bein moved for adjournment at 1:30 p.m. The next scheduled Senate meeting will be April 22, 2008, in the MSU 208B/C. This will be the first meeting of the 2008-2009 Faculty Senate with incoming Chair Nasser Daneshvary.