UNLV 2009-2010 First Faculty Senate Minutes
April 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by new Senate Chair John Filler at 12:20 p.m. in the Student Union, room 208 AB.


Single Meeting Proxies: Matt Pedersen for Aly Said; Matthew Wright for Peter Bayer, Andrew Bell for Gregory Brown; Patrick Carlton for Michael Nussbaum; Phil Burns for Kathy Lauckner; Mary Kay Orzill for Clemens Heske; Margot Mink Colbert for Mary Warner; Carl Gates for Mike Wilde; Jennifer Fabbi for Cory Tucker; Cheryl Tillotson for Denise Tanata.

Absent: Peter Jakubowski, Cecilia Maldonado, Eduardo Robleto. Caroline Smith, excused.

The Senate Chair asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Dr. Fred Preston, Dept. of Sociology, who was a 30 year member of the UNLV faculty.

There being no corrections to the minutes of March 24, Chair Filler declared them approved unanimously.

President Ashley spoke briefly about the funding expected on several building projects previously not approved. It is hoped that the legislature will be able to have a final budget by May 8th. There has been no new-found money or significant revenue sources identified. President Ashley felt that the 6% salary reduction may not happen. The overall budget cut formula is flawed and should be looked at more as a campus by campus allocation. He felt it more likely that furloughs might be possible. Significant reductions for PEBP retirees may happen at a later date.

Provost Smatresk welcomed new senators and thanked the prior senate leadership for all that was done. He stated that he is categorically opposed to benefit cuts and pay reduction.

Speakers: none

Future Action Items: none

Action items:

1) Faculty Senate Bylaw Revision
   Faculty Senate Graduate Curriculum Liaison Committee
   Section 5.0 Article 5: Committees
   Section 6.0 Article 6: Functions of Standing Committees

Senator Spangelo moved, seconded by Senator Gelfer, to approve the bylaw revision. Senator Bell moved, seconded by Senator Burns, to remove the word “perspective” in section 6.20.1 and “and present
it” in section 6.20.2. A vote was taken and the original motion was amended. By a vote of 23 yeas, to 9 nays, the original motion was approved.

2) UNLV Bylaw Revision
Title 5, Chapter 6, Chapter III
16.6 Time Period for Promotion Recommendations

Senator Schibrowsky moved to approve the motion, seconded by Senator Carlton. After some discussion, Senator Bein moved to change section C to “sixth” year in rank. The motion was seconded by Senator Schibrowsky. The amendment was approved by a vote of 34 yeas, 1 nay.

Senator Abel-Santos moved to restore the stricken part of part C about Associate professors. It was seconded by Senator Hensley. Much discussion followed about why some may wish to delay longer than eight years. It was felt it should be up to the faculty member. By a vote of 29 the question was called. By a vote of 2 to restore, and the remainder opposed, the amendment was not approved.

Senator Spangelo made a motion to postpone the vote on this amendment until August to discuss what “exceptional” means. Senator Fabbi seconded the motion based on the fact that other issues need to be discussed in addition to scholarship. By a vote of 29 yeas, 5 nays, the vote on the amendment was postponed until August. The Provost added a comment that the faculty member is the one who ultimately decides when he/she will go up.

Committee Reports:

- Senator Spangelo gave a presentation on the Promotion and Tenure committee’s hard work for the semester. In addition to nearly all of the committee recommendations being approved by the Provost, including two that the committee had denied, the committee was able to make a list of some thirty recommendations to help standardize and clarify the process across campus.

- Senator Thistle briefed the Senate on the charges his committee oversaw for the semester. They investigated possible reduction in rate for faculty/staff children enrolled in preschool. It was decided that such fee reduction would not be in anyone’s best interest due to accreditation and funding issues. The Fiscal Affairs committee also presented its annual Merit Report for awards given 2008. Overall, 75% of University employees received merit increase, 76% received a discretionary increase. Approx. the same percentage of Executive and Academic faculty (82 and 81 percent) received merit increases, while 70 percent of Professional Staff received merit increases. Additionally, a Health Care Cost Containment Committee is still working on the feasibility of a wellness program at UNLV.

- Senator Richards once again enlightened the Senate on the success of the Admissions committee alternative admits criteria and process. What began as an experiment has now proven to have a retention rate of 90%, which is better than students admitted under normal admission criteria. It shows that the individualized mechanisms used to evaluate these students appear to select for success. However, the support programs for these students are also invaluable.

- Senator Schibrowsky gave a brief yet to the point report about the heavy workload of his Curriculum Committee. They evaluated 43 courses in the Fall 08 semester, and anticipate looking at 60-80 more courses on April 30th. It takes a precise regime to cooperation to get that many done in a short time. Additionally, he stated that his committee absorbed the former New Undergraduate Program committee as approved by the Senate.
**New Business:**

The Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes policy document is still being read by past chair Daneshvary who will inform the Executive Committee. He reminded the Senate that the President can proceed with the policy without Senate endorsement. Chair Filler said he will bring it to the Senate in its final form for input and/or endorsement.

**Announcements:**

- A Promotion & Tenure workshop will be held on Thursday, April 16, in SU 219 at 12:30 p.m.
- The 2009 Faculty Recognition & Award Ceremony will be April 23rd in Ham Hall at 4:00 p.m.
- Commencement will be May 9, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- The next Board of Regents meeting will be June 18 and 19 at the DRI here in Las Vegas.
- The Faculty Senate retreat will be held on August 18, 2009, at the Stan Fulton Bldg.
- April 22nd Asia-Pacific Asian-American Conference will be held in SU 208.
- The Special Hearing Panel election is postponed until the retreat due to insufficient nominees.
- April is National Organ Donor Awareness month. If interested in additional information, contact Phil Burns.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. so that all could attend the reception for immediate past chair Daneshvary to be held in SU room 213. The next official meeting of the Senate will be the annual Retreat August 18, 2009, in the Stan Fulton Bldg. Details available on the Senate website.