UNLV 2010-2011 Faculty Senate Retreat Minutes  
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Following a tasty buffet-style breakfast, the annual Faculty Senate Retreat was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Maldonado in Student Union rooms 208-BC.


Single Meeting Proxies: Anne Stevenson for Andrew Bell; Al Izzolo for Bernie Fried; Karl Kingsley for Marcia Ditmyer; Aly Said for Wolfgang Bein; Mary Kay Orgill for Clemens Heske; Peter Jakubowski for Margot Mink Colbert; Michael Nussbaum for Rebecca Nathanson (long term proxy). Absent: Eduardo Robleto-excused, Matt Pedersen-out of country.

Chair Maldonado welcomed senators, UNLV President and cabinet, Senate committee chairs, speakers, invited guests and visitors. Senators introduced themselves and Senior Senators were recognized. A motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 14 and May 4 was made by Senator Spangelo, seconded by Senator Traudt, and were approved unanimously with changes requested by Senator Spangelo and Senator Hatchett. (Revised minutes were sent via email.)

Chair Maldonado showed a detailed powerpoint presentation on the fundamentals of the Senate, its Executive Committee; the process and procedures for an amendment or bylaw change; the many Senate committees and functions; essentials of unit representation and duties of Senior Senators. In addition, everyone was encouraged to become familiar with the Senate bylaws and university bylaws or “Code” and the importance of Roberts Rules of Order.

Dr. Michael Bowers, Executive Vice President and Provost, welcomed everyone to a new academic term and briefed the Senate on the recently completed accreditation process, which was mostly commendations except for two needs improvement recommendations in areas of assessments and resources to meet our research mission. Dr. Bowers also spoke to the reorganization of several departments and the assistance through HR to help place those untenured and prostaff who had been given notice. The consensus was that fall enrollment was down, but exact figures were not available yet from Dr. Juanita Fain, VP for Planning.

President Neal Smatresk spoke to the Senators and was very positive in his encouragement that there are still tough times ahead, but that working together, our institution will emerge as a “quality institution”. This is to be achieved by minimizing the impact of budget cuts as much as possible, keeping quality faculty, and working with the Board of Regents and legislature. In addition, we have to be an integral part of the community. Already UNLV brings approximately $1 billion into the economy. We have to emphasize this to those who are unaware of our value.
This cannot be accomplished without the sacrifice of the university faculty and staff, and looking to the future implementing changes in the funding formula and new revenue sources.

Senator Greg Brown was the next speaker as a rep from NFA to inform the Senate of changes brewing with regard to PEBP. A meeting of the PEBP is scheduled for September 2nd, telecast at the Sawyer Bldg on Washington. Everyone is encouraged to attend and express their concerns. The governor had called for reduction of PEBP budget, and the board is trying to reach that goal by eliminating or making drastic changes in the medical plans.

Senator Pat LaPutt then spoke to some of the changes that the PEBP are considering, such as reducing the subsidy, reducing vision coverage except for eye exam, increasing HMO rates, deductibles, etc. Premium changes have not been set yet. She will apprise everyone as it happens.

Action Items: none

Reports: Scholarship Committee chair Kathy Lauckner gave an excellent report on the amount of scholarships distributed to UNLV students, explaining how they are able to stack funds so that students don’t receive too small an amount. A total of $501,333 was distributed this year.

Graduate Liaisons Committee Chair Jack Schibrowsky gave a follow up report from all of the graduate college committees. Many of the committees had held no meetings, but several had. He allowed the members of those committees to brief the senate themselves.

Future Action Items: Academic Calendar 2012-2013 prepared by Registrar James Garrison.

New Business: none

Adjournment A motion was made by Senator Larson, seconded by Senator Frink, to adjourn Retreat at Noon. The next meeting is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. September 14, 2010, SU, Rooms 208-BC.