The meeting was called to order by Senate Chair John Filler at 9:00 a.m. in Student Union, room 208 BC following a tasty continental breakfast that began at 8:30 a.m.


Single Meeting Proxies: David Hatchett for Wolf Bein; Janice Klaassen for George Pales; Cheryl Tillotson for Kathy Lauckner.

Absent: Bernard Fried, Al Izzolo, Rebecca Nathanson, Matt Pederson, and Bryan Spangelo.

Opening remarks, welcome and recognition was extended by Chair Filler to distinguished guests (President Smatresk and several cabinet members), student leadership (Undergrad and Grad Student Body Presidents), Senate leadership (Executive Committee, Senate office staff, Senate committee chairs, Jim Lowe, NSHE System Administration Faculty Senate Chair, and invited guests present. Self-introductions were solicited table by table so that all Senators introduced themselves by name and college.

Minutes for April 14, 2009, and Special Senate Meeting of May 19, 2009, were approved unanimously without correction. The minutes of July 14, 2009, were approved unanimously with the following correction: “Chancellor Klaich and chair of the Board of Regents Leavitt stated that their first priority would be to adjust or correct the funding formula for UNLV”.

Speakers:

Chair Filler introduced our new President by sharing an anecdote that President Smatresk had told him “first and foremost I am a faculty member”. President Smatresk spoke briefly about how hard the 14.6% budget cuts have hit UNLV. Now it is time to return to normal and things that matter most: giving our students a wonderful education and the faculty returning to their important research. The President promises an open door policy and to work closely with the Senate Executive Committee and student leadership to meet challenges in order to move forward. Nonacademic units have taken double the budget cuts that academic units did. Luckily, cuts started two years ago in budget reductions which soften the blow. Only two areas are discretionary: who we hire and PTIs. We have had 30% cut in part time budgets. Searches have been limited. This year there is money for only 7-10 hires for the entire university. The rest of money has to go to part time hires in order to meet the enrollment demand. Deans have been given accountability for their own PTI budgets. 100 faculty have been lost; 250 in support staff. Registration is up 2%; transfers are up 7%; retention is up – good news, which may be economy driven.

UNLV is on a path to economic diversification. August 26 a $14 mil gift announcement will be made directly impacting faculty growth. Additionally, September 8th an internationally known think tank will announce its UNLV partnership which will also increase our scholarly growth and recognition. This will improve our research identity, perhaps making us a Harvard of the desert. President prefers we create
our own niche, especially important in the next legislative session. UNLV expects to grow in graduate education. The state has to invest in the jobs for which our institution provides skilled employees. However, more funding is needed. If one student is added in nursing, we are unable to fund 2-3 students in liberal arts. Next year will be lean, but optimistic. The President in response to a question stated that reallocation of resources will be transparent, but not contentious. It is critical that some programs be combined or deleted by next legislative session. All colleges are working toward that end.

President Smatresk announced that Dr. Michael Bowers will assume duties as Interim Executive Vice President and Provost until a search can be funded and organized. He also stated that Jerry Koloskie is the Interim Athletic Director until a search can be done. Senator Burns asked if we should again contact our legislators regarding budget cuts. The President said yes, however, not yet. It is no longer a north/south issue or an equity issue. We have to find a higher ground regarding a better plan.

Announcements:

1. Submit Academic Faculty nominations for election to the UNLV Parking Committee. It’s a 3 yr term, with four faculty reps and four administrative faculty reps serving in staggered terms.

2. There are still two Senate seats vacant: one Administrative Faculty (Athletic) Senator and one Law School Senator. Additionally, there are some vacancies on committees to be filled.

3. Tina Saddler, Director of the Student Health Center, updated the Senate about the H1N1 flu. Currently, the strain has not mutated. She explained that a very limited supply of regular flu vaccine will be available in October ($15) for students, staff and faculty as well as a pneumonia vaccine ($48) offered for the first time. The CDC has indicated child care workers, pregnant women and young children are most at risk. Everyone needs to take precautions by washing hands, covering their mouths, and stay home for 24 hours after the fever is gone. If a pandemic happens, emergency guidelines are on their UNLV website.

4. Vice Chair Maldonado announced that she has been active on the Registrar Search Committee. An open forum will be held on August 27th from 4:00 – 4:50 p.m. in the Student Union. All are invited.

Report: from Vice Chair Maldonado with intro from Chair Filler

Review of Hate Crimes Bias/Incidents Policy:

- On eve of April 13, the then Chair rec’d copy of policy to go to BoR on April 15.
- On April 14, Chair Filler, asked Pres. Ashley to delay moving forward to allow faculty to discuss. Pres. wanted it in place by July 1, but would welcome comments to him. He received MANY.
- On May 21, President Ashley withdrew the Hate Crimes portion of the policy.
- Dr. Ashley appointed a Hate Crimes bias task force consisting of: Dr. Juanita Fain, Richard Linstrom, VP for Diversity Christine Clark, and Dr. Cecilia Maldonado to rework the policy. That new policy was approved by BOR and adopted by UNLV in June, 2009.

Out of this a new task force emerged and a charge made to the Senate Academic Freedom and Ethics Committee. An ad hoc task force was created “Fostering a Community of Civility”. Vice Chair Maldonado chairs that task force and is requesting anyone interested in participating to contact her.

Action item:

UNLV Bylaw Revision
Title 5, Chapter 6, Chapter III
16.6 Time Periods for Promotion Recommendations

C. An associate professor may be considered for promotion any time would normally not be considered for promotion prior to their sixth year in rank but may be considered earlier
in very exceptional circumstances. The full professor rank requires evidence of significant additional teaching, scholarship and service since the previous promotion which cannot generally occur in a lesser time period. And Associate professors must be considered for promotion after a period of not more than eight years in this rank.

This bylaw revision vote had been postponed since April, 2009, to allow further discussion. Senator Richards moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Senator Gelfer. Senator Schibrowsky moved to amend the motion, seconded by Senator Ginn, by inserting the words “excellence in teaching and service” along with “scholarship” in Section C. Campus Affairs Committee Chair Robinson stated that may not be pertinent to those who do not have scholarship, such as FIRs, or those in Hotel who do not have research responsibilities. Senator Richards pointed out that similar references are made elsewhere in Section 16. Discussion continued on about substituting the word “sustained” for the word “excellence”, which would have been an amendment to the amendment. However, Senator Brown, seconded by Senator Frink moved to amend. That amendment failed unanimously. Chair Filler stated that since it was now back to the original motion it obviously needed work. Chair Filler sent it to the P&T Committee for further investigation including consideration of the effects on FIRs.

Reports:

Senator Bayer (Academic Freedom and Ethics Committee) gave a bulleted summary report on recent academic freedom judicial decisions. Adoption of some bylaw amendments to protect faculty from non-cause arbitrary and retaliatory treatment is urged.

General Counsel Linstrom made remarks in regard to assuring academic freedom and protection for UNLV employees; however, he cautioned that administrators often have to be held to a different standard. Chair Filler mentioned that in his capacity as Chair of the NSHE Council of Chairs he is referring two individuals (Kathy Robins and Gerald Landrum) to AFE and General Council to discuss any upcoming code changes.

PowerPoint Presentation

Chair Filler gave a traditional presentation for new and returning Senators listing duties, responsibilities, and Senate process and procedures for passing an amendment or bylaw change. He explained how important it was for everyone to be familiar with the “Code” and the Senate Bylaws, and the importance of unit representation.

New Business:

Senator Lauckner will now be the “Senior” At Large Senator. Previously the At Large Senators had no “Senior” Senator.

Future Action Items:

To revise a current amendment requiring the appointing authority to also consult with faculty prior to appointing acting or interim deans, and associate/assistant deans.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at Noon after a very busy meeting. The next meeting of the Senate will be the September 22, 2009, in the Student Union 208 AB. This will no doubt be a summary of BoR activity the week prior.