Faculty Senate Retreat  
August 23, 2005


Proxies: Boyd Earl, Judith Grotts, Samir Moujaes

Special guests: UNLV President Carol C. Harter; Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Ray Alden; Assoc. Vice President for Administration Dr. Michael Sauer; Assoc. Vice President for Human Resources and Diversity Mr. Sam Connally; Assoc. Vice Provost for Academic Resources Dr. Dawn Neuman; Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Dr. Michael Bowers; Academic Affairs Policy Officer Dr. Barbara Williams-Rollings; Kristene Fisher; Janet Gustafson; several Chairs of Faculty Senate Committees; Saundra Pratt and Marion Sumners, Faculty Senate office.

An 8 AM continental breakfast kicked off the Faculty Senate Retreat meeting, held in the Green Room of the Ham Concert Hall. Guests enjoyed mingling and getting acquainted with invited guests and returning Senators until the meeting was called to order by 2005-06 Faculty Senate Chair, Clint Richards, at 8:30 AM.

Dr. Richards first recognized a special invited guest, University President Dr. Carol C. Harter, who graciously addressed the returning Senate, elaborating on her Capital Campaign past and present. Dr. Harter enlightened the Senate as to the difficulties and importance of raising private donor dollars over the nearly 50 year history of UNLV. She explained the absolute necessity of those dollars to the growth of the university, especially in light of the on-going disparity and continual inequity gap of legislative dollars assigned between UNR and UNLV.

Some good news is that indirect cost recovery expense for the next biennium will be used for lab renovation and startup packages. It has become imperative to find donor dollars to support not only new building expansion. There also exists various campus naming opportunities, chair and research endowments, and scholarship funds to mention a few additional options for donors to choose. The university can no longer rely on the State alone to fund its growth, nor provide funds to ensure its competitive rank with other institutes of his size.

Dr. Harter also discussed that she is supportive of Domestic Partner benefits and hoped the Senate would pass appropriate wording on to the Board of Regents. She also touched on the fact that in order to increase the quality of students at UNLV, the admission GPA to UNLV would be increased to 3.0 by the year 2007. This will
encourage students with lower GPAs to attend NV State or CCSN. Even with a higher GPA standard, our enrollment will soon be 29,000, and by the year 2010 will be near 35,000. All Dr. Harter’s comments were appreciated and met with great enthusiasm by the Senate audience.

Following Dr. Harter’s remarks, Dr. Richards welcomed other invited guests and asked the Senate to especially recognize and thank the “Senate Summer Crisis Team” composed of special UNLV administrators and employees such as Vice Provosts Michael Bowers, Dawn Neuman, Kristene Fisher, Janet Gustafson, Gina Strebel, Marion Sumner, Margie Wells, and others who worked diligently giving of their time and finances to put the Faculty Senate office in shape over the summer months and following the retirement of Donna Kelly, long time Senate Program Officer. He remarked that the Senate should be especially appreciative to these individuals for all their hard work and support. Dr. Richards also introduced new Senate office employee Saundra Pratt, who has been hired to replace Ms. Kelly as Program Officer. Ms. Pratt has worked on the campus for over 12 ½ years, most recently in the Dean’s office in the College of Urban Affairs.

Dr. Richards then introduced Executive Vice President and Provost Ray Alden who discussed the various new academic programs, campuses, internal reorganizations, and major accreditation visits that took place this past year. Dr. Alden also updated the Senate on the upgraded classrooms on campus, the new building constructions, stipends for faculty chairs and administrators, computer replacement program, replacement of Ham Hall seating, and startup packages of $1.3 mil for new faculty. He also touched on additional funds that were provided to the TLC, improved Distance Ed and Distance Outreach, Professional Development and Sabbatical leave requests doubled last year, improved OIT wireless and spam resources addressed, and increased dollars to the Faculty Senate itself. Dr. Alden additionally addressed salaries, land management issues, workload task force, issues that faced ad hoc committees during the year, new strategies for the future, and planning and space needs for regional campus issues.

Next guest speaker was Mr. Sam Connally from UNLV’s Human Resource and Diversity department. Mr. Connally told the Senate that HR will look at professional salaries during the upcoming year. Some language may be updated in regard to sexual discrimination policy. There seemed to be no retirement issues at this time with professional staff. Mr. Connally said that he was surprised to find out that the Faculty Senate at UNR was dissatisfied with their leadership. He wondered at what the difference was between UNLV and UNR in how this was handled as UNLV does not seem to have this same mistrust of its administrators.

The next introduced guest speaker was Dr. Michael Sauer, Assoc. Vice President for Administration, who had the unenviable task of explaining how parking was going to be handled with school about to start the following Monday. There is a new shuttle service to start called “The Ride”. There are 5 buses to circle campus. There is a shortage of about 1500 parking spaces on campus. It is hoped that The Ride will help alleviate some of the unhappy students and faculty/staff drivers. They are trying to find more
employees to drive the buses as they are not at full service yet. They are screening closely. Dr. Sauer explained the new parking structures being built over the next few years and how they will impact the campus. Some Senators had questions about students parking in faculty parking spaces. Dr. Sauer tried to answer those questions, and some suggestions were made on how to handle tickets.

Following this last speaker, Dr. Richards asked for approval of the minutes from the April 19, 2005 Faculty Senate meeting. There was a motion to pass and seconded.

Dr. Richards asked for all the new committee chairs to stand and be recognized. Then he gave a brief slide show presentation on the Faculty Senate and the Senator’s Responsibilities. He indicated that the slide presentation will also be posted to the Faculty Senate website soon.

After the presentation, the Senate took a brief 10-minute break.

Following the break, past Senate chair, Jane McCarthy, gave a handout “The Way We Were”, a PowerPoint presentation, and a brief discussion of the highlights of her Presidency during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Dr. Richards then gave a brief run down of Senate activities over the 2005 Summer and the Board of Regents issues.

New Business/Future Action items:
1) Standardization of common-numbered courses across NSHE institutions
2) Domestic Partner Benefits
3) Recommendations on College Bylaws
4) Academic Freedom and Ethics Committee and Hearing Bylaws
5) Call for nominees for Special Hearing Panel

Noon – Closing Remarks
Adjournment