UNLV 2007-2008 Faculty Senate Minutes
September 18, 2007

A regular Faculty Senate meeting was held on September 18, 2007, in MSU 208 A/B. The meeting was called to order by Senate Chair Bryan Spangelo at 12:15 p.m.


Single Meeting Proxies: C. Rabb for Bernard Fried; Andrew Cornelius for Malcolm Nicol; Al Izzolo for Ken Teeters; Peter Bayer for Matthew Wright.

Absent: Dennis Bazylinski; Phil Burns; Kenneth Fernandez; Helene Jackson.

Chair Spangelo announced that those Senators who did not attend Retreat should stop and pick up their tote bag with work binder. Additionally, a confidentially form and committee representation form should be signed by new and returning Senators. It was also announced that Faculty Development Leave and Sabbatical Leave applications are due in the Faculty Senate office (FDH 220) by noon on October 5th. ProStaff have until January to apply for Institutional Leave. September 25th kicks off the Planning Process for this year by the Provost in the Student Union Ballroom. It will be an all day event with panel discussions in the afternoon. Plan on attending all or part of the day’s events.

Information

A. Late Enrollment Policy – a policy has been approved through Student Enrollment, without Senate approval, that the Registrar’s office will allow students to enroll in a class (with administrative permission) up until the end of the 3 week of classes, or may petition Academic Standards Committee until the 5th week of classes, which would require permission of the instructor.

B. Policy Change for Independent Study credits in the summer – last year the Senate considered a policy to allow the unit to decide whether or not to pay for IS credits. These monies might go to a research account or to money in the instructor’s paycheck. This will be coming forward again.

C. Report on Personal Response Systems (i.e. Clickers)
   1. Working Group Recommendations – The Teaching and Learning Committee was charged with investigating this for the Provost office. The chair of the committee was Patrick Griffis. Any additional responses from faculty should be submitted by Monday, September 24th. The full report may be accessed at this website: http://provost.unlv.edu/committees/CCTL/PRS_report.pdf

Action items:

A. Approval of Academic Calendars for 08-09 and 09-10. This item had been held over from the Fall Retreat as that UNLV Registrar Cem Sunata could make an additional change to the weeks between semesters. Senator Filler, seconded by Senator Wrobel, moved to approve both Academic Calendars. A hand vote was counted and the motion passed unanimously. Past Chair Robinson reminded Senators that the Academic Calendar issue will have to be revisited in about 5 years (2013) when the weeks between semesters will once again be out of synch.

B. Latin Designations Policy – Senator Sikula once again presented compelling documentation and comparisons in favor of standardizing the current Latin Designations policy. If approved it would increase the number of students who could qualify for honors designation. Some colleges already require students to also be in Honors College. That would not change. Senator Filler moved to approve the motion, seconded by Senator Aizley. The motion failed by a nay vote of 23 to 16 yeas.
Future Action Items:

A. Faculty Senate Bylaw Change (Section 5, Article 5.6) - to allow Senate chair to appoint committee chairs in collaboration with the Executive committee
B. College Bylaw Committees – proposed change regarding updating college Bylaws

Sense of the Senate

Faculty and Guns – Chair Spangelo emphasized that the overwhelming response from the UNLV campus was not in favor of arming its faculty and staff or sending employees to reserve officer training programs. Senator Filler enlightened the Senate on a report done on violence by the University of Virginia. Since 1966-2007 of 40 major acts of violence, only 9 took place on a university campus. Senators discussed how training faculty/staff would impact our already hemorrhaging budget. Senator Robinson suggested we invite the UNLV Police Chief to come speak to the Senate again.

Senator Lauckner moved to approve the Sense of the Senate; it was seconded by Senator Tylo. After a lengthy discussion, the motion was passed by a vote of 39 yeas, 0 nays, and 3 abstentions. Chair Spangelo will pass this on to the Board of Regents at their October meeting.

“It is the Sense of the Faculty Senate of UNLV that a Regent’s Handbook revision that would create an option for NSHE faculty and staff to participate in a Reserve Peace Officer Program should not be enacted due to potential unintended consequences including (1) jeopardizing the mission of the NSHE by altering the role of faculty and staff; (2) compromising the ability of faculty and staff to serve in their primary roles; (3) unsound economic outcomes; and, (4) inefficient use of resources to forestall the threat of on-campus violence.”

New Business

Senator Bayer would like the Sense of the Senate to be accompanied by a document he composed. Senator Robinson suggested that Chair Spangelo might want to take it with him to the BOR meeting in case it is needed. There seemed to be no objection.

Senator Schibrowsky moved to adjourn at 1:45 p.m. The next scheduled Senate meeting will be October 9, 2007, in the MSU 208B/C.