UNLV 2009-2010 Faculty Senate Minutes  
Tuesday, September 22, 2009

A regular meeting of the Senate was called to order by Chair John Filler at 12:15 p.m. in Student Union, room 208-AB.


Single Meeting Proxies: Greg Brown for Andrew Bell; Elaine Bunker for Liam Frink; Shellie Brattain for Kathy Lauckner; MaryKay Orgill for Bryan Spangelo; Janice Klaassen for Sally Miller; Cheryl Tillotson for Carolyn Hensley; Gary Larson for Paul Traudt.

Absent: Shannon Smith, Mike Wilde (excused)

Minutes from the Senate Retreat of August 19th were approved unanimously. Several Senators had asked for the P&T Committee to bring the Time in Rank motion back to the Senate as a future action item in October. Two new Senators were announced and welcomed: Senator Sara Gordon (LAW) and Senator Bill Brady (Athletics – Adm Faculty). Senator Brady will be in attendance in October.

Speaker:

President Smatresk was welcomed by Chair Filler as guest speaker. The President thanked the Senate for its support and cooperativeness of the past year and is encouraged by what will continue to be an important relationship in the upcoming year(s). We are not out of the woods yet. While some crises have been met already, there are others looming. It will take a concerted effort of working together to make sure UNLV’s commitment to education and research, to its faculty and staff, is a top priority as budget restrictions and furloughs cut into our resources. The good news is that UNLV planned ahead on many of the budget constraints which allowed early belt tightening.

With wise planning and partnering with community and national resources, such as the Brookings Institute and Lincy Foundation, UNLV is still able to bring prestigious research to the community despite lean times. It will be necessary to work with the legislature to adjust the funding formula. Currently, because of clinical programs the community colleges are better funded. However, the President is committed to 1) no more cuts to UNLV, and 2) protecting the base budget in the next biennium. The funding formula needs to be redone to support our research mission: what works for the community colleges does not work for UNLV.

The JET committee will begin this week looking at what can be preserved in core programs and activities. The Promotion and Tenure process also continues to improvement with consistency. Provost Bowers stated that all information about the JET will be posted on a link on the Provost website. A list of items that have been cut are very transparent as well as items that may be threatened. Additional questions may be routed through Senate Vice Chair Maldonado who is Co-Chair of the JET committee.
Announcements:

1. Chair Filler gave a brief synopsis of the recent Board of Regents mtg in Elko. A new Regent is seated – Dr. Andrea Anderson. UNLV Dental School Family Practice plan was approved. Honorary doctorates from UNLV for Kirk Kerkorian and Irwin Molasky were approved. Lon Kruger’s contract approved. The Mountain West Brookings Initiative director Dr. Robert Lang’s first year salary was approved from nonstate funds. Bart Patterson, NSHE Special Counsel, introduced a list of items in the appendix to the BOR agenda which he proposed to remove from BOR approval to Chancellor approval. One of these is tenure. Chair Filler suggested Senators look this list over and email him comments.

2. Senate Reps appointed to the Graduate College Committees were announced by the Chair:
   - Curriculum - Jack Schibrowsky
   - Program Review - Clemens Heske
   - New Programs - George Pales
   - Faculty & Student Issues - Greg Brown
   - Professional Development - Mary Riddle
   - Graduate Student Funding – Ernest Abel-Santos

Responsibilities of this Liaison committee are: 1) participate in graduate college committees representing the Faculty Senate; provide a written report and present to the Faculty Senate at the end of each semester; 2) make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding general issues related to graduate programs as requested by the Chair, Exec Comm., or Senate; and 4) make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding any issues not specifically charged to any other Senate committee.

3. The Graduate Programs Liaison Committee Chair will be selected from the above appointees by the Executive Committee in the near future.

4. Senior Senators Council will be holding their first meeting on September 28, 2009.

5. Chair Filler and UNR Senate Chair Elliott Parker will travel to each other’s senate meetings.

Report: from Past Chair of Fiscal Affairs Committee Paul Thistle – HCQBCC (Health Care Cost Containment Committee)

In response to a charge from the Executive Committee in November 2008, this ad hoc subcommittee of the Fiscal Affairs committee came up a three part plan in regard to proposed state cuts:

1. The first was a Sense of the Senate passed January 20, 2009: benefit cuts are short-lived
2. Recommended change in benefits: split from PEBP. If the actuarial reports come back as expected, it would cost 20% less to go on our own insurance plan. However, this would need NSHE/state approval.
3. Development of wellness related programs at UNLV for staff and employees. A web page listing these should be made available to employees to help make lifestyle choices, improve well-being and health. It is reasonable to expect for every $1 invested, it will return $3-$6, in reduced absenteeism and illness.

The President said that he agreed a modest amount of money would be well spent. Dr. Thistle recommended oversight of these programs by the Senate.

Elections:

- Joe Aldridge (FA-Theatre) was elected by ballot from a list of nominees to assume a 2 year term on the UNLV Parking Advisory Committee.

- Senators elected 35 individuals to a one year term from a list of nominees agreeing to serve on the Special Hearing Committee. Those elected are: Larry Ashley-EDU, Elizabeth Baldizan-Provost, Harriet Barlow-Grad College, Felicia Campbell-LA, Patrick Carlton-EDU, Robert Chatfield-BUS, Christine Clark-EDU, Margot Mink Colbert-FA, Jesus Garcia-EDU, Rosalie Garcia-TMC, Joseph Gilbert-BUS, Shelley Heaton-LIB, Kathy Lauckner-HRC, Barbara Luke-ENGR, Bernard Malamud-BUS, Nancy Master-LIB, Georg Mauer-ENGR, Arthur Meyers-HS, Trevor Moores-
Action item: none

Future Action Items:

UNLV Bylaw change: Title 5, Chapter 6, Chapter II, Section 10: Selection of Members of System & Institutional Committees - to consult with faculty prior to appointing acting or interim deans, and associate/assistant deans. This item will be held over until end of October.

New Business:

Due to frequent web campus outages recently, Student Body President Adam Cronis asked faculty leniency on behalf of those students affected whose assignments and exams have been delayed due to the outages. VP Lori Temple indicated that a list of outage times is available to faculty at the OIT website and quiz dates were reset back to 2008 to help alleviate the situation. Adam also mentioned forthcoming information on a pilot program (CSUN Textbook Reserve Program) for which they seek faculty support in an effort to reduce textbook costs for students.

A Business college faculty member addressed the Senate on his observations and dissatisfaction regarding the grievance process and promotion and tenure “aristocracy”.

Adjournment

Senator Schibrowsky, seconded by Senator Burns, moved to adjourn at 1:30 p.m. It was approved unanimously. The next meeting of the Senate will be October 6, 2009, in Student Union 208 AB. Should the October 6 meeting be cancelled, the next meeting will be held October 27, 2009.