A regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Maldonado at 12:15 p.m. in Student Union rooms 208-BC.


Single Meeting Proxies: Eva Stowers for Jennifer Fabbi, Rhonda Montgomery for Bernie Fried; Ken Fernandez for Liam Frink, Margot Mink Colbert for Peter Jakubowski; Nancy Lough for Michael Nussbaum; Bill Robinson for Mary Riddel; Marcia Ditmyer for Susan VanBeuge.

Absent: John Filler, Rebecca Nathanson (long term proxy-Nussbaum absent)

Chair Maldonado welcomed senators and guests. Senator Larson moved, seconded by Senator Pales, to approve the minutes of August 17 and September 14, and they were so approved unanimously.

Executive VP and Provost Michael Bowers explained to the Senate the GPA requirements for graduation. Regents approved a 2.0 for graduation, because UNLV’s GPA was too high. Majors and department GPAs may be higher at entry approved by Curriculum Cmte, but not at exit to graduate. A college may waive their GPA requirement, students may appeal to the college for waiver, or retake courses to raise grades. The Provost office prefers a 2.0 in majors; Engineering and Education have higher. Currently, UNLV requires a 3.0 for admission.

President Smatresk spoke briefly indicating this will be an even worse biennium. Academic support is highest priority for allocations, and he anticipates no program reviews. There is a “tool kit” launching in a couple weeks to assist anyone who has an opportunity to speak before the public. Everyone should take advantage of the opportunities to promote the university.

Senior VP for Finance Gerry Bomotti updated the Senate on the PEBP task force. He mentioned a special web link at which employees may comment or offer suggestions/alternatives on the looming cuts in benefits, especially to lobby for those benefits that employees might wish to have restored. A consultant has been hired to compare Nevada insurance with other states. Dental, vision, and life insurance are a few of the benefits to be cut. Results of report from the task force and survey will be given to the Chancellor.
Announcements:
Chair Maldonado needs feedback by November 22 on two draft proposals from the Chancellor on 120 Credit Proposal and Low Yield Program. Senators are asked to distribute to units for feedback.

Senator Spangelo presented a policy proposal on Emeritus status as approved by the Executive Committee. This was developed in response to a request from the Provost office for a standardized procedure and policy. In order to process Emeritus requests, units must submit documentation to the Provost no later than May. The proposed policy was acceptable to the Senate and will now be forwarded to the university Policy Committee for action.

Chair Maldonado asked for feedback on International Programs policy draft as soon as possible so that she can forward that information to the university Policy Committee.

Action Item:
- The 2012-2013 Academic Calendar was discovered to have a typo. It was corrected and resubmitted for approval. Senator Bein, seconded by Senator Cochran, moved to approve; so approved by a yea vote of 45.

- The 2013-2014 Academic Calendar was moved for approval by Senator Carlton, seconded by Senator Heske, and approved by a yea vote of 45.

Senator Spangelo submitted for discussion a Sense of the Senate to move forward with the creation of the Ombudsman office. Senator Robinson moved, seconded by Senator Gelfer to approve. Senator Bayer, seconded by Senator Richards, moved to amend the wording by inserting “along the lines…Ashley,”. The motion to amend passed by a vote of 37 yeas, 3 nays. The Sense of the Senate amendment was then voted on and approved by a vote: 41 yeas, 1 nay.

It is the Sense of the UNLV Faculty Senate that creation of an Ombuds Office along the lines of the 2007 Task Force Report to President Ashley, should no longer be delayed but that the office should be formed by July 2011 pending the completion of a successful internal search as described in the 2007 Task Force Report.

Future Action Item: UNLV Bylaw Amendment – Chapter 1, Section 5: Definition of Consultation

New Business: none

Adjournment
Senator Pederson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Senator Carlton, at 1:45 pm; it was approved unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. November 2, 2010, in the Student Union, Rooms 208-BC.