The Faculty Senate’s October 24, 2006, meeting, held in the Moyer Student Union, Room 208A/B, was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Chair Bill Robinson.

Present: Paul Aizley, Peter Bayer, Gregory Borchard, Ralph Buechler, Elaine Bunker, Phil Burns, Kevin Crehan; Nasser Daneshvary; Jennifer Fabbi, Kenneth Fernandez; Tod Fitzpatrick, Bernard Fried, Tim Gauthier, Cyndi Giorgis, Kendall Hartley, Carolyn Hensley, Gary Larson, Kathy Lauckner, Samir Moujaes; Sandra Nadelson; George Pales, Matt Pedersen; Clint Richards; Bill Robinson; Adam Sikula; Bob Sitts; Stan Smith; Bryan Spangelo; Shannon Sumpter; Ken Teeters; Paul Thistle; Jason Vaughan; Ron Wilburn; and Matthew Wright.

Single Meeting Proxies: Georg Mauer for Wolf Bein; Mary Warner for Margot Mink Colbert; Cyndi Giordis for Cecelia Maldonado; Stan Smith for Malcolm Nicol; Bill Robinson for Alan Schlottmann.

Absent: Helen Jackson; Angel Muleshkov; Steve Phelan; Steve Rowland; Jennifer Smith; Denise Tanata; and Deborah Young

Special invited quests: Mike Hamrick, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics; Dr. David Ashley, UNLV President

October 10th minutes were not available for approval.

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Mike Hamrick, presented a detailed handout on the academic profile of the athletic program. He described the continuing vision for the program to improve in all areas of academics, increase the GPAs of the student athletes through improved coaching and teaching, and thereby increase the number of athletes graduating from the program. He was pleased to also inform the Senate that UNLV encourages all athletes to return to campus at any point in their career to complete their degree. They will always find resources and give support to them. Currently, 48% of UNLV athletes have at least a 3.0 GPA. The graduation rate for student athletes is 54%. Every athlete except one coached by Lon Kruger has graduated from the basketball program. These were impressive statistics, but ones that the athletic program will continue to improve.

President David Ashley was welcomed as the next speaker. The Senate was eager to hear his thoughts on hiring and reorganization for the university in the upcoming months. Dr. Ashley expressed the importance of shared faculty governance and mutual trust. The four searches for VPs: Executive VP and Provost; VP for Research and Dean of the Grad College; VP for Advancement (external group relations); and VP for Diversity. He hopes the Exec VP/Provost will assist in selecting the other VPs. Several Dean vacancies are forthcoming: Law, Medicine, Education, and Business. Dr. Ashley intends to visit all departments and seeks input on the underlying costs connected with underlying support dollars in starting up new programs. He wants to know faculty issues, hiring issues, as well as where funds need to be spent in regard to planning. A task force to consider designing an ombudsman office may be considered. Chair Robinson asked about setting standards for full professor/promotion. Dr. Ashley replied that the UC system had done a good job of defining those standards with clarity. Senator Fabbi stated that more pre/post award support was needed as well as an increase in infrastructure for research. Senator Sikula stated that since the budget is a critical issue, we need an increase in funding and faculty to be a research a university. We need to be funded at a higher percentage.

**Update on Regent’s Policies**

The proposed job abandonment policy died. The existing policy is still in place.

Grievance for Merit/Annual amount passed. Can still grieve for an amount.

Degree revocation: The Regents are adamant that they want to pass policy that they can revoke degrees. They want to be able to discipline and revoke. They also want to time limit the amount of time that this can happen. The Chancellor’s office and presidents believe that the Board should only act as an appeal body.

**Action items:**

Latin Designation Policy - currently, we award 1% summa, 5% magna, 10% laude. This is figured before the final grades. So the actual numbers are less than the existing policy is designed to produce. Per Senator Sikula,
the Chancellor has asked for standardization for UNLV and UNR. No institution uses the final transcript, it is actually based on the prior semester. It is believed to hurts graduate admission. Half the Summa’s are in Education. It says it reflects the top 10% of the graduating class, but actually it is only the top 3.8%. Biology flunks out 30% of their freshmen students.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Senator Aizley, seconded by Senator Kevin Crehan to bring back this item with more information on the discrepancy of the 10% figure vs the 4% actual. Motion was approved with 29 yeas, 1 abstention.

**Future Action Items:**

Commencement – possible return to individual college ceremonies

“Other Administrator” Evaluation Policy – every administrator is evaluated every year. Deans evaluate chairs. Every 3 yr faculty is responsible for evaluating administrator (not necessarily a Dean). NSHE Faculty can refer to athletes and other administrators. Does the Senate want to be involved in other administrators?

Bookstore and Textbook policy – Regents are being told that costs are too high, blaming the faculty, new additions, late orders, etc. Fact: bookstore makes more money on used books, UNLV books are cheaper than UNR, UNLV bookstore is owned by Barnes and Noble, UNR by students, ISBN bundle is more costly, etc.

New Business:

Task Forces:
- Clint - Post Tenure evaluation needs more members
- Peter – waiting for information
- Paul – Infrastructure research pilot using faculty senate email for survey…complete the survey, give input
- Kathy – Teaching task force impediments: gathering data, asking for problems to be fixed

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Next regular meeting of the Faculty Senate is scheduled for November 28, 2006, in Moyer Student Union Lounge 208AB, following the Thanksgiving holiday.