The meeting was called to order by Chair Daneshvary at 12:20 p.m. in the Student Union, room 208 AB.


Single Meeting Proxies: Matthew Wright for Peter Bayer; Kendall Hartley for Patrick Carlton; Janice Klaassen for William Davenport; Stacey Carrillo for Pat LaPutt; Pat Alpert for Sally Miller; Elaine Bunker for Giuseppe Natale; Margot Mink Colbert for Mary Warner; and Carl Gatson for Mike Wilde.

Absent: Andrew Bell, John Filler, Gary Larson, Paul Traudt, and Tausha Smith.

Senator Klaassen moved, seconded by Senator Maldonado, to approve the minutes of October 7, 2008. The Senate approved them unanimously.

Chair Daneshvary welcomed guest speaker Regent Thalia M. Dondero. Dr. Dondero shared many stories from her personal life, Nevada history, and the progress she has witnessed and participated in during her many years as a mother, professional business woman and Regent. Because she will soon be retiring as Regent, Chair Daneshvary presented a special gift from the Senate in recognition of her dedicated service to Nevada’s education and the UNLV community.

Chair Daneshvary passed out a chart showing a breakdown of the Urban Sustainability Grant found on the Research & Graduate Studies web site

Senator Paul Thistle, as chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, gave an update on Procedures for Bridge Funding and Risk Accounts. It is a new form to enable PIs to request authorization to use a limited amount of funds prior to funding of a research award. The funds are reimbursed after the award is funded. If not funded, the department becomes responsible to repay the “risk account”. Senator Nicol suggested that a special fund be set up over time through a portion of indirect costs by the university to assume the risk rather than pass it on to the departments.

Senator Richards was asked to provide additional update on Alternative Admissions criteria tracking. He explained the 5 alternate admissions criteria and the process of admitting the students. He indicated the Fall 08 students have been encouraged to access advisors and been contacted more than students in the past. As soon as data is available, they hope to find that these students have done well academically. Enrollment management will attempt to code the criteria used and the Academic Success Center will follow up with increased services to ensure a successful cohort. The Admissions committee is pleased and asked the Senate to approve the continued approval of this procedure. It was approved by a unanimous show of hands.
Action items:

A. Change to Faculty Senate Bylaw - Increasing Special Hearing Committee Pool – moved by Senator Nicol, seconded by Senator Klaassen, this change to the bylaws was approved unanimously by the Senate with a vote of 34.

Section 5.0 Article 5: Committees
Section 5.1 Special Hearing

a) A faculty hearing panel, composed of at least thirty-five faculty members, shall be selected by the Senate. Both academic faculty and administrative faculty (excluding chairs, directors, assistant and associate deans, deans, and other executive faculty) shall be eligible to serve. The selected pool shall include at least twenty tenured faculty, of which at least ten members shall be at full professor rank. Committee members shall be selected from a pool of at least two individuals from each college, library, professional staff, and the administration. The members of the faculty hearing panel shall serve one year terms, and upon agreeing, shall commit themselves in writing to serve on a Special Hearing Committee when needed.

B. Professional Staff Committee Bylaws – moved to approve by Senator Lauckner, seconded simultaneously by Senators Tillotson and Frink. The bylaws were approved by a vote of 32. They are posted on the ProStaff website as Final Updates June 28, 2008.

Future Action Item

A. Advancement of Faculty/Staff Wellness (fee structure of recreation center – possibility of new category of membership and off prime hours for family members) – there was some brief discussion on the benefit of lower the fees: better participation; better facility usage; more faculty mingling; pretax status would be a benefit. However, since student fees were used to build, faculty may not be charged less than students.

B. Academic Freedom and Ethics – academic freedom case – US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

New Business

Senator Nicol had prepared an agenda item for which the Executive Committee and Senate asked to have some modifications made to be resubmitted. He also pointed out that the Grad College degree program is not under the Senate’s purview. Senator Klaassen asked if there had been any news from the Public Safety Advisory Board…there had not.

Adjournment

Senator Schibrowsky, seconded by Senator Klaassen, moved to adjourn the Senate at approximately 1:30 p.m. The next Senate meeting is November 18, 2008, in the Student Union, Room 208 A/B at 12:15 p.m.