On November 28, 2006, Chair Bill Robinson called Faculty Senate meeting to order in the Moyer Student Union, Room 208A/B, at 12:15 p.m.

Present: Paul Aizley, Gregory Borchard, Ralph Buechler, Elaine Bunker, Phil Burns, Kevin Crehan; Nasser Daneshvare; William Davenport, Jennifer Fabbi, Kenneth Fernandez; Tod Fitzpatrick, Bernard Fried, Tim Gauthier, Cyndi Giorgis, Kendall Hartley, Carolyn Hensley, Samir Moujaes; Angel Muleshkov; Sandra Nadelson; Malcolm Nicol; George Pales, Steve Phelan; Clint Richards; Bill Robinson; Steve Rowland; Adam Sikula; Bob Sitts; Bryan Spangelo; Jennifer Smith; Shannon Sumpter; Denise Tanata; Ken Teeters; Paul Thistle; Jason Vaughan; Ron Wilburn; and Matthew Wright.

Single Meeting Proxies: Matthew Wright for Peter Bayer; Georg Mauer for Wolf Bein; Gregory Borchard for Gary Larson; Cyndi Giordis for Cecelia Maldonado; Malcolm Nicol for Stan Smith; Bill Robinson for Alan Schlottmann.

Absent: Paul Aizley; Margot Mink Colbert ; Helen Jackson (ill); Kathy Lauckner, jury duty; Matt Pedersen; and Deborah Young

Special invited quests: Dawn Neuman, Co-officer in Charge, Executive Vice President and Provost Office

October 10th and October 24th meeting minutes were approved without change.

Unfortunately, Regina Miller, Women’s Basketball Coach was unavailable for today’s meeting. Co-officer in Charge Michael Bower was out on medical leave, but Co-officer in Charge Dawn Neuman took the podium to address the Senate on the responsibilities of the four Vice Provosts, who they are and their duties in the new President’s administration. Dr. Neuman also discussed the search for a new Executive Vice President and Provost and entertained suggestions from the Senators on how the Provost office might better interact with and respond to the faculty and Senate needs. Senator Fried suggested that someone from the Senate be appointed to serve on the Planning Council, maybe from the Fiscal Affairs’ committee. Dr. Neuman welcomed the suggestion stating that President Ashley wants the Senate involved in oversight committees, she herself preferring to call them policy committees.

Senator Muleshkov asked if retirement funds would be paid on summer salary wages. Dr. Neuman said that they hoped to offer that benefit again this year and wanted input from the Senate on whether independent study students should be covered. Details must yet be worked out, however. The cost would probably exceed $25,000 and come from tuition funding.

Update on Regent’s Policies

At the most recent Board of Regent’s meeting November 30-December 1, 2006, the Regents will discuss a written policy on degree revocation.

Action items:

A. Latin Designation Policy - After more discussion and data scrutiny, it was noted that some colleges would not be eligible for Latin designations as current policy dictates. However, changing the policy would also change the high percentages that some colleges now enjoy and affect grade distribution. There are three solutions: 1) adopt the new proposal, 2) address the issues on how it is done for the smaller colleges, or 3) do nothing and leave it as the policy is currently. It was mentioned that the Honor College is still able to recognize their own graduates independent of any other Latin policy. Senator Daneshvare emphasized that college size is important.

Senator Nicol, seconded by Senator Fitzgerald, moved to take the question to committee for further clarification of the various options. This motion was passed unanimously.

B. Commencement – It has been suggested that many colleges prefer to go back to individual commencement ceremonies/receptions. This may be divided over a period of 3-4 days. Another suggestion was to have a summer commencement in addition to the one in May and December to shorten the May and December ceremonies. Questions were asked how do we know that the students want this? How do we know the colleges
want this? Who will pay for these smaller receptions? How many students graduate in August? Could colleges be allowed to opt out of the larger ceremonies to have their own and still wear robes?

Senator Burns suggested that students needed to be surveyed on exit surveys, and Senator Fried encouraged more information before a decision is made. Senator Mauer, seconded by Senator Davenport moved to allow individual ceremonies. A friendly amendment was made to ask student opinions on exit surveys if this was the desired policy. The motion passed with 34 yeas, and no nays.

C. Other Administrator Evaluation Policy – Does the Senate want to be involved in making sure that other non-academic units’ “administrators”, such as Student Life, Finance and Athletics, etc, receive evaluations? The will of the Senate is to ensure that such evaluations take place as required by policy.

D. Bookstore and Textbook policy – Senator Phelan moved and the Senate passed the following policy with 35 yeas.

The UNLV Faculty Senate affirms its absolute commitment to the principle that the selection of textbooks and other classroom materials is the right and responsibility of the faculty member assigned to teach each particular course.

Within the bounds of that principle, the Senate reminds faculty that:
1) Departments should have in place mechanisms to ensure that textbooks used by part-time faculty and graduate student instructors are proper and selected in a timely manner, and that new hires are notified of deadlines and encouraged to submit textbook orders early;
2) Using the same textbook from semester to semester allows students to resell books to the bookstore at a higher price, or sell them directly to other students;
3) Textbook costs often exceed the cost of the course to students. Where possible, faculty should select lower cost options, including on-line materials, APS packets, placing materials on library reserve, and selecting the least expensive textbook where several otherwise equivalent choices exist;
4) They should submit their textbook orders are early as possible to allow the bookstore to order used copies; and
5) They should not order bundled texts unless they intend to use the entire bundled package.

Future Action Items:

A. Schedule Requirements/Policy – What courses will be offered in which semesters so that students and faculty can plan ahead. Tenured faculty should be scheduled first.

B. Public Safety – Chief Jose Elique will be guest speaker at next meeting in December.

C. Summer term payroll policy – how faculty pay checks will be distributed for summer courses taught

D. Committee Reports – action items

E. Classified Research Policy- Senators are asked to read over the policy previously distributed by email.

New Business:
Senator Nicol mentioned that he would like to see policy that prohibits more than 2-3 finals in a day for a student. He thought that was excessive and counter-productive.

Task Forces reports:
Clint - Post Tenure evaluation is meeting and could still use members
Peter – unavailable
Paul – Infrastructure research survey on email going well – faculty need to complete and submit
Kathy – Teaching task force impediments: unavailable

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. Next regular meeting for 2006 of the Faculty Senate is scheduled for December 12, 2006, in Moyer Student Union Lounge 208AB. The first meeting of 2007 is scheduled for January 23, 2007.