Call to order regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate on November 29, 2005, by Chair Clint Richards at 12:15 p.m., in the Moyer Student Union Lounge 201.


Single Meeting Proxies: none


Opening remarks by Chair Richards welcomed senators and distinguished guests including Regents James Dean Leavitt and Jack Schofield.

Regent Leavitt introduced himself to the Senate, spoke about his role as a regent, and expressed his hope that all regents will serve with civility, restraint and integrity. He noted that his vehicle license plate says UNLV-UNR. He wants the Senate to know that the Board of Regents will be open to Senate input and the Board will strive to present a good public image, especially in regard to press coverage. During an open question period, Senator Robinson brought up the question of UNLV receiving less discretionary funds than UNR despite the fact that UNLV’s enrollment warrants more equitable funding. Regent Leavitt said that he hopes that all budgetary issues will be thoroughly discussed and evaluated by him and his fellow members. He also stated that the Chancellor wants transparency in how the Board handles matters.

Provost Ray Alden gave an abbreviated version of a planned presentation Dec 1st to the Board of Regents by UNR President John Lilley and UNLV President Carol Harter regarding proposed changes to admissions standards and their impacts. The two institutions would like to initiate the already-approved increased admission standards for 2010 in 2007. Those standards would require high school admits to have a weighted GPA of 3.0 on certain core courses, or a score of 1040 on the SAT (22 on the ACT). Expected impacts include increase retention and graduation rates, and a slowing of growth at the two universities. However, the use of alternate admission criteria is likely to reduce the impact on the total number of students admitted, particularly among minority groups. Provost Alden expressed his hope that the Faculty Senate would support this proposal.

Chair Richards called for a Sense of the Senate on the proposed new admission standards. A Sense of the Senate expressing strong support of the changed admission standards was proposed by Senator Phelan and seconded by Senator Beisecker. After discussion highlighting the likely beneficial impact on class access and quality of education, the Sense of the Senate passed with no opposition and one abstention.

A motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2005 was made by Senator Hurlburt, seconded by Senator Thistle, and approved by the senators.

Chair Richards announced that the January meeting date of the Senate has been changed from the 31st to the 24th due to a change in the BOR meeting schedule. He also updated the Senate on two additional items coming before the BOR December 1 or 2: domestic partner benefits, and a proposal to allow presidents to hire with tenure without prior Board approval when the perspective hire has tenure elsewhere and has the support of campus faculty. Domestic partner benefits are supported by all NSHE presidents, senate chairs, and academic senates. The NSHE Council of Faculty Senate Chairs will try to get an amendment to the tenure with hire proposal to require each president to report annually on faculty support of their appointments with tenure.

Due to the late hour, Chair Richards did not, as planned, encourage senators to take a motion off the table regarding non-admitted students (tabled October 11). That motion must be revisited at the December 13th meeting if changes are to be incorporated into the new catalog since these changes are due in the Registrar’s office by mid-January.

Move to adjourn by Senator Bein and seconded by Senator Shiue passed at 2:00 p.m.

NOTICE: January’s Senate meeting will be on January 24th, not January 31st.