A regular meeting of the Senate was called to order by Chair John Filler at 12:15 p.m. in Student Union, room 208-AB.


Single Meeting Proxies: Liam Frink for Greg Brown; Al Izzo for Bernard Fried; Peter Bayer for Sara Gordon; Wes McWhorter for Sally Miller; Cory Tucker for Caroline Smith; Gary Larson for Paul Traudt.

Absent: Andrew Bell, Gregg Gin, Rebecca Nathanson, Matt Pedersen, Aly Said, Shannon Smith

Past Chair Daneshvary asked for a moment of silence in memory for the passing of his longtime friend and UNLV faculty member Dr. Keith Schwer. Dr. Schwer was a prolific researcher and respected colleague. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, December 10th from 1-3 pm in the TAM.

November 17th minutes stand approved. At the request of one senator the tape was reviewed. Any suggested changes were later withdrawn. Chair Filler recognized invited guest Board of Regents’ Chair James Dean Leavitt who addressed the Senate on budget issues and took questions from the senators.

Speaker:

Chair Filler introduced guest speaker: Board of Regents’ Chair J. Dean Leavitt. Chair Leavitt received his Juris Doctorate in 1991, was elected to the BOR in 1994, taught at UNLV (Urban Affairs – Communication) from 1994-1998. His law firm handles criminal defense, specializing in juvenile cases. Chair Leavitt offered great insight into the current budget crisis, indicating that it is critical that the next person in the governor’s office have higher education’s interest at stake. The state is too reliant on one industry at present – gaming. Diversification is necessary. He stated that the Chancellor has stood firm that higher ed budget cannot take more cuts. It is important the UNLV collaborate with other NSHE presidents, approach the legislature differently. More important to stress what the university has done for the community and state, culturally and to improve life, than to emphasize research. Most do not understand the importance of research to lure the best and brightest students and faculty to our state.

Chair Leavitt later read a letter he received from Chancellor Klaich just sent to the Governor. It stated that a December 15 deadline of additional operating budget cuts is impossible. Contracts have been written, students have paid tuition, and budgets already thread bare until the end of the fiscal year. Students (already paying 20% higher tuition) cannot assume more burden for additional cuts. Additionally, the institutions will lose federal dollars if budgets are cut again.

President Smatresk gave an optimistic report highlighting the last 4 months: UNLV proudly reaching its $500 mil capital campaign goal; receiving a $14 mil grant from the Lincy Foundation creating the Lincy Institute, identifying grants to coordinate research and social outreach programs that improve quality of life in Nevada; and partnering with the renown Brookings Institute think-tank, furthering scholarly research through the Brookings Mountain West Initiative, which will be housed locally on the UNLV campus. Additionally, President Smatresk recognized efforts of Senator Harry
Reid (who helps host, along with UNLV, the annual Clean Energy Summit – held at UNLV last August 10, 2009) in continuing to advocate for an energy policy which will ensure our nation’s clean energy future. Such summits bring much needed positive publicity to UNLV’s goals and Nevada’s importance. (http://www.cleanenergysummit.org/index.html, the summit website states: “Nevada is at the epicenter in the debate of how America should generate and use energy in the future. Nevada has abundant clean energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, and efficiency technologies that could be developed to meet its future energy needs.”)

**Information Item:**

Dr. Rainier Spencer, Professor and Director of UNLV Afro-American Studies Program, addressed the Senate regarding the lack of full professor diversity and equal job status for minority professionals, many of whom express a perception of hostile work environment. In the 52 years since UNLV’s founding, only 4 full professors have been hired. Twelve years ago, Dr. Spencer was the only Black Ph.D. hired in Liberal Arts. By now, there should be several behind him, but there are only 2 at the Asst or Assoc level. Poor record keeping at the System and University level makes it difficult to track retention, but Regent Crear has offered help. A newly chartered campus organization, Campus Black Professionals, is eager to work closely with President Smatresk, his cabinet and others to rectify a situation that has existed far too long. President Smatresk stated that he is eager to work with any individual groups and is already aware of several issues and has been working on them. He welcomes suggestions, continuing to embrace diversity in the UNLV professional and academic community, his cabinet, and in the creation of positions such as ombudsman and EEOC officer.

**Announcements:**

1. The annual campus holiday party hosted by President Smatresk and wife Debbie Smatresk will be held on December 10th from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the end of the year celebration.

2. Held in November 2009 the first campus electronic vote on a UNLV Bylaw change: Title 5, Chapter 6, Chapter II, Section 10: Selection of Members of System & Institutional Committees – was an outstanding success. 75% voted yes with over 500 ballots being cast, greater than the number returned when paper ballots were used. The bylaw now goes to the President and Chancellor for approval.

3. Winter Commencement will be held on December 15th at 4:00 p.m. in the Thomas & Mack.

4. JET committee report from Vice Chair Maldonado: “Beginning in October, JET has met each Monday and Wednesday for a total of 4 hours per week. We will continue to meet through March, 2010. We thank President Smatresk for extending the deadline for our work. Thus far, we have reviewed the reports and summaries submitted by Deans and Division VPs, as well scheduled individual meetings with each. Those reports are available on the Provost website. I hope that each of you have had the opportunity to review them. If you've read the process that JET is committed to following, you will see that all recommendations were to be vetted/voted on by the faculty. However, we quickly realized by reading the reports and talking with each administrator that vetting/voting in each unit was inconsistent. To rectify this, we are sending surveys which reflect the recommendations/rankings of each of your units. I encourage you to talk with the faculty in your respective units to make them aware that these surveys will soon be sent out and ask them to participate. While your input will be considered in our decisions, it will not determine the outcome.”

**Action item:**

UNLV Bylaw change: Title 5, Chapter 6, Chapter III, Section 16.6 (Time in rank before promotion.) Recommendations by Promotion & Tenure committee. Senator Spangelo moved to approve, seconded by Senator Klaassen. After brief discussion, Senator Spangelo moved to strike the qualifier word “full” in section C. Senator Heske seconded, and it was approved overwhelmingly by a show of hands.
Discussion continued as Senator Frink asked if there was a rush to pass, are people coming up early? Where is the stimulus to come up for full? Past Chair Daneshvary explained that a previous bylaw requires chairs to ask senior faculty at a minimum at least every 3 years as part of their evaluation progress if they plan to go up for promotion. Senator Abel-Santos moved, seconded by Senator Frink, to reinstate original language in section C: Associate professors must be considered “…after a period of not more than eight years”. After lengthy pro and con discussion, a motion to call the question was unanimously approved. Chair Filler then called for a vote of the motion by a show of hands: only 2 (37 nays) were in favor of reinstating the stricken section. The motion failed, Section C stands as is.

Senator Heske, seconded by Senator Hatchett, then moved to strike the word “considered” in Section B to read “expected to apply”. This amendment failed by a vote of 4 in favor and 35 against.

Michael LaTour, chair of the Marketing Dept, stood to address the Senate. While he appreciates the Senate efforts, he feels that junior faculty should not come up for promotion prematurely. Publishing at the highest quality is more important than time in rank. Achievement of accomplishments is what is important. His department concern is that this amendment might be used to hold people back. Chair Filler then called the question, which was approved unanimously by a show of hands. The senators approved the amendment by a vote of 34 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention.

**Future Action Items:**

- Faculty Senate Bylaw change, Section 5, Article 5 and Section 6, Article 6 (Establishment of a University Bylaw Committee)

**New Business:** Senator Spangelo asked if the Fiscal Affairs committee had met yet to look over a quarterly report from Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Bomotti as promised by President Smatresk at the November Senate mtg? New chair of the Fiscal Affairs committee, Past Chair Daneshvary, assumes his duties in January and will make that a priority. He expects the report from Senior VP Bomotti by that time.

Senator Schibrowsky states that the new catalog has been “put to bed”.

Past Chair Daneshvary reported that 68 promotion and tenure cases were heard by the P&T Committee. He thanks the committee and stated that the final report was given to the Provost this morning.

**Adjournment**

Senator Schibrowsky moved to adjourn at 2:00 p.m., seconded by Senator Klaassen. The next meeting of the Senate will be January 26, 2010, in Student Union 208 AB. Board of Regents Vice Chair Dr. Jason Geddes is the invited guest speaker for the January meeting. Dr. Elliott Parker, UNR Faculty Senate Chair, will also be visiting.