A regular Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Chair Brown at 12:17 p.m. in Student Union room 208 B-C on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.


Single Meeting Proxy: Paul Werth for Andrew Bell; Matt Pedersen for Aly Said.

Long term Proxy: Peter Bayer for Sara Gordon. Absent: None

Senators and guests were welcomed, including three new Senators: Senators Naylor and Wisner from Business and Senator Loe from Education. For the next two meetings, the traditional hollow square seating for senators is being replaced by an experimental seating arrangement. Senators will sit in a chevron fashion facing the Executive Committee table. Seating for the public is at the rear of the room; podium and projection screen placed on either side of the exec table. Standing and handheld microphones at the tables ensure everyone can easily hear discussions. In addition, the senate inaugurated the use of “iclickers” for anonymous voting. For the most part, there have been few complaints.

Action Items –

- Minutes for March 29, May 2, and August 23, 2011, were unanimously approved by iclickers.
- Paper ballots were passed out to elect a replacement Vice Chair for the Senate created when past Chair Miller took a VSIP, which moved VC Brown to Chair. The nominees were: Senators Robinson, Spangelo and Sumpter. Senator Sumpter was elected.
- A slate of 12 nominees were approved by iclicker to be forwarded to the President for his selection to fill four vacancies on the Intercollegiate Athletic Council.
- Senator Kendall Hartley was unanimously approved by iclickers as faculty senate representative on the EVP & Provost Recruitment and Screening committee.
Informational Items –

- Chair Brown gave a report on the recent Board of Regents special meeting held at the DRI. Some issues discussed were the Low Yield and 120 policy updates, and presidential searches and tenure home policies. The System will undertake a salary study this year. Regarding strategic planning: the Council of chairs agreed to put at least one faculty-specific item on the Board’s agenda each meeting. Ideas for that are welcome from the senate.

- Upcoming election on Sept 27: the senate will elect the Special Hearing pool. Nominees’ names are still being taken. The senate committees are finally filling up, with some elections still in progress. All are encouraged to continue recruitment. Other senate committee vacancies will be announced by the chair as needed.

- President Smatresk was invited to speak to the senate regarding any financial updates he had. He was happy to report that no new cuts are on the horizon and that plans are to focus on improving benefits for faculty, which would include future pay incentives when possible. There had been a small reserve set aside which will enable some new hiring, and it is hoped that some “interim” positions will be filled. The university continues to improve its image and stay student focused.

Old Business –

- From Retreat, the Planning Priorities have been analyzed and presented to President Smatresk and also passed out to the senate along with a summary report from the Priority and New Program Review Committee chair, Nasser Daneshvary. It lists priorities under headings of Education, Research and Infrastructure of the senate and guests done as an exercise at Retreat. This data and summary report is available on the senate website as well.

- General Education and first year experience courses continue to be discussed by the senate. Provost Bowers indicated that if consensus can be reached, a way will be found to fund the courses. Many senators took part in a broad discussion of curriculum, first year experience and funding sources.

New Business/Future Action Items – Chair Brown indicated that a Faculty Senate bylaw amendment will be distributed by email prior to the October 18th senate meeting having already been discussed by the Executive Committee. This amendment would endeavor to change the terms of not only the Exec Committee, but the entire Senate to coincide with the annual contract: July 1 to June 30. This would make elections and senate transition easier, especially during legislative years, and also help UNLV be competitive when NSHE institutions elect the chair of chairs. Senator Filler stated that the chair of chairs is elected in May to begin in June, not July.

Public Comment –none

A motion made by Senator Wisner, seconded by Senator Fabbii, adjourned the senate at 2:10 p.m. Next meeting: September 27, 2011, SU 208-BC @ 12:15 p.m.