UNLV 2011-2012 Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday, December 6, 2011

A regular Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Brown at 12:15 p.m. in Student Union room 208 B-C on Tuesday, December 6, 2011.


Single Meeting Proxy: Paul Werth for Andrew Bell; Jay Souza for Amy Bouchard; Peter Jakubowski for Margot Mink Colbert; Fred Krauss for Lori Slinn; Carolyn Hensley for Mike Wilde.
Long term Proxy: John Farley for Eduardo Robleto. Absent: Peter Bayer, Sara Gordon

Action Items –
- Senator Pales, seconded by Senator Mueller, moved to approve minutes of November 8, 2011. They were approved 38 yeas, 3 nays, 1 present by iclickers.

Informational Items –
- Chair’s Report: Chair Brown reported on the recent Board of Regents meeting held at UNLV noting that a Council of Chairs’ report was on the agenda to update the Regents on the work of all the Faculty Senates around the System. All 3 issues discussed in our last meeting passed: a) revised Low-Yield program proposal; b) revised tenure-on-hire policy; c) and the “FN” policy.
- An additional policy proposal was raised again for discussion in March: proposed revision to the Code’s articles concerning presidential searches. Chair Brown has charged the CAC to review the proposal, and the EC will discuss to develop a collective response for the Board.
- Three important issues discussed: System’s strategic plan (directly related to the funding formula), the tuition increase, and PEBP health coverage. Part of the new funding formula will be based on graduates (Completers) rather than enrollment. The Board approved 8% tuition increase for in-state students – of which 15% will be set aside for financial aid, with net revenue to be retained by the campus for instructional and student support.
- The EC met with the President and discussed a plan that would create 19 new full-time, tenure track faculty positions, enhancing our capacity by 76-114 sections per year, plus a 10% increase in the budget for FIRS< PTIs and Gas further enhancing available course sections by 70 to 100. In the plan were 18 new administrative positions in student support areas and a restoration of money cut from the Library’s serials budget.
- The BOR also heard, but took no action on, the work of the NSHE PEBP Task Force, and heard a report on the UNLV health survey results. Same report to be given at today’s Senate meeting.
- The System is initiating its Compensation Survey. UNLV’s rep is Alan Schottman of the Economics Dept. It is hoped that Senator Cochran will be able to serve as well for his expertise.
- Chair Brown was to meet with Fiscal Affairs Committee later in the week to discuss another survey of faculty and staff regarding salary priorities after the current biennium.
Chair Brown recognized Dean John White, chair of the Provost Search committee, for a brief report update. New applications are received daily, many of which are from the Middle East and Asia. Two important criteria of the search are diversity and a large pool. It was hoped that interviews could begin in February, with a hire by spring break, but there are many variables. He shared the official announcement with the Senate and a list of the committee members.

Chair Brown next invited the newly appointed Interim Director of General Education Carl Reiber to update the Senate on implementation of the general education revisions approved at the last Senate meeting. Dr. Reiber stated he’d met with the advisors and was moving toward the catalog print run date in February. Many things to consider: new course proposals, rooms, assessments, class sizes. First year courses need to be in place by Fall 2012. Colleges should be meeting and developing courses now. Many have already.

Recognizing Shaun Franklin-Sewell, Chair of the Administrative Faculty Committee, who worked with Senator Mike Wilde, chair of the Fiscal Affairs committee, results of the UNLV employees’ health survey was presented as given to the Board of Regents. A discussion followed which included remarks from the President, General Council as well as Senator Chris Cochran, who serves on the NSHE Task Force on PEBP. Health insurance coverage for employees is a top priority and needs to be changed. Many are not filling meds, doing without doctor visits, and unable to cover family members since the benefits were cut. Senator Souza leading a Wellness Benefit Pilot program is seeking to help staff. More information in January.

Old Business / Action Item:

Faculty Senate Bylaw Amendment 2.1 – 2.3 vacancy in Executive Committee and Senate term of office

- Senator Filler amendment was seconded by Senator Cochran amended the rotation start date in the main motion of Sections 2.1 and 2.3 to June 1, effective 2013. After brief discussion, the Senate approved amendment: by iclickers: 43 yeas, 1 nay, 1 present. The chair asked for adoption by acclamation. It was so approved by a show of hands.

Section 2.0 Article 2: Election of Officers

2.1 The Vice Chair from the current Senate shall automatically assume the chairship of the new Senate on 1 June, or upon a vacancy in the chair for any reason. In the event a vice-chair becomes chair due to a vacancy rather than the ordinary rotation of office, the length of terms of office may be modified by a majority vote of the Senate. In order to qualify for election to the vice chairship, the faculty member must be tenured. (12/11)

2.2 A list of candidates for all other offices shall be distributed by mail at least three full working days in advance of the last regular meeting of the current Senate in the spring semester. Officers shall be elected as the first item of business at the last regular meeting of the current Senate in the spring semester. In the case of a vacancy on the Executive Committee, other than in the chair, a special election shall be organized for the next possible Senate meeting after the standard period for nominations and for publication of candidates has been met. All eligibility requirements of a regular election shall still apply. (12/11)

2.3 Terms of office for officers shall run from 1 June to 31 May of the following year. June 1 of each year shall mark the end of the past year’s Senate and the beginning of the new Senate. From the final regularly scheduled meeting of the spring semester through 31 May, the vice-chair shall be considered the chair-elect and shall accompany the outgoing chair at all substantive meetings, including NSHE Council of Chairs meetings. (12/11)

- The Senate then discussed the Bayer amendment (seconded by Senator Filler) to Senate Bylaw 2.2, allowing the past chair to assume the vacated chair position or the vice chair to assume the seat only if the past chair could/would not. An option would be that the Senate could remove either with a vote of 66%. The amendment did not pass: 3 yeas to 43 nays by iclickers.
• Senator Bunker, seconded by Senator Filler, moved to divide the question, separating Senate Bylaw amendments 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 from 7.2 (a Senate Constitution amendment), which passed with a iclicker voting of 38 yeas to 5 nays.

• Senator Filler, seconded by Senator Jakubowski, moved to call the question on amendments 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3. All three amendments were approved: 43 yeas, 1 nay, 1 present by iclicker voting.

• Senator Moerhing, seconded by Senator Werth, moved to call the question on moving amendment of 7.2 of the Constitution forward to faculty as a referendum. It passed: 42 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 present.

Resolutions /Action Items

• **Chair Brown** welcomed Harold Archibald, Executive Director of Facilities and Johnnie Centenio, Executive Director of Risk Management and Safety, who updated the Senate on recent measures taken around campus to ensure a more smoke-free environment. Senator VanBeuge, through grant funding, and with support of the Executive Committee has been working to accomplish a UNLV Tobacco Policy. She presented interesting survey and informative data to the Senate. Senator Filler, seconded by Senator Wisner, moved to adopt the resolution. The resolution was approved unamended by a vote of 32 yeas to 12 nays.

  **Sense of the Senate**
  The UNLV Faculty Senate supports a healthy environment for all faculty, staff, students and visitors on the UNLV campus and is committed to providing leadership in the community by creating a healthy, sustainable campus environment.

  It is the Sense of the UNLV Faculty Senate that UNLV should enforce existing tobacco-related policies more consistently, develop smoke-free corridors, and continue cessation services for all faculty, staff, and students, as steps towards a tobacco-free campus.

• **Senator Bein** introduced a resolution on free speech and civil discourse. After brief discussion and comments from UNLV Police Chief and General Council Linstrom, a motion made by Senator Wisner, seconded by Senator Pedersen, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 30 yeas, 14 nays, 1 present by iclickers.

  **Sense of the Senate**
  Whereas the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is committed to the rights of students and faculty to free and unfettered speech in the context of open demonstrations, and

  Whereas the UNLV Faculty Senate believes it is the right of all UNLV employee and students to openly express their views in free and unfettered speech.

  Therefore be it resolved that the UNLV Faculty Senate condemns the recent violent actions of the University of California, Davis, administration and calls upon the UNLV administration to commit to an atmosphere that accommodates free speech and civil disobedience.

• **Senator Robinson** handed out a resolution from the General Education committee. It was seconded by Senator Hatchett. Senator Larson, seconded by Senator Pales, moved to call the question. It was adopted by a vote of 29 yeas, 15 nays, 2 present.

  **Sense of the Senate**
  Given that the UNLV Bylaws give control of all matters of curriculum, including the General Education plan of the university, to the academic faculty of the University,

  The Faculty Senate requests that the President and Executive Vice President and Provost eliminate all administratively appointed committees, including the GEAC, whose functions properly should be assigned under the UNLV Bylaws and Faculty Senate Constitution to the Faculty Senate General Education Committee.
Further, the Faculty Senate requests that the President and Executive Vice President and Provost refrain from forming any new committees, such as a First Year or Second Year committee, that duplicate the charge and duties of the Faculty Senate General Education Committee.

New Business / Future Action
- Vice Chair Sumpter read a statement requesting that her term of office be modified to begin on July 1, 2012, ending on May 31, 2013, to allow her more prep time. Additionally, this would allow Chair Brown’s term be extended to end on June 30, 2012, to put everything back on track. Procedurally, this cannot be adopted until the January meeting (ten days following today’s adoption of Bylaw changes to 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3).

A vote was then taken on the preference of the current Senate seating configuration. A straw vote by iclicker showed: 23 preferred the current seating; 4 wished to change; 11 wished to go back to the open square; and 7 marked present.

Public Comment –none

At 2 p.m. Senator Pedersen moved to adjourn, seconded by Senator Ditmyer. The next meeting is January 24, 2012, SU 208-BC @ 12:15 p.m.