A regular Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Chair Brown at 8:45 a.m. in Student Union rooms 208-A on Tuesday, August 23, 2011.


Guests included President, Provost, cabinet, deans, senate committee chairs, and student leaders. Due to agenda schedule, no meeting minutes were introduced for approval.

I. Introductions - Senate Chair Greg Brown invited all senators, chairs, deans and guests to stand and self-introduce. He recapped the previous year of budget perils and touched on changes for the upcoming year, i.e. using iclickers, trying out a new seating arrangement for senate meetings, updating the website, and encouraging public attendance. He promises a proactive agenda with more faculty involvement, and as chair to be accessible to committee chairs and senior senators. Three Senate tasks are retention, return to academic agenda, reengage our colleagues in robust and effective shared governance.

II. Speakers - President Neal Smatresk welcomed back the senate with words of renewed partnership. Although the university has lost $73 mil and 700 positions, it still serves the same number of students. Health care benefits and compensation are important issues. He hopes to reinvigorate campus, improve UNLV’s reputation, and mentor faculty.

Executive VP and Provost Michael Bowers echoed similar optimism of shared governance, openness and transparency. It is a time of rebuilding, focusing on recruitment and retention, gen ed changes, degree programs and accreditation, which has now become a continuous process.

III. Informational/Discussion Items – Chair Brown presented a power point describing the role of senate leadership and governance with a new emphasis on business of faculty. It is recommended that faculty supply document information ahead of time, for proper distribution, especially if it may include a motion, submitting at least a day ahead to the senate secretary.
Chair Brown suggested the Senate consider clarifying the bylaws in regard to the language regarding the vice chair assuming the chair position in instances of unplanned vacancy, such as occurred when past Chair Sally Miller took the VSIP in June of this year. Additionally, perhaps the time is now to change the entire executive committee and senate terms as well to coincide with their UNLV contracts. This policy is followed at several other NSHE institutions.

Each table completed an exercise listing Faculty Senate mission ideals. They were collected for consideration by the Executive committee at a future date.

All senators were asked to assist committee chairs in filling vacancies on committees. And encourage faculty and administrative faculty to submit names by September 9 for Special Hearing Pool. Also there are four vacancies on the IAC, self nomination are welcome by September 9. The senate will approve a slate to be forwarded to the President.

IV. Informational cont’d – Senator Bill Robinson gave a brief report on the Campus Climate Survey. A full report should be available at the September 27th senate meeting.

Chair Brown presented a power point outlining the Educational, Research and Infrastructure priorities as finalized at a recent university Strategic Planning meeting. This exercise, recreated from an Implementation Report, asks each senator to list separately their Educational, Research and Infrastructure priorities (either from the ones projected from the power point or create their own). These were collected and will be tabulated and reported on at the September 20 meeting by Nasser Daneshvary, Priority and New Program Committee chair.

Other issues discussed: Low Yield policy; Tenure home; Presidential/Chancellor vacancy and selection policies.

V. Old Business – General Education Issues Group report by Senator John Farley. Senator Robinson moved to accept the report, without the 2nd year report, seconded by Senator Ditmyer. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously (43 approved).

VI. New Business/Future Action Items – Senator VanBeuge did a brief presentation on Tobacco Free UNLV. There are 450 campuses nationwide that are now smoke free. It would involve both enclosed and open spaces be smoke free, and that no smoking funds for research be used. There are funds to assist those who would like to take cessation classes taught by trained individuals. Further discussion postponed till September.

VII. New Business/Future Action Items – from floor – Senator Filler moved to accept nomination for the Vice Chair of the Senate immediately, seconded by Senator Bayer. The motion was approved 35 yeas, 4 nays. Senator Hatchett moved to suspend the bylaws so that the vote could be taken at the next senate meeting. Seconded by Senator Ginn, it was approved, 32 yeas, 6 nays.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Next meeting: September 20, 2011, SU 208-BC @ 12:15 p.m.