

## UNL ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

East Campus Union,

April 24, 2007

Presidents Steve Bradford, Kathy Prochaska Cue, and Ali Moeller, Presiding

### 1.0 Call to Order

President Bradford called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

### 2.0 Announcements

#### 2.1 Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association Donation

Professor Zimmers, Southeast Research and Extension Center stated that on behalf of the NCEA he is presenting a check in the amount of \$1000 to the Faculty Senate Office to help with the operation of the Senate. He noted that the NCEA has been making this donation for a number of years now and pointed out that it is a professional organization of faculty and staff who work in extension.

### 3.0 Senate Elections

#### 3.1 President Elect

#### 3.2 Secretary

#### 3.3 Executive Committee

#### 3.4 Committee on Committees

President Moeller stated that there was only one nominee for each of the positions and suggested having an election by acclamation. No objections were made, motion carried. She congratulated the new officers and new members of the Executive Committee. The elected officers are: Professor Kathy Prochaska Cue, Family & Consumer Sciences as President Elect, and Professor Rick Alloway, re-elected as Secretary. New members to the Executive Committee are: Professor John Fech, Southeast Research & Extension Center, Professor Barbara LaCost, Educational Administration, and Professor John Lindquist, Agronomy & Horticulture.

President Moeller then acknowledged and thanked the members of the Executive Committee, particularly outgoing members Professor Robert Stock, English, Professor Gordon Scholz, Architecture, and Professor Dennis Alexander, Electrical Engineering. President Moeller stated that it was an honor to represent the faculty of UNL and she wanted to acknowledge thanks to Professor Wes Peterson, Agricultural Economics, Professor Jim Lewis, Mathematics, and Professor Mary Beck, Animal Science for their advice and guidance during her Presidency.

President Bradford presented President Moeller with an outgoing gift of appreciation for her dedication and service to the faculty of UNL this past year.

### 4.0 Welcome New Senators

President Bradford welcomed the new senators: Professor Rodrigo Cantarero, College of Architecture, Professor Hendrik Van Den Berg, Economics, Professor Silvana Trimi, Management, Professor Mathias Schubert, Electrical Engineering, Professor John Lindquist, Agronomy & Horticulture, Professor Brett White, Animal Science, Professor Shunpu Zhang, Statistics, Professor Michael Carlson, Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, Professor Charles Bernholz, Libraries, Professor Martha McCollough, Anthropology & Geography, and Professor David Woodman, School of Biological Sciences.

### 5.0 Vice Chancellor Owens

Vice Chancellor Owens reported that the Board of Regents meeting last week was a good meeting and the Board approved the name change of the Senate to the Faculty Senate. He stated that the morning session of the meeting was on strategic issues and economic development across the university system.

Vice Chancellor Owens reported that several construction projects for UNL were approved by the Board. These include work on the Animal Science building and the Law College building.

Vice Chancellor Owens noted that the legislature was still in session. He stated that the Appropriations Committee gave its recommendation to the legislature and there was quite a bit of pressure to revise its recommendation on the university budget. He pointed out that the increase was not at the level that is totally needed for the university but considering the fiscal status of the state we did as well as we could. He noted that there is still concern with the Governor vetoing the increase in the budget. He reminded people that the

university is critically important to the success of the state and it is one of the best public investments that can be made in Nebraska.

Vice Chancellor Owens reported that the Board will decide if there is going to be a tuition increase in June. He stated that currently the idea is to have a 5% tuition increase with an additional 1% increase added that will go to a fund to replace or renovate buildings on the campuses. He noted that it was reported at the meeting that a 1% increase in tuition raises \$1.7 million for the university but a 1% increase in the general fund results in a \$4.5 million increase. He stated that it is important that tuition costs do not become unaffordable for Nebraskans.

## **6.0 Approval of 4/3/07 Minutes**

The minutes were approved as amended.

## **7.0 Unfinished Business**

### **7.1 Resolution on Professor Ari**

President Bradford reminded the Senate that a resolution was made at the last meeting urging the U.S. government to act on the visa of Dr. Waskar Ari. No further discussion was held on the motion. Motion approved.

### **7.2 Resolution on Safe Assignment Policy**

President Bradford stated that the resolution on the Safe Assignment policy was presented to the Senate at the last meeting. He stated that the students still have some questions about the policy. He suggested that the motion be postponed until the September meeting so the concerns of the students could be addressed. The Senate approved postponing the motion.

## **8.0 New Business**

### **8.1 Video – Research at UNL**

A promotional video highlighting the research work being done at UNL was presented to the Senate. Upon completion of the video, President Bradford stated that he hoped the legislature considers all of the work that is being done at UNL because without the support of the legislature and state much of this work could not be done.

### **8.2 Resolution Supporting Virginia Tech**

President Bradford stated that he wrote a resolution to honor those who were lost at Virginia Tech during the recent tragedy that occurred there. Motion was seconded.

A request was made to change the last word “prayers” to “heart.” President Bradford stated that he would not accept this as a friendly amendment because he wanted to provide alternative language for religious people in the motion. The point was made that we need to have a separation of church and state. A motion was made to change the word prayers to heart. Motion was seconded.

Professor Zorn, Finance, pointed out that the specific sentence in question does not imply a particular denomination. President Bradford stated that the word prayer is not necessarily associated with a religious belief.

Emeriti Professor McShane stated that he received an email message from someone at Virginia Tech shortly after the incident and the message asked that UNL keep the people at Virginia Tech in their thoughts and prayers. He stated that he would not like UNL to be on record for stripping the word prayers from the motion.

Motion to amend the resolution failed.

Professor Rapkin, Political Science, moved that the third sentence “it hurts here; no doubt, it hurts even more there” from the resolution. He pointed out that the sentence creates a huge asymmetry. President Bradford accepted this as a friendly amendment.

The motion on the resolution to support Virginia Tech was approved.

### **8.3 Honoring Outgoing Associate to the Chancellor Herb Howe**

The Faculty Senate honored Associate to the Chancellor Herb Howe, who is retiring from the university, for his dedication and unselfish devotion to the faculty, staff, and students of UNL. A wine and cheese party was

held afterwards for Dr. Howe.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, September 11th, 2:30 p.m. in the East Campus Union, Auditorium. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Richard Alloway, Secretary.