Executive Officers Present:  William Oberding, (Vice Chair) Kathie Stanfield, (Secretary) Vicki Paul (Co-Public Relations), and Patrick McDonnell, (Co-Public Relations).

Representatives Present:  Nicole Aiazzi, Donnie Andrews, Christine Arritt, Bill Borges, Peter Brown, Scott Brown, Annette Christensen, Melanie England, Catherine Fischer, Marti Frican, Iris Hochschild, Darley Jeppson, Michael Leonhard, Erin McGarvey, Pam Moore, Sherry Olson, Betty Osborne, Phillip Pert, Jeanie Pratt, Michelle Rachal, Lisa Reza, Chris Sladek, Erica Summerfelt, Joanne Tully, Beth Wood.

Executive Officers and Representatives Absent:  Excused - Debbie Keck, (Chair), Theresa Moser, Valerie Pedroza, (Treasurer), Jewell Radcliffe.

   I.  Call to order.  Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

   II.  Minutes from December, 2005.

The minutes were approved with corrections

   III.  Committee Reports.

A. Administrative Action Manual Review.

   This committee meets January 27, 2006.

B. Arboretum Board.

   This committee meets January 27, 2006.

C. ASUN

   This committee meets January 25, 2006.

D. Balloon Race Committee.

   This committee meets again starting in February.

E. Classified Employee of the Month and Year.

   Betty Osborne reported that two people were chosen for February. We will learn their names after they have been notified.

F. Classified Staff Development Fund/Educational Leave Stipend.

   This committee did not meet.
G. Committee on the Status of Women.

This committee meets January 20, 2006.

H. Elections Committee.

We welcomed six new members to the Staff Employees Council. The Elections Committee will not meet again until next year.

I. Facilities Resource Committee.

This committee met January 10. Betty Osborne reported that previously discussed action items were reviewed. Some items were tabled until the committee receives further information.

J. Faculty Senate.

This committee meets January 19, 2006.

K. Parking and Traffic Board.

This committee did not meet.

L. Police Services Board of Professional Standards.

This committee did not meet.

M. SEC Bylaws.

This committee did not meet.

N. SEC Luncheon Committee.

This committee did not meet.

O. SEC Open House.

Michelle Rachal reported that this committee plans to meet every Thursday until April 5, 2006, the date of the Open House. Additional members were solicited and all help is welcomed.

P. SEC Web Page.

Vicki Paul took pictures of new SEC members today. She will post them to our website. Vicki noted that the website is being migrated to a new server, so there could be some delay in updates.
Q. Special Interests Committee.

Jeanie Pratt reported that SNEA is looking at new health insurance providers. Some providers have collective bargaining. She stated we need a secure fund for the security of our members.

R. Student Services Food/Retail Dining & Catering Committee.

This committee did not meet.

S. Student Union Advisory Board:

This committee did not meet.

T Wolf Pack Advisory:

This committee did not meet.

U. Work and Family Task Force.

No report was given. New SEC members were asked to sign up for committees. This was tabled until next month’s meeting.

V. University Disabilities Resource Coalition.

No report was given.

Guest Speakers: Carmelo Urza, Studies Abroad Consortium, informed us that the average students studying abroad are 66% female, 20 – 23 years of age. Although the program is funded by soft money, it has been in operation for 23 years.

Europe is the destination for 61% of students studying abroad. Others destinations are Latin America 17%, Asia 8%, and Africa 3%. The program originated with UNR and Boise State. It now consists of 31 member universities and employs over 300 people worldwide.

The program has become so large that they are now admitting associate universities only. Students enrolled in the Studies Abroad program remain enrolled at their home universities, paying the usual enrollment fees and receive credits through them. USAC employs its own faculty at sixteen sites in twelve countries.

Students receive intensive language training, receiving as many as fourteen credits in one semester. After one semester a student is able to communicate in the language of the country in which they study. Many students have double majors and consider the time spent a life-changing experience.
Italy was one of the first countries to participate in the USAC beginning in 1986. All new classes go through a review process and have continued accrediting agency oversight with evaluations every seven years.

Finances have been tighter recently due to the devaluation of the dollar compared to the Euro. Faculty-Staff discounts are available at $350 per summer, $500 per semester and $750 per year.

Questions:

1. How often can a student go abroad? As long as enrolled at UNR.
2. What can be accomplished in a summer? A student can learn a new language and see another country. How much is learned depends upon the length of time spent, a month, five weeks, or ten weeks.
3. How many similar programs exist in the United States? There are others in other states; California has 4,200 students enrolled in studies abroad.
4. Do you have a waiting list? No, the program is expanded according to interest expressed.
6. How does the state of the Chinese economy affect the program? After seven years, the feedback is quite positive. Students report that China is a fun place to visit; the people are enthusiastic and want to talk to westerners.

Guest Speaker: Eric Herzik, Accreditation Committee:

The university is preparing for accreditation scheduled for October, 2007. There is a 200 page handbook to guide the preparation and a website with a message board and a link to the Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities.

Deans have been assigned to chair individual committees collecting data for the final report. The point was clearly made that the accreditation report should be a collective work of many people’s opinions, not that of just one person.

Monthly mixers are being planned for the purpose of getting people talking and to solicit their opinions. People involved in all aspects of the university are welcome to attend and to voice their viewpoints.

Open Discussion:

Pat McDonnell took over for Bill Oberding because Bill’s presence was required at a meeting in his department.

Pat brought up the Relay for Life event, saying that he felt it would be beneficial for SEC members to be involved. He asked for a show of hands for those interested in participating. Discussion was tabled until next month so that Debbie Keck could be included.

Without further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.