
1. Roll Call and Introductions

Present: Eric Albers (HHS), Rafik Beekun for Judy Strauss (COBA), Gale Craviso (SOM), Gale Craviso for Normand LeBlanc (SOM), Maureen Cronin (SS), David Crowther (COE), Donnelly Curtis (Library), Dean Dietrich (DEV), Maria Evans for Exmail Zanjani (CABNR), Jodi Herzik (Provost), Guy Hoelzer (COS), Guy Hoelzer for Hans-Peter Plag (COS), Stephen Jenkins (COS), Cindy Kiel (Research), Alex Kumjian (COS), Tom Lean (A & F), Bourne Morris (JO), Elliott Parker (COBA), Steve Rock (COE), Aaron Santesso (CLA), Barbara Scott (SOM), Barb Scott for Doina Kulick (SOM), JoAnne Skelly (COOP), Judy Strauss (COBA), Judith Sugar (HHS), Patricia Swager (SOM), Shanon Taylor (COE), Ginny Vogel (CLA), Ginny Vogel for Nelson Rojas (CLA), Jill Wallace (IT).

Absent: Michelle Gardner (Pres), Tom Lean (A & F), Mano Misra (EN), Nelson Rojas (CLA), Leah Skladany (SOM), Leonard Weinberg (CLA).

Guests: Duncan Aldrich (Libraries), Mark Brenner (Research), Tammy Freeman (Research), Gena Jones (HR), Jim Richardson (CLA), Jannet Vreeland (Provost's)

2. Request to Approve the November 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Vogel/Craviso. To approve the November 15, 2007 meeting minutes as published.

ACTION: Passed 1 abstention

3. Chair's Report: Steve Rock, Chair:

An offer was made to Michelle Hritz for the Senate Manager Position. Hritz had been the Executive Director of the YMCA and was currently a project specialist with the State of Nevada. Chair Stephen Rock thanked the committee for their work and the excellent job they did. The Public Employees Benefit Program Board (PEBP) heard the Health Benefits for Domestic Partner and voted to start the process of offering benefits to same sex and opposite sex partners. Jim Richardson reported that the next step would be to iron out the details of what the PEBP want to offer and then develop the regulations. The coverage would not begin until July 1, 2009 as it was too late in the year to be completed for the July 1, 2008 benefit year. In 2005 the senate passed a resolution showing their support of domestic partnership benefits, which the Board of Regents passed on to the PEBP to make the final decision. Both the Senate and the Nevada Faculty Alliance were in support of this.

Provost's search: December 6 and 7, 2007, the search committee conducted confidential interviews with eight candidates. Based on those interviews, 3 or 4 candidates would be asked to campus at the beginning of the spring semester. The committee felt that there were very strong candidates. Faculty serving on the search committee were: Bill Follette, Guy Hoelzer, Debra Vigil, Denise Baclawski, Jamie Anderson, Johnson Makoba, and Steve Rock. The search firm, Iacson-Miller, was doing a good job with the process. Link to the provost job description:

<http://www.unr.edu/facultysenate/UNRProvostProfileFinal.pdf>

Pick-a-Prof: on November 29, 2007 President Glick informed Rock that the university would be releasing information on grade distribution and the withdrawal rate by section number. The information was requested by university counsel and the president and they determined that under state law, that there was no defensible reason for refusing to supply the information. UNLV's information was already available on this website. The NRS statute that addresses this is: NRS 239.020. Rock's concern was that the information on some of these websites was not accurate, as it could be based on a small number of student responses. Senators discussed whether or not the university faculty should release this info on our website. This way they could be sure that the information was accurate and that students were not just using the information to find the easiest grader. If the information was released on our website, would we still need to give it to pick-a-prof?

A concern was expressed regarding once data has been collected, it then becomes available, perhaps data that would not be in the best interests of the university, faculty, and students. If this kind of information was released, would it be better if it was conducted by the ASUN? Rock would like senators to discuss the information issue with the constituents and then talk about again in either the January or February Senate meeting.

The November 29-30 Board of Regent's meeting BOR meeting: biggest issue was the Compensated Outside Professional Services Policy that the board was revising. The policy itself has been in place for several years, the revision that passed was in **Section 8, # 6**, *Individual requests to perform outside professional or scholarly service shall be considered confidential personnel documents pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 5, Section 5.6.2; # 13* *It is the responsibility of each faculty member to timely report outside compensated services and to certify the accuracy of the disclosures. Failure to accurately and timely disclose outside compensated services constitutes a basis for disciplinary action under Title 2, Chapter 6; and the addition of # 14, Each NSHE institution shall publish an annual report regarding compensated outside professional or scholarly service completed by its faculty (aggregate data) and approved by the institution in accordance with the provisions of this section. This report will verify that all potential conflicts of interest have been reviewed and approved in accordance with the provisions of this section. A summary of these reports will be sent to the Board of Regents annually.* Rock noted that in the regents' meeting there was recognition that outside consulting was important. The Research and Economic Development Committee would like to see how each individual campus handles the report. The senate discussed re-looking at the entire policy. Budget cuts: the issue was discussed at the regents meeting – both UNLV and U NR proposed mindless cuts, and Rock said that UNR's plan would be available on the FS website Hoelzer indicated that this report is inflammatory and misleading. Some of the latest data indicates that gaming revenues are up. Regent Ron Knecht made a proposal at the regents meeting that was quite thoughtful and spread the budget cuts statewide and reduced budget cuts from 8% to approximately 4%. UNLV students signed a petition asking the governor to reduce the 8% cuts. Jim Richardson cited that in the past when budget cuts were imminent that the faculty were willing to delay merit and a student surcharge was instituted. The senate discussed what were the next steps and timeline. Would this hit the regents prior to the senate's January meeting? The executive board would like advice from the senate, for example, would a 6 month delay of merit be acceptable to offer to administration to help with the budget reduction. The senate would like to be kept up to date as the budget issues happen.

4. Election of a New Parliamentarian:

Cindy Kiel has accepted a position at another university and will be transitioning with the newly elected parliamentarian prior to her leaving.

Rock asked if senators had nominations from the floor for the parliamentarian. There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION: Lean/Herzik. To close nominations and vote from the ballot

ACTION: Passed unanimously

Jill Wallace was elected as the new parliamentarian.

5. Apportionment:

Amendments to senate bylaws changed the apportionment rules in these ways: changed from headcount to FTE and change from 35 to between 30 and 33 voting members, plus the chair, chair elect, and past chair. The other change was that units other than colleges and schools could be combined. Both of these would need to be approved by a 2/3 majority of the senate.

MOTION: Wallace/Beekun. To change the number of senators from 30 to 33. There was considerable discussion regarding the number of senators as well as the ratio of senators from administrative units and academic units.

Raise to 33

MOTION: Kumjian/Beekun To table the motion to raise the number of senators to 33.

ACTION: Passed

There was more discussion regarding combining units and the ratio of administrative faculty units vs. academic faculty units. In order to add special representatives, the senate bylaws would need to be changed.

MOTION: Albers/Jenkins. To approve Robin Gonzalez's plan as presented.

ACTION: Passed 8 Against

Senators who are in a college or unit that has lost a representative, would complete their term.

6. Conflict of Interest, Cindy Kiel, Chair, Conflict of Interest Policy Review Committee:

Cindy Kiel presented the policy and spoke about the changes that were being proposed. The policy was approved in 2004 by the senate. After the policy was passed, the regents changed their policy their handbook, so all citations changed. Many of the changes were superficial such as from UCCCS to NSHE. Rock asked if all of the senators were comfortable with the policy as written

Parker suggested that the senate take out the items that they have issues with and then vote on the rest of the policy.

MOTION: Parker/Scott. To adopt the policy as proposed with the friendly amendment of 10 working days.

ACTION: Passed, 1 against, 2 abstentions

7. Digital Measures: Duncan Aldrich and Jannet Vreeland, Interim Executive VP and Provost and Vice Provost

Jannet Vreeland, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost and Vice Provost said that they were re-releasing Digital Measures (DM). Duncan Aldrich began managing digital measures this fall. The contract with Digital Measures was signed about 3 years ago, but the original launch was not overly successful. Digital Measures would help with the number of requests for information and allow a sort of one stop shopping place to get all of the information needed for these requests.

Duncan Aldrich said that the Provost's office was providing additional support to enter in data.

Senators asked when Digital Measures would become an evaluation tool and not just a database.

The system is a good system and would just need some improvements to tailor it to UNR. Senators expressed concern that if the data is held electronically then even more information would be available for public scrutiny. The state has not defined confidential information and this could cause some issues with the university and DM use. When would Digital Measures become an evaluation tool? The goal was to make Digital Measures an evaluation tool. Why was it that only academic faculty have been required to use Digital Measures? Once the system was running correctly, then administrative faculty would begin entering their data into DM.

8. Voluntary System of Accountability, Jannet Vreeland, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, Vice Provost:

Vreeland wanted to make faculty aware of the renewal of the higher education act and the conversations that are taking place. We are trying to be proactive so that the universities do not end up the a college level "No Child Left Behind Act." The College Portrait provides information on ACT scores, cost of education, and types of students. This is information that the university already

gathers. Vreeland has met with Provost of UNLV and NSC and they agreed that the 4 year institutions take the lead on this, rather than be handed an edict from the system. UNR, UNLV, and NSC would adopt a voluntary system of accountability for a "College Portrait". Vreeland said they would be looking to faculty to participate, particularly in the controversial area of learning outcome assessment. We have 4 years to decide how to do student learning outcomes. This is a conversation that the taskforce (made up of people from the 3 institutions) and then bring back to the faculty.

9. Effort Reporting: Tammy Freeman, Special Effort Reporting and System Implementation and Mark Brenner, Vice President of Research

Tammy Freeman gave the history of effort reporting. Jack Hayes was concerned about the policy and a group was formed, the effort reporting taskforce which was conducted over the spring semester of 2006. Some of the concerns regarded soft-funded faculty. We now have in place a mechanism to provide support to faculty who are 100% soft-funded to get back to 95% so they may write future grant proposals. This also allows faculty to do 5% of work outside of the grant. The funding has been set aside in both the provost's office and the vice president of research's office. They have funded 4 faculty at this point. A contract faculty will report twice a year (January through June and June through December). B contract have 4 potential reporting periods, spring, fall, summer and winter.

MOTION: Scott /Curtis. To approve the policy as written.

ACTION: Passed unanimously

10. New Business – don't loose the recycling and green campus.

Adjourned 3:30