

**University of Nevada, Reno**  
**2006-07 Faculty Senate**

Meeting Minutes December 13, 2006

RSJ 304

Meeting 7

**1. Roll Call and Introductions**

Present: Jim Carson for Maureen Cronin (SS), Bob Chaires (HHS), Gale Craviso (SOM), David Crowther (COE), Donnelyn Curtis ((Library), Kurt Esser for Michelle Gardner (Pres), Bill Follette (CLA), Greg Gardella (IT), Hatice Gecol (EN), Howard Goldbaum (JO), Terry Henner (SOM), Jodi Herzik (Provost), Guy Hoelzer (COS), Cindy Kiel (Research), Tom Lean (A & F), Normand LeBlanc (SOM), Elliott Parker (COBA), Elliott Parker for Cynthia Birk (COBA), Ron Phaneuf (COS), Hans-Peter Plag (COS), Steve Rock (COE), Nelson Rojas (CLA), Stefanie Scoppettone (Dev), Barbara Scott (SOM), JoAnne Skelly (COOP), Mary Stewart (CLA), Judith Sugar (HHS), Patricia Swager (SOM), Debra Vigil (SOM).

Absent: Mark Pinsky (COS), Leonard Weinberg (CLA), Leah Wilds (CLA), Esmail Zanjani (CABNR).

Guests: Gena Jones (HR), Regent Ron Knecht

**2. Request to Approve November 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes:**

Patricia Swager asked that the roll call be fixed to show that she was only represented by a proxy.1

MOTION: Lean/Rojas. To approve the meeting minutes as amended.

ACTION: Passed 1 abstention

**3. Visit with Regent Ron Knecht:**

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to speak with the senate. Regent Wixom sent his regrets that he was unable to meet with the senate. Regent Knecht's term would begin in January and he looked forward to working with all and felt that they had a lot in common as he cared deeply about higher education and its shared mission. Knecht has taught part time at WNCC, attended University of Illinois, graduate school at Stanford, and then Law School at USF. He arrived in Nevada in 2001 and has spent over half his life in public service. His home phone is 882-2935, work is 684-6134, and email [ronknecht@aol.com](mailto:ronknecht@aol.com). If anyone would like to contact him, he requested that people do not call his home between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am, but otherwise, feel free to get in touch with him. Knecht felt that a liberal arts degree was very important to give a student a well rounded education and that education was the highest priority. There was increased interest in moving towards centralization and away from individualization in the system. Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is an integrated system of which regents are the governing board, which could create some interesting issues that other colleges do not have. Nevada was one of the fastest growing states in the nation which also presented some financial challenges, as well as some opportunities. There needed to be continuing diversification and specialization of the mission of the system and they would do well to look at the models of the great state colleges of the Midwest. The university has the opportunity to become a great university and top flight institution. The system needed to adopt a very forward looking attitude. The Board's function was not to micromanage institutions or parts of institutions, but to set a vision, a strategy, and policies that implement those strategies and appoint top management and then aggressively hold them accountable to reach those goals. In order for institutions to reach those marks, information would need to come from the front line people and the customers, as we must attract new students, research dollars, etc. Knecht said that he was not well enough versed about either ERP or the Health Sciences Center, but would be coming up to speed soon. It appeared that there would be some budgeting challenges with both though. Knecht spoke about K-12 and how important it would be to work with them. There was discussion regarding the top down control approach of the regents and lack of sufficient funds in many departments to effectively do the job. Knecht said that the system needed to devolve authority and decision making to lower levels, yet still be integrated in the system. What that means is that those who manage their part of

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the system well, will prosper, and those who don't will not prosper. There was discussion regarding the K-12 system and an invitation from David Crowther to Knecht to come and speak with his faculty.

**4. Chair's Report**

Chair Guy Hoelzer spoke about the F & A rate (overhead and Indirect costs) change. The university had been in the process of negotiating new F & A rates since before last June, the negotiated rate for July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008 would be 40%. The negotiation was retroactive, so funds that were spent would have to be paid back. Projects that began prior to July 1 would be grandfathered in at the old F & A rate. The good news for some was the National Science Foundation would allow the university to keep the difference. Funds would go into operating line of each budget. The reason for the change was the Single Audit Act, which assigned institutions to one federal agency to negotiate rates with. Part of the difficulty was that the more grant funds an institution received, the higher the rate as the overhead would be less, also, the university had no new research space only new public space. All administration costs are capped at 26%. Renegotiation would happen again in 2008.

Hoelzer spoke about the changes in the Degree Revocation Policy. The regents took the senates' recommendations and changed the statute of limitations to seven years, they changed wording to "material academic misconduct that would impact the reputation of the institution. Hoelzer was pleasantly surprised that the regents were willing to make these changes as this was the second hearing of the policy. The regents also heard and approved the evaluation and merit policy that allowed each institution to either conduct peer review or grieve evaluations. UNR faculty would be able to grieve their evaluations as they are tied directly to merit. The Bylaws and Code committee would be working on language to institute this in time for evaluations. The job abandonment policy was removed. The regents' agreed to accelerate the stringency of the Millennium Scholarship to 2009. There would be a requirement of four years of math, although there could be exceptions to the policy. Concern was expressed as this would affect high school freshman. The regents agreed to send a letter to parents and that they would communicate change very quickly. David Crowther would like to see the school counselors made aware of this policy as well.

The regents' have asked for a statement of reduction of textbooks costs from the institutions, students, faculty and local bookstores. The executive board drafted the following statement for comment from the senate.

**December 6, 2006**

**DRAFT FACULTY "STATEMENT" ON TEXTBOOK POLICY**

UNR faculty will endeavor to work with the college bookstore to provide the best possible service to students. The right to select and produce instructional materials is not only central to the principle of academic freedom, but is also important to the delivery of quality instruction. With academic freedom comes the responsibility to minimize both potential conflicts of interest and the costs of instructional materials while maximizing the quality of the educational experience for students.

Specific ways in which UNR faculty will be encouraged to minimize the cost to students include:

- **Readopt the same textbook for the life of the edition.** Using the book in subsequent semesters allows the bookstore to purchase these textbooks back as used and allows students to sell the books amongst themselves thus reducing the cost of the textbook.
- **Use library and digital resources.** In some instances students can get necessary educational materials for no cost or a minimal fee in this way.

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- **Customize a reader with publishing companies.** In producing a customized textbook, professors should consider putting together only the chapters students will need from a book. This saves the students from paying full price for a textbook.
- **Only order the materials that will be used for the class; if ordering a bundle utilize all components so students get their money's worth.** If the student is asked to purchase a required textbook make sure the textbook is utilized. If ordering a bundle, make sure all the components are utilized in the class.
- **Encourage publishers to sell bundle components separately.** If the components of the bundle are sold separately, it allows the bookstore to purchase the textbooks during buyback and through wholesalers to help alleviate the high cost.
- **Be sensitive to the pricing. Call the bookstore for a quote of the book's retail price.** If an instructor knows the cost of a textbook, they will be more sensitive to the high cost issue and can decide if the cost of the materials will benefit the students.
- **Meet bookstore timelines for textbook requisitions.** When faculty meets the deadline for ordering books, the bookstore is able to order them at a lower cost through book buyback programs and used book companies.

Senators discussed the perception that they were trying to get rich off of the students. The faculty felt that many times they were at the mercy of the publisher as they were encouraged to update their textbooks regularly, that sometimes even when ordering an older publication; they were sent the newest version. The library offered to work on copyright approvals, so that packets could be copied as opposed to students purchasing entire books when only sections were needed. Clarification of the complexity of the issues addressed in the statement, and a suggestion that faculty who receive royalties from the textbooks be allowed to donate them to a fund for those students who cannot afford to buy textbooks, or if someone wants to donate to a memorial scholarship, could ask to donate to that fund instead. Any suggestions could be forwarded to Hoelzer.

Hoelzer would like the senate to use WebCT to facilitate discussions in between senate meetings. For example at the last senate meeting when they had the aggressive visitor, Hoelzer wanted opinions from the senate prior to the next senate meeting on how these things should be handled. Hoelzer went over the process of logging into the Senate Discussion Board on WebCT. A link would be put on the Senate Webpage for easier access. If senators have problems, logging on to WebCT, contact Robin or Linda. Senators need to have a NetID to access WebCT. To start a new discussion, hit compose message, to reply to a message click on reply. Hoelzer would like to encourage senators to bring things to the discussion board; perhaps this would allow the senators to have more discussion on things, and would also bring more items to the agenda that are of interest to the senators. There was some discussion as to whether or not past senators should be on the discussion board, the need for a private discussion among senators, the appearance of transparency in the senate. The senate was not subject to the open meeting law so this discussion board would be a viable way to facilitate open discussion among senators. It was decided to do a trial run of the discussion board. The senate discussed the draft statement "Academic and Administrative Performance Evaluation & Development Process Objective" The Non-Traditional Faculty Taskforce was working on revising how administrative faculty were evaluated on campus, based on the many

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different roles that administrative faculty hold. This statement was a broader purpose of what evaluations were in general and the statement would cover all faculty. One senator recommended changing "employee" to "faculty."

**5. New Business**

Greg Gardella would like the senate to address the issue of visitors and how they would be allowed to participate in senate meetings. He would like to see more structure and/or guidelines to address issues with visitors. Hoelzer felt that this would be a good discussion to have on WebCT place on WebCT. There was some discussion if the right balance was reached in the last senate meeting regarding the visitor issue. The senate requested that the Effort Reporting Draft Policy be on the January Agenda. This link is to the Draft Policy:

[http://www.unr.edu/ospa/website4/content/documents/Effort%20Reporting%20Policies%20Draft%2012\\_6\\_06.doc](http://www.unr.edu/ospa/website4/content/documents/Effort%20Reporting%20Policies%20Draft%2012_6_06.doc)

There is also a power point presentation on the OSPA website which goes over the information. Between state laws, budgeting and the federal guidelines, things were becoming less flexible. Senators discussed whether or not an ad hoc committee should be involved in these issues as they affect non traditional faculty, what the draft policy meant to faculty.

Meeting adjourned 4:15.