STAFF EMPLOYEES’ COUNCIL

DATE: July 19, 2000
Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.
Melton Media Room, Journalism Building


VISITORS: Lt. Todd Renwick, Patty Chambers, Robert Dickens, Sherry Blunt.

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Val Chappel, Stephanie Flatt (excused), Liz Gadsden (proxy), Gary Kramer (excused), Betty Osborne, Carole Rankin, Denise Schaar-Buis.

I. Guest Speaker — Robert Dickens from the Office of Governmental Relations spoke on the priorities for the next legislative session. At the recent Board of Regents meeting held in Elko, discussion was held on what is going on in higher education. Topics addressed were: 1) interim study on funding formulas; 2) Governor Guinn’s "Fundamental Review"; 3) what to do with non general fund or non general revenue; and 4) blending funding and government priorities.

Top priorities on the Operations side are: 1) a cost of living increase; 2) correct deficiencies in funding formulas, i.e., the "equity debate"; 3) take care of enrollment growth (because of the Millennium Scholarships, there will be a 35% increase in freshmen and 10% overall increase in student population. We are in the last year of the biennium and therefore there is no additional budgeting available for these increases); 4) adjust support formulas; 5) connect new equipment to instruction; 6) technology: extend campuses in southern Nevada; start up costs for the Redfield campus; research and development; operating funds for the dental school in Las Vegas, a school of pharmacy at the medical school. On the Capital Improvement side are: 1) the new library at a cost of $60 million; 2) the Mackay parking lot will become the center of campus; and 3) to match private funds for a new chemistry building.

Mr. Dickens was questioned about the possibility of Pres. Joe Crowley becoming a lobbyist for the university system. He said that the Regents had definitely accepted Pres. Crowley’s offer and he will be lobbying for the UCCSN.

The question was asked, how does SEC present concerns regarding legislation to the legislature. Mr. Dickens said he will help any way he can and that SNEA can also be of great help. Bob Martin reiterated that SEC should contact other classified councils within the system, as a show of unity can be very impressive. Chair Gaffney said she had been pursuing this matter.

II. Minutes — Kendall Stagg made a statement regarding his feelings on the contents of last month’s minutes. He feels that the statements about his not providing information on the DMV/UNR Police issue were unfair and disrespectful. He emphasized that he could not get the minutes because they were not available; however, he has hand delivered council members copies of the transcripts of the Fundamental Review of State Government which dealt with the DMV/UNR Police merger. Following that statement Kendall Stagg moved the minutes be approved.
The motion was seconded and passed.

III. Chair’s Report

Chair Gaffney announced that committees are being formed in direct response to Governor Guinn’s concerns, one of which is grants and aid for classified employees. Members of this committee are Ashok Dhingra, Lorrie Gaffney, Debby Olsen, Bob Martin, Debi Dearman and Shirley Boyd.

Chair Gaffney also explained the "one card service task force."

Chair Gaffney thanked the Luncheon Committee. She then read a card from Sandy Rogers apologizing to the Council for remarks made by her at the Luncheon.

IV. New Business

Affirmative Action: Did not meet.

Aboretum Board: The committee is done for the summer.

Classified Employee Recognition: Committee will meet next week.

Classified Employee of the Year: Done for the year.

Classified Staff Development Fund: They have received no new applications.

Compensation: The committee did meet and reviewed the past year’s efforts. Meetings will resume when a new committee is formed.

Educational Leave Stipend: Did not meet.

Facilities Planning and Management: The committee did meet, but in the absence of Debi Dearman (who was on vacation), the report is not available at this time.

Food Services: Did not meet.

Gender Relations: Did not meet.

Parking and Traffic Board: The committee is done for this year

SEC By-laws: Chair Gaffney has sent the revisions to Vice President Dhingra.

SEC Luncheon: Done for the year.

SEC Open House: Will not meet again until next year.

Special Interests: Kendall reported that in Lisa Oliveto’s absence there is no report.

Web Page: Chair Gaffney will continue posting a draft of the minutes and hopes to get nomination forms, etc. on the web soon.

Child Care: No report.

Election Committee: Vice Chair Robert Boyd announced that the ballots are all
out except for Southern Extension. He announced that Administrative Services staff are being reassigned into other areas and ballots will be counted accordingly. Robert acknowledged Susan Mayberry of BCN Personnel for all her hard work in getting the lists together. Kendall Stagg suggested we consider having divisions nominate for council membership, rather than the overall balloting we have now in order to get members who are interested in serving on the council. Robert Boyd made a motion that this be taken up by the by-laws committee during the next Council year. The motion was seconded and approved.

V. Old Business

Chair Gaffney turned the floor over to Kendall Stagg to speak on the DMV/UNR Police issue. Debi Dearman stated she clearly sees two sides to this issue, but feels that we are a council representing classified staff; the police officers are classified staff and therefore she supports them in their desire for this merger to take place. Gary Grant asked Lt. Renwick is this were incorporated would policing be better on campus. Lt. Renwick replied that it would. Kendall brought up the matter of stability of the department if the merger takes place. He envisions officers transferring in and out continuously with no continuity in community police. He finds serious safety issues involved in this and also worries about adequate funding for the department. Bob Martin asked "is the university community particularly different from any other community, i.e., a city, the highways, etc., in the matter of policing. Are we unique?" Robert Boyd replied that he feels the unique environment of the university campus is not an issue. Lt. Renwick, when questioned about communication, commented that if the merger took place the UNR police would lose their direct contact with Reno Police Department as the Nevada Highway Patrol is on a different communication system. He said we would gain in dollar amounts because of the dispatch position being eliminated.

Heated discussion followed. Shirley Boyd said she thought the document should be placed on the web page so all constituents could read it, and then come back on the agenda for next month’s meeting. Kendall replied that members had been notified of this issue for several months and should already have talked to constituents. He said that he had yet to see this Council take a stand on anything and he wanted us to do so now.

Chair Gaffney recognized Patty Chambers of the Faculty Senate Office. Patty said that Kendall had brought the matter before the Faculty Senate. She passed out copies of the Resolution the Senate had drafted to President Crowley stating their position. She said that at the first meeting Kendall presented the issue and there was a great deal of discussion on the subject. At the next meeting they took a vote to oppose the merger because of the special environment and our personal treatment by our officers. Patty stated she feels that many of the issues raised by officers could be handled through other avenues rather than merging.

Much discussion was held at this point. Joyce Duncan moved that we vote on this issue today, Debi Dearman seconded the motion. Motion passed. Kendall Stagg moved that the Staff Employees’ Council formally oppose the proposal to move the UNR police department under the Department of Motor Vehicles/Public Safety. Joyce Duncan seconded the motion. A show of hands was taken with 10 in favor, 9 opposing, and one abstaining (a second abstaining vote was received from Liz Gadsden by e-mail). The motion carried. The SEC has voted with a close majority to oppose the merger.

VI. Meeting Adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Prepared by: Ann Ettinger, Secretary
Approved by: Lorrie Gaffney, Chair