STAFF EMPLOYEES’ COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2004
Journalism Bldg., Room 304

Executive Officers Present: Verla Jackson-Davis (Chair), Donna Brown (Secretary), Chris Carver (Vice Chair), Debbie Keck (Treasurer), and Patrick McDonnell (Co-Public Relations).

Representatives Present: Leslie Baskett, Kathleen Coles, Brian Draper, Darley Jeppson, Audra Knight, Vicki Krentz, Jeanette McAlister, Crystel Montecinos, Theresa Moser, Raymond Needham, Demonsthenes Papaeliou (D), Vicki Paul, Phillip Pert, Jewell Radcliffe, Laura Ruud, Eve Welker.

Executive Officers and Representatives Absent: Eileen Aragon (Co-Public Relations), Debbie Elwell (excused Eve Welker proxy), Pam Moore (excused), Virginia Moore (excused Peggy Troupe’ proxy), Valerie Thomas.

Advisor: Mary Ann Henry

Guests: Regent Howard Rosenberg
        John Davis, Training Coordinator
        Environmental Health and Safety

I. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm.

II. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of February meeting were approved as written.

III. New Business:

A. J. Radcliffe reported on H.R. 523 and H.R.594; this is regarding the House subcommittee on the Social Security Windfall Act. The Social Security Act would repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions. There was a subcommittee formed to investigate this issue and a motion has been filed to discharge the committee from consideration of 523 and 594. D. Papaeliou and Radcliffe stated all classified employees need to stand up and be counted; go on line to www.thomas.loc.gov and let them know you want the committee to continue with it’s investigate.
B. Virginia Moore will be leaving the Council as she has taken a professional position here on campus. P. Troupe' offered to proxy the position until it is filled. Chair V. Jackson-Davis stated she would have to discuss this issue with the Executive Council.

C. C. Montecinos mentioned the Boy Scouts of American, Inc. will be recycling ink cartridges, they will supply a postage paid envelope to the people that would like to participate. Montecinos will send an e-mail to the Council with all the information.

D. D. Papaeliou discussed health insurance; there will be a meeting Friday and Saturday to prepare documents for the next Legislative session. There has been discussion of pooling employees and/or everyone going to an HMO. There are different prices for Northern and Southern Nevada. Papaeliou stated we in the North pay twice as much for nothing; this is the time to rally for our benefits.

E. SNEA will be holding a BBQ on Wednesday March 24th from 11am to 2pm in front of the Student Services building. This is for all classified employees; SNEA will supply all the food and be there to answer any questions. Papaeliou urged everyone to tell their co-workers about the BBQ. SNEA will have information available for those who want it; one of the major issues is parking on campus. B. Draper stated he has been speaking with S. KacKenzie, Director for SNEA. Draper mentioned there are a lot of people that don't support the union but the union is the only one that is fighting for us as classified employees. R. Needham commented that there shouldn't be a need for unions. The state should take better care of the state workers. Needham has never been a fan of unions but he became a member over a year ago, they are working for better insurance, better salaries and parking; we as members of the SEC are not here as cheerleaders we are here only as advisers to the administration on what is best for the classified employee. He feels that SNEA is looking out for the best interest of classified employees. E. Welker mentioned she had heard that faculty members on campus didn't support the classified employee. Guest J. Davis stated he is a faculty member and that in general a lot of faculty are interested in what happens to the classified employee.

F. The case against the state worker who testified against her supervisor and was fired has been settled. The State of Nevada will have to pay her a year's salary plus $88,000. The case could have been settled without the state having the pay money but they went to trial and lost.
Guest Speaker:

Regent Howard Rosenberg made his way through the tangled web of computer lines; they are remodeling the projection system. Regent Rosenberg stated from the start that faculty do care about classified employees. The University could not function without them.

Parking is an issue that everyone faces faculty, staff and students. It’s not just here at UNR but every University has a dilemma with parking issues. At UNLV most students, staff and faculty park at Thomas Mack as it is free parking but there is the issue of a busy street to cross once you park. Regent Rosenberg and the Council discussed the rise in parking fees that will be used to pay for the new parking garage. D. Keck stated maybe everyone should lobby for state funds to be used for parking structures. Regent Rosenberg commented state funds can not be used for building garages, athletic facilities or for student unions.

C. Carver asked Regent Rosenberg if he had heard the University was considering making all state classified employees University employees. He stated he had heard that rumor. The Council discussed the issue of Nevada being a right to work state and what it would mean if the classified employees became University employees.

Regent Rosenberg mentioned a $10 million gift that will go towards the new Knowledge Center. Chuck and Ann Mathewson and IGT gave the gift at a news conference earlier today. If the University does not have all the money to start the Knowledge Center before 2005 then the $22 million will go back to the state.

Regent Rosenberg commented on the need to stand up and be counted in numbers for our rights and if that means union then by all means join them. Faculty Alliance is as close to a union for faculty as you can get. He can remember when a union meant mill workers or teamster type people not professional people. Regent Rosenberg stated if the Council would put something in writing about their concerns with health insurance, etc. he would take the information to the Chancellor. He acknowledges that more faculty is not aware of the concerns of the classified employees.

D. Brown asked Regent Rosenberg about the picture that was in the Nevada News recently. The photo contained a picture of President Lilley and Senate Harry Reid. She asked if he knew what the money would be used for. Regent Rosenberg stated it would be used for research budget such as building a new Bio Tech building on the north end of campus. He mentioned this was a big windfall for the University. Regent Rosenberg is concerned there is not enough room for classrooms, there is not enough
seats for students. With the new Knowledge Center they are looking at
doing away with the old Getchell Library. Regent Rosenberg would like
to see it used for office and classroom space, but they are finding it is
easier and more cost effective to building new buildings then to refurbish
old buildings.

P. Pert discussed the new Redfield Campus and asked if Regent
Rosenberg knew what types of buildings would be constructed there.
Regent Rosenberg stated the only building at the time is going up just to
secure the land for future use. He believes core classes could be taught
there.

UNLV has purchased 650 acres and Regent Rosenberg feels it will be
used for new campus. Nevada State College in Las Vegas is growing by
leaps and bounds, but he still gets letters asking why they wanted to build
it.

Regent Rosenberg stated there are 52 items on the agenda for the meeting
of the Board of Regents and 50 of them will go quickly but two of them
are going to make headlines.

Regent Rosenberg mentioned that UNR just hired a new Athletic Director;
she is one of only five women Athletic Directors in the United States. The
new Marketing Director has been hired and he feels she will do a great job
for the University.

Regent Rosenberg stated the University is still one of the best places to
work and he wanted to remind everyone that they are here because of the
students and they need to keep that in mind.

The council thanked Regent Rosenberg for attending the meeting and
invited him back again.

G. Committee Reports:


P. Troupe’ reported the committee met on 2/26/04. There were 9
policies approved by the President and will be updated in the
Manual as soon as possible.

Three policies were reviewed by the committee and will be sent
forward to the Provost/President for their review.

The committee discussed the mechanism of notifying the campus
of changes in the Administrative Manual.
The issue of classified employees that are hired on an LOA to teach a class and how that overtime rule would apply was discussed at the meeting. The general practice is to try and avoid this situation. Employees of the University may not volunteer at organizations that are within the University’s scope (example, a person working for Cooperative Extension may not volunteer to be a 4-H leader).

The entire section that pertains to classified staff was last reviewed in May 1998. There are a few out of day items that need to be changed as well as the number of steps on the salary schedule and the longevity amounts. Gena Jones will contact someone in BCN Personnel to review the entire section. This should be done on a more regular basis.

2. **Affirmative Action.**

   Committee member unavailable for comment

3. **Arboretum Board.**

   R. Needham discussed the faculty/staff/student memorial that has been approved. It will consist of a walk way around the lake near Clark Administration Building. He is unsure of when there will be a ground breaking; a drawing of the new memorial was distributed to the Council. Needham reminded everyone that April 29th is Arbor Day.

4. **ASUN.**

   P. McDonnell reported there is a new Student Body President; he has not been able to attend recently.

5. **Classified Employee of the Month and Year.**

   The committee will be meeting on Thursday of this week

6. **Classified Staff Development and Educational Leave Stipend.**

   D. Keck reported the committee received six new applications. One application was rejected as it was sent in from a faculty member. Three applications have been paid the maximum amount of $100; two are on hold while waiting for more donations to come in. Keck stressed the fact that we need to help with the education of other classified employees. She stated the committee will be
holding a raffle at the SEC Open House. Information regarding payroll deductions will also be made available.

7. **Compensation Committee.**

P. Pert stated the committee is on hold until after they review the Legislative agenda in November. They will at that time know the direction they will take.

8. **Facilities Resource Committee.**

D. Brown reported the committee did meet and they discussed projects on campus over $25,000. A lease will be signed by April 1st on the property at Taylor and Haskell. By UNR securing this property several departments will be able to be in the same building, many departments are spread throughout the campus and this will give them the opportunity to be in one place. This will also free up more space on campus.

A new real estate person has been hired; he comes to UNR from New York.

A modular has been purchased and will be used for office space on the north end of campus.

New practice room modulars have been purchased for the Music Department and will be placed near Church of Fine Arts. Music was also given space in the Virginia Street Gym for dance.

The freezers in Fleischmann Ag will be moved to their new location by the end of April.

The next meeting will be held April 13th.

9. **Faculty Senate.**

No report at this time.

10. **Parking and Traffic Board.**

K. Coles reported the board reviewed an appeal to the Service Vehicle Permit Policy. A faculty member who teaches Soil Physics every spring semester has in the past been allowed a one-hour permit for the Service Vehicle parking space because he needs to transport materials from several buildings on campus to his class. The new policy grants only 15 minutes in Service
Vehicle space. The board decided to approve a one-hour permit for this semester only and to suggest an alternate solution for the spring semester of next year.

Rafik Beekun spoke to the board about his concern regarding handicapped parking availability in the new master plan. He has had conflicting communication about lots 4 and 5. Sometimes he hears from the master plan committee that the whole area will be turned into green belt or open space. Other times he hears that the handicapped parking will remain. The board granted his request that the board will write a letter to the master plan consulting firm to request from them in writing confirmation that handicapped parking will remain available in the new mid campus master plan. The board did receive a letter from the Sasaki Associates, Inc stating they had addressed the concerns of the board at their last meeting and there will be ADA accessible parking in the area west of Mack Social Science. This will likely be in the form of parking below proposed future buildings.


D. Brown stated this should not be listed on the committee reports; the Police Review Board will meet only when a complaint has been filed against a member of the UNRPD. The committee will meet and review the complaint but everything will be highly confidential so there will be no report issued to the Council.

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

J. Radcliffe stated the committee will be meeting on March 19th, she will have a report at the next SEC meeting in April.

13. SEC Bylaws.

C. Carver stated with V. Moore leaving this opens another place on the SEC. More positions need to be filled as soon as possible.


A sample of the invitation was distributed for the Council’s review. The invitations should be going out by the end of the week reported T. Moser. All the tables have been reserved. Food Services will be supplying the food samples at Open House; those items are mac and cheese, pizza squares and chips and salsa. The Council discussed having some type of food on their tables.
D. Keck stated they were having homemade brownies. Several other Council members stated they had plans for other types of homemade cookies.

15. **SEC Luncheon Committee.**

Chair V. Jackson-Davis mentioned the theme for this year's luncheon is tropical. They have found center pieces that can be used such as fish and palm trees. P. McDonnell will supply the music.

16. **SEC Web Page.**

D. Papaeliou is waiting for more information about the Open House and once that is received he will update the web page.

17. **Special Interest.**

P. Pert stated this committee has been inactive.

18. **NCAA Certification Self Study.**

Did not meet

19. **Working Family Task Force.**

Did not meet

20. **University Disabled Committee.**

Committee member unavailable for comment.

21. **UPC.**

Chair V. Jackson-Davis stated because of conflicts with her class schedule she has been unable to attend the meeting.

**IV. Old Business.**

No discussion at this time.

**V Open Discussion.**

No discussion at this time

With no further comments the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.