University of Nevada Reno

Staff Employees Council (SEC)

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2014

Rita Laden Senate Chambers, 3rd Floor, JCU

Representatives Present: Ashley Andrews (Public Relations Coordinator), Albert Bonk (Chair), Betsy Brownfield (Vice-Chair), Jodi Fraser, Carla Geib (Treasurer), Debra Glogovac, Margo Grubic, Nancy Horowitz, Natsumi Housely, Kathy Johnson (Secretary), Linda Kuchenbecker (Ex-Officio Chair), David Lockyer, Alicia Seefeldt, Pamela Terango, Mona Watts, Adria White, Jodi Yocum.

Representatives Absent: Michelle Bruce, Robert Hernandez, Steven Hollingsworth, Lindsarae Klaes, Lisa Kornze, Harley LaRoche, Jennifer Laslo, Cheyenne Magpantay, Mary Miller.

Guest Speakers: Provost Kevin Carmam, Jim Richardson (Professor, Sociology; lobbyist at legislature for 14 sessions).

I. Announcements/Action Items
   a. Motion to approve last month’s minutes by Alicia Seefeldt, Linda Kuchenbecker seconded. Motion passed.
   b. Albert mentioned the President’s email sent out on December 12. A key point that Albert mentioned is that no one will lose their job; there are other things that the President will look to cut.
   c. GIA – the GIA issue will be moved back to the Business Officer’s Committee. It needs to see how it will affect NSHE policy. The Executive Board of the SEC was asked to review paper. We have some questions before we send our recommendations back to Ron. It is possible with the shortfall that this will be affected, but the President will try not to let this happen.
   d. Evans Avenue project – it is hoped that by the summer of 2015 this project will be completed. There are safety concerns of some crosswalks not having flashing lights. The
RTC will add flashing lights to those crosswalks. There are plans to add streetlights, as well.

II. Provost Carman

a. He spoke first of the budget shortfall that is to be addressed this fiscal year. There is a $6 million shortfall and about $1.8 million of that falls on the University. The number that is causing anxiety is the $6 million to higher education because it affects the funding for the merit increases. He said we’re not taking back the raises. The amount the University would have to give back is $1.2 million. This shortfall is not expected to recur. There is no impact on jobs or on furlough. Bruce Shiveley is working on it.

b. A possibility is that funds will be drawn from the fringe pool. Others are that some one-time expenses will be delayed or some positions will be delayed a month or two.

c. Nancy asked where the shortfall came from. Provost Carman referred the question to Jim Richardson. Jim explained that revenue from mining taxes came in less than expected, and that K-12 enrollment increased significantly in Clark County.

d. A member asked if the budget will be decreased for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. Provost Carman answered that he expects state wide programs to decrease their budget. Examples were SOM, Cooperative Extension. This would be a one-time contribution, not a permanent reduction.

e. The Strategic and Master Plans were well received by the Board of Regents. The BOR wants regular feedback; Provost Carman said committees will meet annually or semi-annually to give feedback. There is a standing committee with RTC and the City of Reno, and he would like the SEC to be a part of that.

f. Linda Kuchenbecker asked if the RTC will be experiencing a shortfall, and if so, what the effect that will have on the Virginia Street project. The Provost said that the project is going full speed ahead. She also asked if some buildings will be torn down and he said that Center Street at 9th will be widened. Is the Evans Avenue project the second phase? (Linda). Yes, and the crosswalks on Evans are a priority; adding bike and pedestrian lanes are part of the plan. Improving pedestrian safety is a high priority.

g. When will we know if the 15 to Finish is effective? (Debra Glogovac). The Provost said that it is effective now. It increases the FTE equivalent. The University needs to campaign to change the attitude of the student. 52% more students took 15 credits or
more. Student athletes graduate in four years, but they can get a waiver and can take summer school. Remedial classes also count towards the 15 credits.

III. Jim Richardson

a. Governor Sandoval wants to fix the revenue structure, but with the recent elections, that may not be as easy as he anticipated. On January 15 Governor Sandoval will hold the State of the State address, which will include his budget plan.

b. He said that the shortfalls will affect us in unexpected ways. A possibility is to take $17 million out of the underutilized PEBP reserves.

c. We are allowed to keep student fee revenue, but we have to report to Interim Finance Committee on how to spend fees.

d. Debra asked what could happen if PEBP reserves are depleted. Jim answered that the Governor would recommend a number to help replenish deficiencies.

e. Linda asked if the Board of Regents support enrollment growth. Jim said that some do, but some legislators don’t.

IV. New Business

a. The Executive Board approved changing the date of the Silver and Blue Salute to June 10 instead of June 9.

b. Nancy said that the SEC Open House is March 18 from 11:30-1:00. She said to ask our committees if they would like to have a table at the Open House.

c. Debra will send out minutes of Jacque Ewing Taylor’s December 10 talk.

d. Albert stressed to members to talk to their constituents and see what they have questions about; perhaps about the legislative session, retirement, insurance, etc. He asked members to be more active and expand SEC’s visibility since we are part of the campus government. Ask what they would want Albert talk to the President about.

e. Betsy asked about where everyone is going to park after the Strategic Plan is implemented. Alicia said that parking is part of the review; parking in a garage downtown is a possibility.

Meeting adjourned at 3:44