Minutes of the University Senate Meeting
April 5, 2007

1.
The April meeting of the University Senate was held at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2007 in Room 7, Gamble Hall. Tom Petros, chair-elect, presided.

2.
The following members of the Senate were present:

Anderson, Cindy  
Anderson, Suzanne  
Baker, Mary  
Benoit, Joseph  
Berne, Jane  
Boyd, Robert  
Bradley, April  
Dewar, Graeme  
Elbert, Dennis  
Elsinga, Lillian  
Erickson, Daniel  
Ferraro, Richard  
Fisher, Jay  
Haskins, James  
Heitkamp, Thomasine  
Hume, Wendy  
Iiams, Michele  
Iverson, Joneen  
Jackson, Jon  
Jeno, Sue  
Jerath, Sukhvarsh  
Kelsch, Steven  
Lane, Jason  
Mahar, Patricia  
Marasinghe, Kanishka  
Mayzer, Roni  
Owens, Sarah  
Perry, David  
Petros, Thomas  
Potvin, Martha  
Rakow, Lana  
Rex, Janet  
Rice, Daniel  
Rieke, Judy  
Rosenberger, Thad  
Stoferahn, Curtis  
Stolt, Wilbur  
Watson, John  
Weisenstein, Greg

3.
The following members of the Senate were absent:

Bass, Gail  
Behrmann, William  
Buhr, Jordan  
Campbell, Katherine  
Covington, Chandise  
Cripe, Haylee  
Drewes, Mary  
Flom-Meland, Cynthia  
Folkestad, Sara  
Gallager, Robert  
Gosnold, Will  
Hilliard, Nathaniel  
Jackson, Margaret  
Jacobson, Rachelle  
Johnson, Gary  
Johnson, Stefan  
Kitzes, Adam  
Koeser, Brandon  
Kupchella, Charles  
LaVenture, Andrew  
Lawrence, David  
LeBel, Paul  
Little, Michael  
Lothspeich, Jason  
Mamaghani, Iraj  
Martindale, Nathan  
Moen, Jan  
Munski, Douglas  
Murphy, Eric  
Myers, Bradley  
Nowacki, Michael  
Olsen, Glenn  
Perkins, Dexter  
Picklo, Matthew  
Poochigian, Donald  
Rendahl, Stephen  
Robertson, Charles  
Schnellert, Gary  
Seddoh, Samuel  
Smart, Kathy  
Smith, Bruce  
Streibel, Kent  
Venhuizen, Brett  
Williams, Jim  
Wilson, H. David  
Wittgraf, Michael  
Yurkovich, Eleanor
The following announcements were made:

a. Mr. Petros announced that the Smoke Free UND campus will go into effect October 5, 2007. Will Gosnold is the Senate representative to establish the policy. Questions can be directed to co-chairs Jane Croeker, Laurie Betting, and Nate Martindale.

b. Mr. Stofferahn reported that he was just notified that Senator Svedjan has proposed cutting $16M from UND’s budget and proportional amounts from other institutions. He encouraged the senators to contact Mr. Svedjan to voice opposition to the cut for UND. Mr. Stofferahn will let Senators know when he has more information. He also reported that the letter which was sent to the legislature regarding the salary and health benefits contained 99 total signatures. UND was the only institution that was able to organize in this way and have its voice heard.

c. Jay Fisher, UND’s new Student Body President, announced the Big Event on April 14. Applications to participate were due on April 5, but would be accepted until the end of the week. The various groups go into the community for projects and to promote good relations.

d. Tom Steen and Anne Kelsch presented the report from the General Education Task Force. Mr. Steen first presented background on the 28-member Task Force. The Task Force has worked two years reviewing how well general education is working and how it might be improved. This study was precipitated by three issues: 1) faculty being unaware or lacking knowledge on what it means to contribute to a student’s general education; 2) students indicating that general education is something to get through rather than to grow from; and 3) the North Central Association visit where they approved UND but thought there was a need to better assess student learning in general education.

Anne Kelsch described the process by which the Task Force approached their work: readings and study; review of best practices; bringing experts to campus; research at UND on general education and general education courses; and discussion and debate on a new direction of general education at UND. They encouraged the Senators to read the document before the May meeting and contact Task Force members with questions, or if they wished a department visit. They indicted that they believe the proposed document is balanced and asked for thoughtful consideration.

e. Matt Cavalli announced that the General Education Requirement Committee decided to modify the General Education portion of the catalog. The approved courses will now be housed on the General Education website rather than being listed in the academic catalog. The catalog will have general information and will reference the url for the general education courses. Mr. Cavalli showed a prototype of what the site will look like.

The question period was opened at 4:35 p.m.
Mr. Petros asked Mr. Weisenstein to give an update on the legislative process. Mr. Weisenstein commented that the Grand Forks Herald reports quite accurately. The Senate passed the 5/5 salary increases but the House passed the 4/4. He described the process where this difference is worked out in conference committee. He also described two hurdles: the Agriculture Research at NDSU being a separate state agency and, therefore, approved for 4/4 salary increase; and the Governor’s proposed budget regarding benefits. The Agriculture research issue has been worked out but the Governor’s proposed budget on benefits has not. He indicated that the tuition cap should remain. He also commented that Senator Holmberg has worked hard for education.

The question period closed at 4:43 p.m.

7.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. due to a lack of quorum.

Suzanne Anderson
Secretary to the Senate