I. Roll - The following Faculty Senate members were absent: de la Torre, Draper, Macieski, McCann, VonDamm and Williams. Absent as work to rule were Carr, Christie, Echt, Garland, Planalp, Reardon, Roh, and Stine. Excused was Keim.

II. Communications with the President - The president said that she and the vice president for financial affairs met this morning to discuss the capital budget, and the president hopes that the Faculty Senate’s Campus Planning Committee will invite Alan Braun to discuss details of the capital budget. Recently, UNH has not received a proportionate share of the capital budget sent to the system, and that situation needs to be addressed. The university has assessed the renovation needs of eighty core university buildings which comprise ninety percent of our usable space. If the Facility Condition Index is greater than one, this means that the building has problems. The impact, of the need for renovation, on the learning situation in those buildings is also being ranked. A large number of engineering students go out of state, because the engineering buildings here are so old. The projected cost of building repair that is overdue is $176 million; and yet in the current biennium, the legislature assigned only $80 million for the capital budget for the entire system. The above assessment-of-needs figures do not even include the auxiliary buildings for which the university is responsible. The president said that there must be a major effort to deal with the university’s renovation needs, and she asked that some members of the senate review the situation carefully.

A professor said that he is impressed with the effort that has gone into documenting and working for a solution of the renovation needs, and he asked that similar effort be put into dealing with the faculty’s needs. The president replied that we need a new process for collective bargaining, and she added that the administration is trying to obtain independent data on how UNH faculty salaries rank with those at comparable institutions. She said that perhaps we can use a similar type of documentation and assessment for the operating budget, which includes salaries.

President Leitzel said that various long-term academic plans are being reviewed to see if their targets are consistent with each other and worthy of completion. The Faculty Senate’s Academic Affairs Committee chair is participating in this review. Regarding enrollment, February 1 is the deadline for new student applications, and we will have a better idea then how this year compages with last year. However, the current estimate is that applications are up by twenty-four percent, which includes a thirty percent rise in out-of-state applications and an eight percent rise in in-state applications. The quality of the applicant pool looks stronger than last year, and concern has been expressed about having sufficient funds for more merit scholarships. Students are attracted to this university by the honors program and by research opportunities for undergraduates.

III. Communications from the Chair - The Faculty Senate chair said that the president has decided to move forward with responsibility-center management. She has received written assurances from the system office that the units at UNH will be able to carry forward funds and also to move funds from one category to another. The next step is approval of RCM by the Board of Trustees. The Academic Planning Steering Committee met last week to work on creating a comprehensive academic plan. The twenty-six members of this committee include twelve faculty, among whom are the Faculty Senate chair and the chair of the senate’s Academic Affairs Committee. The Academic Planning Steering Committee intends to meet frequently and have a plan ready in the fall.

IV. Minutes - The minutes of the last Faculty Senate meeting were approved unanimously.
V. Disposal of Property - The Campus Planning Committee, through its chair, presented a revised motion on property disposal as follows:

Many UNH properties, both in the vicinity of the UNH campus and across the state, are classrooms of the university. They are used as teaching tools, and as sites for both graduate and undergraduate research (and sometimes in collaborative usage with UNH Cooperative Extension). This often involves long-term research which cannot be readily carried out on other lands not controlled by the university. As such, these properties should not be considered for disposal or change of status in any way without faculty assessment of the affected properties. The senate acknowledges that a policy to assess the impact of a sale of property exists; however, the implementation of that policy is deficient. The senate calls for a clear, written statement of the policy’s implementation structure, ensuring consultation with affected departments and faculty, and continuing to require an academic impact statement prior to any action being taken to dispose, or change the status, of any university property. Any advisory committee created to deal with real property disposal should include at least one faculty member who is also a member of the Faculty Senate.

Jim Farrell moved and Steve Bornstein seconded alternate wording for the motion as follows:

The university shall conduct an academic impact study prior to the disposal or sale of any university property. An academic impact report shall be submitted to the Faculty Senate Campus Planning Committee, with copies to the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee. Such study shall evaluate the importance of the property for current or future teaching or research. Academic departments and individual faculty, whose work would be affected by the sale or disposal of university property, shall be given the opportunity to respond to the academic impact report. The Faculty Senate shall offer a recommendation to the president on the sale or disposal of the property within 30 days of receiving the academic impact study (or, if the university is not in session, at the first full meeting of the senate subsequent to the issuance of the report).

After much discussion, friendly amendments were made to this alternate wording, to change the first sentence to “The university’s campus planning office shall conduct an academic impact study prior to the disposal, sale, or change of status of any university property” and to add to Professor Farrell’s version of the motion a final sentence stating “The Advisory Committee on Real Property should include at least one faculty member who is also a member of the Faculty Senate”. The senate agreed that changes due to continuing timber management would be considered a change of condition and not a change of status. A professor suggested that there should be some sort of registry so that faculty members could record which pieces of property are important to their research or teaching. Concern was expressed that the Farrell version might require too much of the senate’s time. The senate voted on his wording as amended; and it failed with thirteen ayes and fourteen nays, including the tie-breaking vote of the senate chair.

A professor expressed concern about damage done to university fields and drainage ditches when a jeep was driven over them for a survey. A faculty member suggested that any motion should explicitly include leasing and not just sale of lands. The senate wants all faculty members who would be affected by a proposed change of land status to be consulted before any decision is made. After many friendly amendments, the original motion was amended and passed with twenty-five ayes, no nays, and two abstentions, as follows:

Many UNH properties, both in the vicinity of the UNH campus and across the state, are classrooms of the university. They are used as teaching tools and as sites for both graduate and undergraduate research (and sometimes in collaborative usage with UNH Cooperative Extension). This often involves long-term
research that cannot be readily carried out on other lands not controlled by the university. As such, these properties should not be considered for disposal or change of status in any way without faculty assessment of the affected properties. The senate acknowledges that a policy to assess the impact of a sale of property exists; however, the implementation of that policy needs to be clarified and formalized. The Senate calls for a clear, written statement of the policy’s implementation structure, ensuring consultation with affected departments and faculty and requiring an Academic Impact Statement prior to any action being taken to dispose or change the status of any university property. In addition, faculty should be consulted prior to any physical evaluation of university property preparatory to such action. The Advisory Committee on Real Property should include at least one faculty member who is also a member of the Faculty Senate.

VI. Thompson School Course Access - If a UNH student takes a course at any other accredited school similar to the Thompson School, the student could receive credit for the course at UNH. However, at the present time there is no mechanism for this to happen when a UNH student takes a course from the Thompson School on campus; and so the motion, presented by the Academic Affairs Committee and distributed with the senate agenda, would eliminate that contradiction in current policy. These courses may be used for major or minor requirements only if specifically approved by the department granting the major or minor, and the Kinesiology Department has stated that it will not approve the use of such courses for major or minor requirements. Some faculty in WSBE and the Nursing and Kinesiology Departments wanted the motion to say that no action may be taken in this regard if it would negatively affect the department’s accreditation. The motion on Thompson School course access, which was attached to the senate’s agenda, passed with twenty-four ayes and three nays.

VII. Report on the Status of HHS 798 - Faculty have questioned why this course is not offered by an academic department and why the teacher is not a faculty member. The four-credit course is taught by Cathleen Grace-Bishop, who is the associate director of Health Services. Faculty expressed concern that the administration is starting to teach and to bypass the faculty role at the university. A member of the Faculty Senate’s Academic Affairs Committee said that HHS 798 does have faculty approval, since the course was developed by faculty in the School of Health and Human Services and the course went through college-level approval processes. Some courses are taught by non-faculty members and supervised by a dean. Is there a policy on this? Is one needed? Could we create a mechanism whereby a staff member who qualified to teach a course due to his/her expertise could be granted ten percent faculty status? Can a department seek adjunct faculty status for a staff member? These matters could be reviewed by the senate’s Academic Affairs Committee.

VIII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned.