The Senate meeting was conducted by President elect Jonathan Henning and Vice President elect Casey Bowen with Senate Advisor Dr. David Carver presiding.

Senate executive members in attendance include: President Jonathan Henning, Vice President Casey Bowen, Treasurer Sarah Keim, and Secretary Curtis McKnight.

Student Senators in attendance were Agnes Constantino, Aishwarya Prakash, Andrea Schwieger, Andy Yang, Barbara Miller, Bradley Bohn, Brian Domack, Brooke Weinrich, Carrie Althoff, Charlie Livingston, Christopher March, Dan Connealy, Daniel Sova, Erin Rodie, Jacqueline Wells, Jenny Kast, Jeremy Peterson, Jessica Chardoulias, Kalyan Nannuru, Karsen Duncan, Keith Jensen, Marc Handler, Mario Fernandez, Megan Montgomery, Paula Richards, Rachael Moeller, Razia Aziz-Sieble, Robert Lundholm, Shanna Olney, and Vivek Gautam

Meeting Minutes
1.0 Call to Order
2.0 Approval of January Minutes
   2.1 Minutes were approved unanimously
3.0 Advisor’s Report – Dr. David Carver
   3.1 April 10th at noon will be the Alvin Earle Outstanding Health Science Educator Award ceremony. The Alvin Earle Award is the only award initiated and given by UNMC students and is presented to an instructor who has demonstrated sincere interest in his discipline, involvement with students and excellence in the quality of instruction. Award recipients receive a $500 honorarium and have their name added to the Alvin M. Earle plaque in the Wittson Hall lobby.
   3.2 Dr. Carver would like to encourage all senators to think about who they would like to nominate.
4.0 Old Business
   4.1 Hockey Night Event
      4.1.1 Sold 260 tickets, thank you to all the vendors. Thank you to Casey for putting in so much work
      4.1.2 Casey: the seats were not together, as we thought. Next year, Casey will personally buy block of consecutive tickets and that way it will be planned before the new VP takes charge
   4.2 Recycling
      4.2.1 Jenny Kast and Jon met with Rick Boldt to get ideas on how to increase number of receptacles, and recycle plastic. Limitations of
space and cost are the main factors standing in the way of a more comprehensive recycling plan.

4.2.2 The best way is to stop plastic at its source: vending machine. We will encourage vendors to use aluminum.

4.2.3 A letter must be written to vendors and encourage them to get onboard with saving the earth and switch to aluminum cans.

4.2.4 A letter has been written, and discussion on the idea will take place

4.2.4.1 Dan Connealy: what are the contracts like? Will they potentially lose money? Students on this campus will be the biggest obstacle. Convenience students on campus and we’ll be able to give our change some permanence.

4.2.4.2 The vending machines are not the only place to buy plastic, what about the convenience store.

4.2.4.3 Paper and aluminum are the only things being recycled at this point. It will be a difficult to fight convenience. We could reduce consumption, but never eliminate it.

4.2.4.4 Chris March suggested getting an accurate gauge of student interest and willingness and to hold the issue over to the next meeting.

4.2.4.5 Carrie Althoff suggested working within the current system to encourage students to utilize the current system.

4.2.4.6 Issue will be tabled until next meeting to allow for further meditation and communication with classmates.

4.3 Personal Health Record

4.3.1 PHR is currently not working. Stay tuned and hold off until it is functional.

4.3.2 The concept is valid and solid, but the process is difficult.

5.0 New Business

5.1 State Budget/Senate Resolution

5.1.1 Governor Dave Heineman proposed a smaller than average budget increase for public education. That budget went to committee, and came back with higher numbers. This is an encouraging sign, but due to the gravity of the situation, some further action is needed.

5.1.2 Jonathan drafted a resolution, which is located on the Student Senate website. The resolution was read aloud in chambers, and discussion followed.

5.1.3 Motion was proposed and passed. Full senate approved the resolution with a unanimous vote.

5.2 Mario/Drew: Senate seats in the COP and Graduate Studies

5.2.1 Mario: Graduate college assigns 11 at large seats. Mario proposes to have one of the 11 of the seats be directly assigned to the graduate student association president. The graduate student association president has the means of contacting all graduate students.
5.2.1.1 In order to do this, an amendment must be passed. Secondly, the graduate students would have to vote on said amendment.

5.2.1.2 Sara Keim expressed support for Mario’s idea. As a GSA representative, she feels that the idea resonates with her.

5.2.1.3 The issue was formally presented, and will await vote at next senate meeting.

5.2.2 Brian: due to the P4 president being an automatic senate member, and because the P4 class president is often out of town, it submitted that the P4 not be an automatic senator, and thus giving the College of Pharmacy 2 at large bids and 3 automatic seats.

5.2.2.1 Issue was discussed. Currently it is difficult to schedule rotations close to Omaha.

5.2.2.2 Dr. Carver, is it difficult to have the absent sitting president delegate a representative at each absence.

5.3 LB700: Brief Discussion

5.3.1 The legislative bill introduced to make Nebraska one of 5 states that outlaws working with Stem Cells. It would make it a class 4 felony.

5.3.2 This is a very ethically gray area, and reasonable people can disagree. We recommend looking at the bill, and being able to further discuss its wording and implications at a further meeting.

5.3.3 This is reflective of our academic research environment, and passage of the bill will halt all stem cell work, it is harsher than current federal regulations in place.

5.3.4 This is an issue we will watch carefully for further developments.

5.4 Luau

5.4.1 Luau will be in April. Date will be set by March meeting.

5.5 President’s Day: February 19th, buy your favorite president a Trek Madone SSL 6.9 carbon fiber 52cm racing bicycle!! (Shimano Dura-Ace if you please!!)

6.0 Announcements/Discussion/Issues

6.1 Pharmacy 1st year students would like to have a Casino night fundraiser for Histocytosis foundation. SLC will not let them use their location because gambling is prohibited on campus.

6.1.1 Drawing for prizes is a way to prevent gambling, but a raffle may be difficult to work because of Nebraska Lottery.

6.2 Physical Therapy will be having a volleyball tournament March 31st.

6.3 1st year Medical students would like to use the rooms in Durham to study past 6pm.

6.3.1 Issue will be raised at the Chancellor’s breakfast, although outlook is not positive due to sensitive research ongoing in Durham.
6.4 Staplers, and a hole punchers in computer labs. Also, a copy machine in SLC.

7.0 Officer Reports:
7.1 President – Jonathan Henning
7.2 Vice President – Casey Bowen
7.3 Treasurer
7.4 Secretary
    7.4.1 The website has been updated to the fullest. Our student senate website rivals that of the Faculty senate. In a head to head competition, we would win.

8.0 Pictures
8.1 Pictures were taken at the start of the meeting.

9.0 Adjournment