The senate meeting was called to order by President Peterson.

a. Guest speakers were introduced by President Peterson. The first speaker was Melanie Stewart with the UNMC LiveGreen initiative. She explained how the university is trying to run a more green campus at UNMC. She asked for suggestions on how to get students involved in the Live Green efforts. Senators suggested that information be provided to the students on how and where to recycle on campus at orientation and that this information be provided in the orientation packets as well. Ms Stewart agreed that targeting new students at orientation would be a good idea. Senators voiced concern over the loss of the City of Omaha recycling bins in the student parking lot and the DRC loading dock. Ms Stewart stated that the recycling bin formerly located at the DRC loading dock was owned by the private company that has been hired by the University to collect our recyclables, and that bin has been replaced by several blue, 55-gallon bins inside of the buildings. These containers can be used to collect paper plastic and tin.

b. After the Live Green discussion concluded, Melanie Stewart made the senators aware of a lactation room that is now available in DRC II, LB. she requested that if you need a key to please stop by her office in DRC I, first floor by the elevators.

c. The next guest speaker was Jason Meyer with the USA Today Readership Program, who was invited by Senator Hosein. Mr. Meyer gave a power point presentation on the USA Today Readership Program and discussed the program with the senators. Many questions were asked and the answers are summarized here: The USA Today Readership Program distributes newspapers to students at a discounted price. The school can choose multiple publications (e.g. Omaha World Herald, USA Today, NY Times); a complete list of publications are available at usatodaycollege.com. The service also provides speakers and website access. Readership numbers are up at many participating colleges, so internet usage does not appear to be affecting paper reading on the participating campuses. The methods of distribution of the papers is decided by the students and may include open air racks in secure locations (students only), card readers (require compatible ID cards). Recycling bins are provided next to the newspaper racks. We only pay for the number of newspapers that are taken from the newspaper racks; the unused papers are collected and recycled by the service. The typical cost is $5.00 to $10.00 per student per year. To control cost or to fit a budget, it is possible to limit the number of copies delivered (e.g. 50 copies per day of Omaha world herald, 100 copies per day of NY Times).

Examples of costs per issue: USA Today is 44¢, Omaha World Herald is 35¢, NY Times is 50¢ per copy. Before committing to the program, the University can
have the company conduct a free trial period. Marketing is free and provided by the company before and during the 2 week trial period, and newspapers used during the trial period are free. The University of Nebraska, Lincoln’s USA Today Readership Program (3rd largest program in US) is paid for by student fees. UNO’s and UNK’s Readership Programs are also paid for through student fees. Some colleges pool money from different resources to get the total funds needed to support the program. At the end of the Q&A secession, Senator Hosein, expressed his view that access to newspapers will make UNMC’s students better professionals, and will help students to stay abreast of current events. He hoped that Mr. Meyer’s presentation and Q&A secession helped senators understand the program and then but suggested that we table discussion on how to pay for the program until the spring semester.

d. Our third guest speaker was Dr. Cheryl Thompson, who spoke on the UNMC immunization requirements for students. Dr. Thompson stated that immunization records will be moved to Peoplesoft; student services website will have a link. She also stated that many students do not get their immunizations before school starts and asked insight from the senators as to why this may be and how we would suggest fixing the problem. Several senators suggested that students are not being made aware of the requirements early enough. Other senators felt that the forms may be too difficult for students and physicians to understand and that an example of a filled-out form may be useful. Other senators suggested that having an immunization clinic at orientation might be helpful, and having titers done instead of digging up old immunization records may save time. Dr. Thompson will come back to give an update next semester.

e. Our final guest speaker was Bryan Scofield, UNMC Campus Security Director. He asked for questions and feedback from students. A robust Q&A session ensued, and answers are summarized here: Mr. Scofield asked that students please call security at 402-559-5911 (or if on campus, dial extension 9-5911) if they see anything suspicious. He also asked that students working in laboratories let security know that you are working late and let them know when you have left so that they don’t get worried when they don’t see you. UNMC security officers can give students a ride to their cars, but will not drive you to your off campus vehicle or residence, or any other location that is off campus. Some senators expressed concerns over cars getting broken into on campus. Mr. Scofield addressed this concern by first reminding students to press a blue light for assistance but also call OPD to report personal property damage. Mr. Scofield then confirmed that there has been an unusually high number of incidents lately with 3 cars stolen on campus in the past 5 months and several breakings, and he again reminded students to call security if they see anything suspicious. The website, info.unmc.edu/security, has a daily summary of security incidents on campus. Mr. Scofield reported that 11 officers are on duty during the day, there
are 14 officers in the evening and 11 officers from midnight to 8:00 AM and they have 3 vehicles.

II. Roll Call was not conducted due to time limitations.

III. November minutes were approved.

IV. The advisor’s report was given next by Dr. David Carver. He thanked students that have served in senate. He also reminded the senators that the Inaugural ceremony will be held in mid-January, and senators are expected to attend. It is usually on a Thursday afternoon. More information to come.

V. New business

a. President Peterson announced that another blood drive will be held in February.

b. Senators Hutter Saunders and Reiner said that the bowling event turned out well and only cost about $450 with over 100 people in attendance.

c. President Peterson said that the Broomball Tournament will be held on Thursday and Friday Dec. 8th & 9th from 2:00-5:30 PM with a professional referee. Due to great interest, the school may form a league to play regularly in the winter.

d. The PD Skate-a-thon will be held Friday, January 27, 2012 - Saturday, January 28, 2012 at UNMC’s Ruth and Bill Scott Student Plaza Skating Rink near 42nd & Emile. The skate-a-thon is a fundraiser to support Parkinson’s research and education. For $10, patrons get skate rental, access to the ice and a variety of activities and entertainment on and off the ice.

e. Next, Senators Ahmed and Rosenbaugh gave an ITS update. Senators Ahmed and Rosenbaugh went to meet with Evett Holly. Most issues brought up in past meetings have been solved and include reducing the time to get support from IT. Yet to be addressed are the large amounts of junk emails that students receive. Mr. Mosure from IT feels that incorporating BB into students groups could reduce unwanted emails. UNMC is switching from Lotus notes to Outlook April 2012. Senator Rosenbaugh feels that there are still many IT issues that need to be fixed. For example, there is still no wireless in DRC I. If you have ITS issues that are not being resolved please bring them to your senate representative.

f. President Peterson asked current senators to email suggestions for changes to Student Senate. Please email the student senate president. For example, the executive committee feels that senate meetings may run more efficiently if we start having mid-month committee meetings to get much of the discussion out of the way before the entire senate meets. Thus, it will be proposed that the Senate meets twice per month. One meeting will be for legislation and speakers and the other will be for committees. Total time commitment will not really increase. Senators seemed to support this idea, and suggested that we put a time limit on meeting length of meetings and have VP keep the meeting moving and limit discussion. Senator Stone
suggested using FB instead of having a second meeting. President Peterson said that senators have not been using it. Senators Hosine and Arnest suggested having standardized committee reports presented at legislative meeting with actionable items voted on only and very limited discussion. 

President Peterson had the senate vote on the matter. The senate voted to have two meetings per month and the majority was in favor. Details will be worked out at the January meeting.

IX. Officer reports
   a. President – Jeremy Peterson had nothing more to add.
   b. Vice President – Faisal Ahmed reminded students that senate meetings are open to all students to come listen, and the Jan meeting will be the second week of the month (not the first).
   c. Secretary – Jessica Hutter Saunders stated that Senator Rosenbaugh would contact UNO about getting Hockey tickets for January or Feb.
   d. Treasurer – Ben Reiner had nothing more to add.

X. The meeting was adjournment by President Peterson.