

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETREAT MINUTES

Present: Alloway, Bolin, Bradford, Fech, Flowers, Hachtmann, Ledder, Moeller, Prochaska Cue, Rapkin, Zimmers

Absent: LaCost, Lindquist

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2007

Location: Embassy Suites

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call to Order

Bradford called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

3.0 Approval of 8/22/07 Minutes

Bradford suggested additional changes to the minutes. Minutes approved as amended.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Welcome Letter to Dr. Ari

The Committee reviewed the draft letter welcoming Dr. Ari to campus. Bradford stated that he will invite Dr. Ari to the September 11th Senate meeting and will introduce him under announcements should he attend the meeting.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Correction to 8/8/07 Minutes

Bradford stated that he needed to make corrections to the 8/8/07 Executive Committee minutes. Section 5.2 Boycott of Israeli Scholars should read "Bradford noted that in the New York Times there was a letter signed by several university presidents and chancellors opposing a boycott of Israeli scholars and universities and one of the signatures on the letter was from the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center." The Committee approved the changes. Griffin stated that an email message will be sent to the Senators indicating the changes and the minutes will be corrected on the Senate's website.

5.2 Executive Committee Goals for 2007-2008

The Committee worked on the goals for the Senate for 2007-2008.

5.3 Grade Distribution

Bradford reported that Alloway discovered that grade distributions for courses at UNL can be found on the websites facebook.com and pickaprof.com. Bradford stated that he spoke with Dr. Hawkey, Director of Registration and Records, about the release of the grades. He noted that Dr. Hawkey stated that only grade distributions for courses with multiple sections are released.

Moeller asked if the grade distributions are for courses with only one instructor. Alloway stated that if there are multiple instructors for the different sections of a course they are listed as staff.

Prochaska Cue stated that she teaches a course that has only one section per semester and the grade distribution for her course was listed. Alloway wondered whether the courses listed on these sites are for the whole academic year or just by semester. He also questioned how long the grade distributions for courses remain on the site.

Alloway stated that releasing the grade distributions pertains to the freedom of information act. Bradford stated that someone could probably press the issue under the state open access laws.

Hachtmann stated that allowing students to choose courses based on how an instructor grades sends the wrong message to students. Griffin pointed out that some students might want to see if an instructor gives A's because they are on a scholarship and are pressured to maintain a certain grade point average.

Bradford suggested that Dr. Hawkey be invited to speak to the Committee to clarify the grade distributions.

Bradford stated that he understands that with pickaprof.com factual comments that can be tested can be deleted from the website.

5.4 Advertising Courses in the Daily Nebraskan

Bradford stated that he noted that some departments are advertising courses in the Daily Nebraskan. He reported that he sent a message to the Chancellor pointing out that if this becomes a practice it will be a waste because departments are advertising against each other.

Moeller stated that the intent could be to raise awareness for courses, particularly new courses. Rapkin pointed out that luring students away from one course to another is not really good for any department. Fech stated that this could practice could be escalating. Bradford noted that he has heard both President Milliken and Chancellor Perlman mention that the university might be heading towards a demand base system and more departments might use this tactic to try to get increased enrollment in their courses.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, September 5 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office,

420 University Terrace. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Rick Alloway, Secretary.