

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bolin, Bradford, Flowers, Hachtmann, LaCost, Ledder, Lindquist, Moeller, Prochaska Cue, Zimmers

Absent: Alloway, Fech, Rapkin

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Location: Faculty Senate Office, 420 University Terrace

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 3:03 p.m.

2.0 ASUN – David Solheim and Laine Norton

Bradford noted that the Executive Committee wants to continue efforts to have more contact with ASUN. He asked if there was anything in particular that the students wanted to discuss.

Solheim reported that for some time there has been interest in the grade appeal process and how the procedures vary from college to college. He asked if it was possible to have a standardized grade appeals process. Ledder stated that this was probably not possible because each college gets to determine its own rules.

Moeller pointed out that the grade appeal process should be clearly posted by each college. She noted that there is probably some overlap in the process used by the colleges but there are some differences as well. Bradford stated that he understands the concern of the students but from a faculty member's perspective, the current process makes sense.

Lindquist asked if there are specific issues that come up with grade appeals. Solheim stated that most people do not know how to go through the grade appeal process and the other concern is that it is an intimidating process, particularly if the student is going to take more courses in that department.

Ledder stated that he understands how the process could be intimidating. He noted that in Arts & Sciences, students usually first speak with the instructor and if the issue is not resolved then the matter will be taken to the department chair who usually tries to settle the issue. Students may be concerned that talking to the department chair will cause future problems. Moeller noted that in the College of Education and Human Sciences a group of faculty members are elected to a committee and the committee reviews the appeal cases.

Bradford suggested that the procedures from each college be collected and posted on VC Franco's website. He noted that each college should have them posted somewhere on their website but it would be helpful to have all of them listed in one place.

Lindquist suggested the students get clear ideas of where the problems are among the colleges with the grade appeals process and then come up with ideas on how to fix the problems. He pointed out that by doing this they could present a strong argument for having a more uniform procedure.

Ledder stated that his experience has been that grade appeals are handled very delicately and there is not automatic support for a faculty member. Moeller noted that the discomfort of going through the process still exists for the student. She stated that students need to have a good cause for the appeal and the courage to take it through the necessary channels.

Ledder stated that there could be an argument for a system that bypasses the department chair. He noted that the negative side of this is that the department chairs can resolve the conflict without having to involve a lot of people in the process and the chair would understand the course involved in the appeal. He stated that if there is a persistent pattern for a particular faculty member or department it would be good to know. Bradford stated that he does not think information by instructor for grade appeals would be possible to obtain although it might be possible to get the information on a department. Solheim stated that he will check into this.

Solheim reported that ASUN is slowly moving to an on-line voting system for elections. He noted that most universities across the country already have a system. He asked if the Faculty Senate would be interested in an on-line voting system. He pointed out that the program also comes with a survey tool. Bradford noted that the Senate already has a program for conducting surveys.

Ledder pointed out that on-line voting does not work with the Senate's current system for surveys because that system does not guarantee that each person votes only once. Bradford stated that the Senate now has rules for on-line voting. Ledder pointed out that these rules don't guarantee anonymity, but that Senate votes are not anonymous at meetings either.

Bradford wondered whether the Chancellor might be interested in the on-line voting. Bradford pointed out that the Chancellor used an outside source to poll the faculty when a motion was made at the Senate calling for a vote of no confidence. Bradford stated that there could be others within the university who might be interested in such a program.

Ledder suggested that the colleges might be interested. He noted that it is difficult to get the faculty members of a college together for a college-wide meeting for a vote but having on-line voting procedures would help faculty to participate in the voting within their college.

Bradford noted that ASUN had considered having the program created by someone in the university rather than going to an outside vendor. Solheim stated that the student body will need to vote on it and this will probably not take place until March. He stated that his recommendation would be to choose an outside vendor. Ledder suggested that Solheim contact Gail Hackwith who coordinates the on-line voting for the Curriculum Committee to see what the committee uses.

Bradford asked if ASUN is thinking of using the on-line voting program for polling as well. Solheim reported that this is being considered. He noted that some of the software systems have tools for conducting polls and surveys.

Bradford asked what the cost is for the on-line voting program. Solheim stated that it is approximately \$5000 a year which is actually less expensive than the current voting system.

Bradford stated that he did not think the Senate would be interested in sharing the program. He pointed out that the Senate has a small operating fund.

Bradford asked what proportion of universities use the program. Norton stated that most schools in the country use it and that UNL is very far behind in using on-line voting. She noted that participation in elections typically jumps up by 30-40%. Solheim pointed out that voting at UNL is very low here but yet important issues, such as student fees, are placed on the ballots.

Bradford asked how students feel about parking fees. He noted that the Executive Committee has compared UNL's parking fees with UNO and UNMC and they are substantially lower than ours. He stated that the Committee is talking with Parking and Transportation Services about what can be done with the fees.

Norton stated that parking is one of the major complaints that ASUN hears from students. She stated that ASUN has basically been told that there is nothing that can be done about the fees.

Solheim asked how UNL's parking fees compare with those in our peer groups. The Committee was unsure. Griffin stated that she will get information from our peer institutions.

Solheim noted that what is particularly troubling is that the projections are that parking fees will continue to go up because of the garages.

Bradford stated that Dan Carpenter, Director of Parking and Transit Services, reported that sometimes the spaces that are lost due to construction are covered financially. Ledder suggested that ASUN and the Senate should go on record stating that budgets for any building projects constructed on existing parking lots should include compensation for the loss of these spaces. Solheim noted that the University has started constructing

buildings on some of the recreation fields. He pointed out that these fields are supported by student fees. He reported that ASUN has pushed through a bill that whoever is constructing a building on recreational fields must compensate for the student fees that have been used to create these fields.

LaCost pointed out that if a 200 space surface lot is replaced with a 2000 space garage and the parking spaces cost more in the garage then it should generate significant more income. She pointed out that it is not fair to push the cost of building these garages onto the permit holders.

Bradford noted that when the first garage was built at 17th & R streets a regular parking permit could be used in the garage. It now costs more to park in the garage. He stated the Committee will be discussing the issue further with the Chancellor. He stated that if ASUN has any further complaints to let him know.

Moeller stated that it would be interesting to see how much our peer institutions pay in fines. Norton noted that UNL is now using the Denver boot. She stated that someone can have the boot placed on their car for failure to pay even their first fine.

Bradford asked how ASUN is feeling about the proposed ACE program. Solheim stated that the student representatives have been impressed with the dialogues that have been occurring about the program. He stated that he thinks the new program will be fantastic. Ledder pointed out that the new program will make student life easier especially those with double majors in different colleges and those who transfer from one college to another.

Moeller asked what is happening with RIAA. Solheim reported that UNL continues to be the most targeted university in the country. Ledder asked why. Bradford stated that it is probably because we have a rotating system with the IP numbers.

Solheim noted that ASUN has passed six different bills objecting to the RIAA lawsuits. He stated that ASUN has compiled a list of referrals for students to use if the RIAA comes after them and they are developing a referral service to get legal advice. He reported that the ASUN is coordinating with other campuses to see what they are doing about the problem.

Moeller asked if most of the students pay. Norton stated that they do. Solheim stated that only one UNL case has gone for a decision. He noted that he has been following this case. Bradford stated that if a student does not respond to RIAA's letter then they will sue but he pointed out that if a student doesn't file an answer the courts have sometimes not granted a default lawsuit to RIAA because they have not had enough information.

Ledder asked what kind of charges students usually get hit with. Solheim stated that the charge is usually \$3000 and 114 students at UNL have been targeted. Moeller asked if the majority of these students have settled. Solheim reported that they have. He noted that two students are being named in a lawsuit. He pointed out that the university has

turned over the names of these students to the RIAA. Ledder asked if the university administration is cooperating at every level. Solheim stated that it is. Bradford pointed out that President Milliken is very much in support of complying with the law.

Solheim stated that one of the larger impacts of these suits is how it is affecting the on-line culture on campus. He pointed out that the issue does not just apply to music. He noted that network filters are not a good solution and even information sharing between departments could be affected. He stated that he does not support a technology based solution to the problem. Ledder asked what a network filter does. Solheim stated that it can identify sharing protocols and could stop the sharing of information. LaCost pointed out that she does a lot of distance work and putting in filters could definitely interfere with her ability to communicate with students.

Solheim reported that he has drafted a letter to the RIAA asking them to give us a reprieve while we are trying to take care of the problem. Norton pointed out that information packets are being provided to students in the residence halls. Solheim stated that when students register to use a computer in the residence halls pop ups appear on their computers providing the student with the UNL computing policy.

Lindquist suggested that the students keep the issue on the agenda with the President and Chancellor. He noted that if the administration is seeing that the students are actively trying to do something about the situation they may back off but it is important for students to be showing that an effort is being made.

Bradford asked how the students are reacting to the text messaging disaster system. Norton stated that the university is working on the new system. She reported that students know that something needs to be done and they are waiting for the system to be put into place. Solheim stated that the system that is being worked on is great. He reported that students can enter all the different ways they can be contacted including phone, cell phone, email, texting, etc. Norton pointed out that the company that runs the system is not located on campus.

3.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

4.0 Approval of 10/3/07 Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes as amended.

5.0 Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Faculty Needed for Special Fees Committee

Bradford stated that three faculty members are needed to serve on the special fees committee. He noted that this committee looks at proposals to attach special fees to

courses. He asked that anyone interested please contact him. He pointed out that these faculty members do not need to be a member of the Senate.

6.2 Review of Proposed Changes to the Curriculum Committee

Bradford stated that the changes to the Curriculum Committee would allow the creation of an ACE subcommittee to be formed. The subcommittee would consist of the eight faculty members representing each of the undergraduate colleges serving on the Curriculum Committee. If a non-voting member of the Curriculum Committee wishes to participate in the activities of the ACE subcommittee they may do so as a non-voting member. The other change states that the subcommittee shall have the duties and powers specified in the ACE proposals.

Moeller moved that the changes be accepted. Motion approved by the Committee. Bradford stated that the changes to the Curriculum Committee will be presented to the Senate for approval along with the ACE proposals.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, October 17 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Rick Alloway, Secretary.