

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Fech, Hachtmann, Ledder, Prochaska-Cue, Rapkin, Zimmers

Absent: Bradford, Franti, Jackson, LaCost, Lindquist, McCollough, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2008

Location: 201 Canfield Administration Building

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

Prochaska-Cue called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Perlman

2.1 2008-09 Budget

Prochaska-Cue reported that the Board of Regents discussed this next year's budget, including a tuition increase, and the next biennium at the last meeting. She asked the Chancellor to comment on the budget and tuition.

Chancellor Perlman stated that there were no surprises with the budget and the Board of Regents approved what President Milliken recommended. Chancellor Perlman stated that the budget leaves us with a deficit but this will be offset by the increase in enrollment. He noted that the budget calls for a 4.4% increase in faculty salaries but there will be some limitations with the programs of excellence.

Prochaska-Cue stated that she noticed that even with the tuition increase the cost of attending UNL is still lower than many of our peer institutions. Chancellor Perlman stated that he is not sure what the campuses will do next year but we are still very low amongst our peers in terms of tuition cost. He stated that we were able to get a 5% increase in tuition.

Chancellor Perlman stated that peoples' views regarding a tuition increase were tested and their concerns relate to undergraduate costs. He pointed out that UNMC presented the Board with a proposal which included a significant increase in tuition for the pharmacy school. It is understood that the funds generated from this increase would return to the pharmacy school to help with their accreditation.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Law College is an example of the need for a greater increase in tuition for some of the colleges. He noted that the faculty salaries in the Law College are far below those of our peer institutions and the tuition for the College is out of whack with our peers'. He stated that the increased tuition for the Law College is

above six percent and the funds raised through this increase will go to faculty salaries and financial aid for the College.

Prochaska-Cue stated that the Powerpoint presentation made at the Board meeting showed that with the exception of Iowa, the increase in tuition will not be out of line with the other surrounding states.

Fech asked what the 5 + 1 increase in tuition is about. Chancellor Perlman stated that the 1% increase is to match the Legislature's funds for maintenance of buildings. He noted that this increase is just for this year.

Prochaska-Cue stated that the Governor indicates there could be a 2 1/2 % salary increase. She asked the Chancellor for clarification on this. Chancellor Perlman stated that this is just a marker for the Legislature and neither the Governor nor the university has put any salary figures forward. He pointed out that the process of developing a biennial budget is long and the tradition has been to not put a salary figure in for either the state or the university.

Prochaska-Cue asked if it is possible that we will see a 10% increase for health insurance. Chancellor Perlman stated that it all depends on our health insurance claims. He noted that the record has been good lately and this could make a difference in the amount of increase that we will see.

2.2 Tuition Increase

See above.

2.3 Proposed Classroom Building

Prochaska-Cue stated that she saw an article in the Lincoln Journal Star on capital budget development and noticed that there was mention of a building devoted to classrooms. She thought this was a great idea and asked what the status is on this.

Chancellor Perlman stated that this idea first appeared a long time ago. An outside consultant was hired to assess our classroom situation and the main conclusion of the study was that we could engage in more efficient teaching in some disciplines if we had larger classrooms. He noted that there are very few classrooms on campus that can hold over 100 students. As a result, numerous sections of some courses have to be offered.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the study recommended a \$32 million project for building much larger classrooms. Wrapped around the facility would be areas for student advising and a center for undergraduate education. He stated that one of the problems with such a building is finding a site for it because it would be a large building. An option would be to build three separate buildings, one north of Love Library, one north of the Kaufman Center, and another in the area presently occupied by the Behlen and Brace buildings. He pointed out that this project has been in the capital cue for at least three years but funding would need to be found for it.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the same consultant also looked at our life sciences teaching laboratories and found that they are inadequate. He stated that a more realistic project will be to renovate the labs in Mentor Hall.

2.4 Blackboard Security Policy Changes

Prochaska-Cue stated that she has heard some concerns about the changes in Blackboard which will prevent faculty members from doing some things they have been able to do in the past. Chancellor Perlman stated that he is vaguely aware of this issue and it is symptomatic of deeper problems that we are going to try and resolve. He stated that it is his understanding that temporary faculty members could get broader access to Blackboard than what the administration wanted. He noted that Information Services (IS) has come up with more enhanced passwords but it is restricting faculty members from some access that they previously had. He reported that IS is working on getting this resolved.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that there is a real problem here because many of the things we do have an established process but this is not the case with IS because it is split between Business & Finance and academics. He noted that we need to figure out a way to get people more involved in assisting IS in developing its proposals and SVCAA Couture is working on trying to get this problem resolved.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the Computational Facilities and Services Committee and the Advisory Board both submitted reports addressing similar concerns. He noted that the Advisory Board report recommended the campus conduct a short survey of five questions and ask people to list ten services from IS that people think would be better provided at the campus level and ten services that would be better served at the college or department level. He noted that both reports felt that we could have a better system if some services were centralized.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the next question is what we will do after conducting the survey. He pointed out that after the information from the survey is gathered we will need to fill the position that heads Information Services. The administration is currently working on a job description for this position. He noted that administration is trying to engage the colleges, deans, and IS people to see how we can manage things better.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the administration wants to have a Chief Information Officer. He noted that the administration is exploring the idea of having applicants for the position review campus IS reports and ask what they envision for the campus. He stated that this could possibly spark conversations with the potential candidates and it would be a good way to measure them. He reported that the intent is to begin a job search in the fall.

Prochaska-Cue stated that she is glad to hear that the administration wants to include faculty in the discussions on computing. She noted that she has heard concern from the faculty that they are not being involved in the decision making process.

Chancellor Perlman reported that at another level he is working with President Milliken to try to form a committee to look at computing from a central administration level.

2.5 Upcoming Issues

Chancellor Perlman distributed a copy of the syllabus for the Chancellor's Commission on Environmental Sustainability. He noted that he made some slight changes to the syllabus approved by the Senate. He reported that he plans to adopt the syllabus and form the Commission in the fall. He stated that he is receiving interest in it from some of the faculty members.

Chancellor Perlman noted that there will be a celebration this fall to recognize the change in name of the JD Edwards Program to the Jeffrey Raikes School. He reported that there will be a lot of good things occurring on campus this fall.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 ACE Program

Hachtmann reported that the ACE Committee has been working throughout the summer on the proposed ACE courses. She noted that 83 courses are in the cue for review and thirteen of them have been certified. She pointed out that the ACE Committee has been reading the proposals thoroughly and have asked for further clarifications for some of the proposals. She stated that the proposals sent back for clarification can submit the changes at any time and the ACE Committee will look at them. She stated that the ACE Committee is looking for a description of opportunities to demonstrate what a student learned that includes more than just exams, quizzes, and projects. She reported that the ACE Committee is hoping to vote on the rest of the courses in the next couple of weeks. She reported that the next deadline for submitting proposed courses is August 15th.

Ledder stated that the College of Arts & Sciences has proposed that ACE course proposals go through the College's Curriculum Committee first before being submitted to the ACE Committee. Hachtmann stated that many of the colleges are taking this route.

Zimmers asked how many people are reviewing the proposals. Hachtmann stated that there are eight people, one from each college. Ledder asked if more people can look at them. Hachtmann stated that there are eight voting members but nothing is done in secrecy.

Prochaska-Cue asked if the members of the ACE Committee are impressed with the course proposals that have been submitted so far. Hachtmann stated that they are. She stated that some of the proposals are very interesting and there has been a lot of discussion on them.

4.0 Approval of 6/4/08 Minutes

The Committee was unable to approve the minutes because there was not a quorum.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Academic Honesty/Dishonesty Committee

Ledder noted that the discussion of Safe Assignment first generated an interest in forming the Academic Honesty/Dishonesty Committee. The idea was to create something positive by establishing a culture of honesty that is very open. He pointed out that during this time the Hergert case came up and there was discussion of whether we should have an honor code that the student leadership supports. He noted that although a committee was formed it did not move forward because it was side tracked by the controversy over the Safe Assignment policy.

The Committee discussed who should be appointed to the Academic Honesty Committee. Prochaska-Cue stated that she will contact people to see if they are willing to serve. She noted that the students are very interested in participating.

Fech suggested having a professor from the Libraries serve on the committee. He pointed out that there are many ways to cite references and having the expertise of a librarian would be useful.

Ledder stated that the focus of the committee should be on the way to approach proper academic work. Griffin suggested that the Executive Committee write a charge for the Academic Honesty Committee. Ledder agreed to draft a charge for the committee.

5.2 Appointment to Committees

Prochaska-Cue stated that the Chancellor is asking for at least eight names of faculty members for the Chancellor's Commission on Environmental Sustainability. She asked the Executive Committee to think about who could be nominated.

The Committee suggested having the Chancellor's Commission on Environmental Sustainability report to the Senate during the spring semester.

6.0 New Business

No new business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, July 16th at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and David Rapkin, Secretary.