

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Franti, Hachtmann, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, Prochaska-Cue, Rapkin, Zimmers

Absent: Bradford, Eccarius, Fech, McCollough, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Location: Faculty Senate Office

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 3:06 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Email Message Regarding Faculty Salary Raises

Prochaska-Cue reported that she received an email message from a faculty member asking the Senate to pass a resolution stating that faculty would not take a salary increase in an effort to help the budget. She stated that she explained it was premature to make any resolutions on salary increases until we know what will happen with the budget. She reported that she told the professor that he can contact one of the senators representing his department and ask them to present the motion at a Senate meeting.

2.2 New ASUN Officers

Prochaska-Cue reported that the new ASUN officers were being installed this evening. She noted that she and Fech will be meeting with the new officers soon.

3.0 Approval of 3/11/09 Minutes

Lindquist moved and Konecky seconded approval of the minutes as amended. Motion approved.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Executive Committee Elections

The Committee worked on trying to identify possible candidates to run for election to the Executive Committee.

4.2 Update on Research Misconduct Policy

Lindquist reported that the Office of Research has sent the latest version of the draft document over to the university's legal office for review. He pointed out that the faculty members on the ad hoc committee have not seen the administrators' final version of the document. He stated that he is not sure whether it will be ready to distribute to the Senate at the April 7th meeting. If not, he will give a report on the status of the policy. He stated

that he had hoped to present a motion to the Senate on April 7th rescinding the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Procedures for Professional Misconduct-B and replacing it with the new Research Policy.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Executive Committee Report

The Committee worked on revising the Executive Committee report which will be presented to the Senate at the April 7th meeting.

5.2 UNMC Resolution

Prochaska-Cue reported that she received an email message from President Paulman of UNMC Faculty Senate asking the UNL Faculty Senate to pass a resolution supporting UNMC's recent resolution on stem cell research. She pointed out that UNMC's resolution calls for the Board of Regents to "support its current policy that already complies with federal and state laws, guidelines, and regulations by taking no additional action regarding embryonic stem cell research."

Prochaska-Cue reported that at the last Board meeting four people were allowed to speak to the Board on stem cell research restrictions. Three of these people were in favor of more restrictions, one was against more restrictions.

Prochaska-Cue noted that the Board meets again on April 24th and the Senate's last meeting is April 28th. She stated that if the UNL Senate is to pass a resolution it would need to be considered an emergency motion at the April 7th meeting. She stated that she believes we should support the Senates at the other campuses but realizes this is a contentious topic.

Prochaska-Cue stated that President Paulman of UNMC wrote that there is great concern that further restrictions on stem cell research would have serious impacts for the Med Center. It would be difficult to recruit top notch faculty and researchers and greater restrictions could impact UNMC's ability to obtain grants.

Rapkin asked how President Obama's recent decision on stem cell research factors into the situation. Prochaska-Cue stated that the UNMC Faculty Senate's concern is that the Board of Regents will place restrictions on this kind of research beyond the current federal and state restrictions. She noted that with the election of Regent Clare there has been a shift to a more conservative approach on the Board and there are indications that this issue will be on the Board of Regents' agenda very soon.

Franti asked if the UNMC Faculty Senate had more time to consider the resolution. Prochaska-Cue stated that she believed they had even less time to consider the resolution than we would have.

Lindquist pointed out that background information needs to be provided to the Senate on this issue. Rapkin suggested that Prochaska-Cue spell out the timetable so the Senate can understand why there is a need to act on the resolution as an emergency motion.

Konecky pointed out that the UNMC Faculty Senate is just asking for support of their motion. Lindquist noted that a copy of the UNMC resolution should be provided to the UNL Faculty Senate. A simple motion can then be made stating that the UNL Faculty Senate supports UNMC's resolution.

Prochaska-Cue stated that she will draft a preamble for the Senate and will have the Executive Committee review it at next week's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, April 1st at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and David Rapkin, Secretary.