

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Fech, Flowers, Franti, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, McCollough, Prochaska-Cue, Rapkin, Schubert, Shea, Stock

Absent: Bolin

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009

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

Fech called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 ASUN

Fech reported that he has spoken with Megan Collins, the new ASUN President, and will continue to do so this summer.

3.0 Minutes of 5/6/09

Changes to the draft minutes were submitted.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Guidelines for Interviewing Administrators

A subcommittee was formed to create a guideline for the Executive Committee when it interviews candidates for dean positions and for certain administrative positions. Often the lack of such guidelines has made for awkward situations when the committee was uncertain what to ask about beyond the candidate's views on faculty governance issues.

4.2 Updates on Outside Reference Letters for Promotion & Tenure, Distance Education, and Open Senate Seats

The Committee discussed the letter, drafted mainly by LaCost, and approved sending it to SVCAA Couture and VC Owens. The letter requests more specificity about the requirements for external letters evaluating promotion and tenure candidates. One issue involves the number of letters required. There seems to be some variation across UNL units, with the number creeping upwards as top-tier schools are reportedly seeking 12-15 letters per candidate. Rapkin pointed out that such a trend is unsustainable and expressed hopes that UNL would not contribute to it. Another issue concerns what we are looking for. What specific qualities are being sought in external review letters and is there any attempt to standardize, to the extent feasible, across UNL?

5.0 New Business

5.1 Future Structure of UNL

The Committee pondered just what Chancellor Perlman meant when he recently stated at a meeting with the Committee that in ten years UNL will have changed so much that we would not recognize it. The Committee agreed that we should ask for clarification about this when we next meet with the Chancellor on June 24th. The Committee also agreed to discuss the topic at its annual retreat on August 20th.

5.2 Executive Committee Retreat

The Committee agreed to hold its retreat on August 20th.

5.3 Invitation from Professor Ball to Invite Dr. Ayers to Speak in November

The Committee discussed an invitation from Professor Dwayne Ball, President of UNL's AFCON (Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska) chapter for the Faculty Senate to join AFCON in bringing Dr. Ayers to speak next November at a non-university venue in Omaha. Fech stated that he would check with the Faculty Senate Presidents at the other NU campuses to find out if they were contacted by AFCON on this situation. Prochaska-Cue stated that she would attend the next AFCON meeting to learn more about a possible Ayers invitation.

5.4 Invite Professor Savory to Speak About UNL Online Worldwide

President Fech requested that the Committee invite Professor Paul Savory, interim director of UNL Online Worldwide, to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss the latest developments in distance education. There was concern with the apparent minimal level of faculty input in the development of the NU Worldwide Online distance education.

5.5 Open Senate Seats

There are 15 unfilled seats in the Faculty Senate indicating a crisis of participation. The Committee needs to determine the best way to recruit new faculty members to these positions.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, May 27th at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by David Rapkin, Secretary.