

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Anaya, Bender, Guevara, Joeckel, Nickerson, Reisbig, Rinkevich, Wysocki, Zoubek

Absent: Ruchala, Schubert, Sollars, Woodman

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2014

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

Guevara called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Professor Harbison, Faculty Senate President Designee to Academic Planning Committee

Harbison stated that he is looking for some direction from the Senate Executive Committee regarding the proposed budget cuts since the APC has to review the cuts. He noted that approximately half of the \$4.6 million shortfall is a deficit being carried over from last year. He pointed out that the Chancellor deliberately made the choice not to make budget cuts last year.

Harbison stated that the maintenance and operation of new buildings have had serious implications for the budget, in addition the loss of revenue to the base campus budget due to on-campus students taking online courses have contributed significantly to the \$4.6 million deficit. He pointed out that online tuition is allocated differently with the money going to Central Administration and the departments offering the course(s) rather than the campus budget.

Harbison reported that the way the cuts will be dealt with is different than in the past. He pointed out that a big chunk of the budget cuts will come from IANR's Educational Media unit and changes to how online tuition is distributed. Reisbig questioned whether IANR's Media Center is overlapping with other resources which might contribute to why it is being eliminated.

Harbison noted that it is difficult for the APC to suggest alternative budget cuts because it does not have access to the same information as the administrators have when they make their decisions. He stated that he would like to see a break down on which courses are making money and those that are not. He pointed out that one of the key issues is how a building can be constructed without there being a plan in place to cover the costs of

operating the building. Nickerson noted that the operating expense is mostly to cover the maintenance for the Morrison Center on east campus but he thought that the funding should have been provided through NIH. He suggested that the university might have received a budget cut from NIH. Guevara stated that he thought the maintenance deficit came up unexpectedly. Harbison stated that he would like to see some details about the maintenance costs.

Guevara stated that the plans to change the distribution on online tuition is understandable but uncomfortable for some departments because these units have used the tuition funds to help cover the salary of some instructors. Nickerson pointed out that this kind of funding scenario is parallel to some medical schools that hired a lot of assistant professors in anticipation of getting NIH grants and using the overhead from these grants to cover the salaries. He wondered if some faculty members' salaries might be dependent on the online tuition the department currently receives.

Guevara noted that 75% of the budget shortfall is to come from the salary increase pool. Reisbig pointed out that the percentage from the salary pool might be decreased if the enrollment figures are better. Guevara stated that deans using the money wisely could also help. He questioned whether the 1% reduction from the salary pool will be a permanent budget reduction. Wysocki pointed out that UNL is already at the bottom of the Big Ten in terms of salaries and reducing salaries below the inflation rate will reflect in our ranking and standing in the Big Ten. He noted that we are already in the 491-500 place ranking of U.S. News and World report and we will probably drop out of the top 500 ranked public universities next year.

Bender stated that a question that should be raised is how money will be distributed if there is an increase in student enrollment. Guevara noted that the Chancellor stated that additional tuition money would affect the salary pool. He stated that the Chancellor claims that cutting other areas is worse for our ranking than not increasing faculty salaries. He noted that the Chancellor believes that the most painless way of dealing with the budget cuts is to use salary increases because nothing currently in place is being cut.

Wysocki noted that the \$4.6 million shortfall has accumulated over several years because of the wrong distribution of tuition from online courses. He suggested taxing these courses a little more to make up the budget deficits in a few years. Harbison stated that he has heard that the online courses are net plus but the recent trend of having current on-campus students taking online courses is what is throwing the budget off. Guevara noted that his online course during the regular semester is composed of all on-campus students. Wysocki suggested that if the tuition dollars from online courses is separated from the regular tuition payments it could be used to cover the budget shortfall and could be spread out over a five to ten year period of time.

Harbison stated that he understands there can be unplanned expenses which have to be dealt with but he questioned why the operation and maintenance of buildings wasn't

planned for in advance. Guevara noted that if the problem with online tuition was caught earlier the deficit would not be so big. Nickerson stated that he can sympathize why the administration didn't make cuts last year. He noted that the administration was hoping that there would be an increase in student enrollment which would have covered the deficit. Harbison pointed out that there are going to be year-to-year expenses with the cost of operating the Morrison Center and on-campus students will continue to take online courses. He believes that half of the budget carryover is a one-time thing, but the other half is made up of year-to-year budget expenses and he doesn't think there will be any improvements in 2015.

Nickerson asked if the APC is meeting with the Chancellor tomorrow. Harbison stated that the APC is meeting to come up with a design for the whole budget cutting process. He noted that the APC only holds hearings if there are job cuts and it only advises the Chancellor on the reductions. He pointed out that the difficult thing for the APC is that it does not have information on the full budget so it cannot offer alternative cuts.

Harbison suggested that it might be a good idea to ask the Chancellor if there are other possible budget cuts that could be made in lieu of the salary increases. Nickerson noted that in the past there are some other alternatives for the cuts should the APC oppose some of the Chancellor's recommendations. Guevara wondered whether the Chancellor might instruct the deans and directors to give an across the board raise given that the salary increase will be so small this year. Nickerson asked if the equivalent amount of money should be given or an equivalent percentage of increase should be given. Guevara stated that it should be a percentage so that everyone gets something.

Harbison stated that he will report back to the Executive Committee regarding the Chancellor's proposed budget cuts.

Nickerson asked if the APC has received any update on the proposed changes to the ACE recertification process. Harbison stated that the APC has had some discussion about this but it would be best to check with the chair of the APC, Professor Lahey.

Wysocki reported that he has other faculty members tell him that they are angry over the use of the salary increase to offset the budget cuts. Guevara stated that he has received a few email messages about it. He noted that each time the salary increase is cut it puts the faculty salaries further and further behind but using the salary increase is the most painless way to make the budget cuts.

3.0 Announcements 3.1 No Meeting - Spring Break

Griffin reported that there will not be an Executive Committee meeting during the week of spring break.

3.2 Board of Regents Meeting

Guevara stated that he is planning on attending the Board of Regents meeting on March 28. He pointed out that this will be his last meeting of the Board of Regents since there is no meeting in April and his term as President expires on April 29.

3.3 Eureka: Engagement Colloquium

Zoubek asked the Executive Committee if they were aware of the two day Eureka: Engagement Colloquium that was recently held. He noted that there were numerous speakers and about 30 presentations on how faculty members can amplify the impact and reach of their research and creative work. Several Executive Committee members stated that they were unaware of the event. Zoubek noted that it was a great event that people might find very useful, but greater communication efforts are needed to advertise the event next year.

3.4 Interim President

Guevara noted that former UNMC Chancellor James Linder will be interim president of the university. He noted that there is a link on the Board of Regents' website for people to provide information on what kind of president they would like (<http://www.nebraska.edu/presidentsearch/feedback>). Nickerson suggested that it would be a good idea to encourage faculty members to get people to participate in the survey and suggested that Guevara make an announcement about this at the April 1 Senate meeting.

4.0 Approval of 3/12/19 Minutes

Joeckel moved for approval of the revised minutes. The motion was seconded by Wysocki and approved by the Executive Committee.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Executive Committee Elections

Griffin reported that the Senate Office has not received any nominations for Senators to run for election to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee then brainstormed to identify possible candidates.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Senate Meeting – Topics for VC Green

The Executive Committee identified topics for VC Green to discuss at the April 1 Senate meeting:

- CYT Update
- Proposed Budget Cuts to Educational Media Center
- Safety Issues Involving Holdrege Street
- Innovation Campus and Food Science & Technology Move
- East Campus Recreation Center Renovations
- Update on other East Campus Building Projects

6.2 Issue Event Manager

Guevara noted that the Chancellor had said that he was going to consider other programs similar to the TIPS Prevention program. He reported that he recently participated in a video conference about the Issue Event Manager program. He stated that it was a much more detailed presentation that explained what the program does and there is criteria built into the program that addresses many of the Executive Committee's concerns. Some of the criteria is that complaints expire after a period of time if the person who filed the complaint doesn't check to see how the complaint was handled and the program can categorize a complaint. He pointed out that the program is still a router but only certain aspects of a complaint can be seen by assigned people. He noted that one person might have access to see the details of a complaint while another person can only see the nature of the complaint. He stated that the program also has a disclaimer that informs people that if they are a victim of a crime they should call 911. He stated that he discussed the program with Associate to the Chancellor Nunez who also liked the program. He felt that it would be a far better program than the TIPS Prevention and he thinks it would serve us better.

Joeckel noted that the program seems to have administrative settings that could be adjusted for a specific institution and that it provides more insulation. However, the faculty still needs to keep a close eye on how the program is implemented and handled. Guevara noted that some of the concerns with TIPS is that it was a router that could be accessed by many people whereas this program keeps the complaints within the system. He pointed out that a person has to be given access to the system. Zoubek asked if the exceptions would be complaints of a criminal nature. Guevara stated that criminal complaints would be forwarded to the UNL Police. He stated that the program emphasized the fact that it is not a crime reporting system and is meant to deal with complaints of a non-criminal nature.

Guevara stated that the Issue Event Manager costs more than the TIPS Prevention although he did not know how much more. He noted that the decision will ultimately be up to the Chancellor. Joeckel stated that it seems to be a foregone conclusion that we will have some kind of system in place especially with the forthcoming federal regulations required by the SaVE Act. He asked if other Big Ten schools have systems in place. Guevara stated that he believes two of the other Big Ten schools are using the Issue Event Manager program.

Nickerson asked when the decision will be made about the program. Guevara stated that he believes the decision will be made soon because the Chancellor wants to have it in place before the fall semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Toni Anaya, Secretary.

