

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bender, Guevara, Joeckel, Konecky, Nickerson, Purcell, Rinkevich, Rudy, Sollars, Steffen, Woodman

Absent: Anaya, Wysocki

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2015

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

Nickerson called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 SVCAA Search Update

Nickerson reported that the consensus of the SVCAA search committee is that the depth of the pool of candidates was insufficient, as a result, the search is being delayed. He noted that some of the possible reasons for the inadequate pool: 1) January is a poor time of the year to get people interested in a new administrative position; 2) there were questions regarding the degree of authority the SVCAA would have over Innovation Campus; 3) the question of when the Chancellor would be retiring and the uncertainty of who their boss would be resulted in many people declining to apply. Woodman questioned whether this means that we could possibly have an interim SVCAA for two years and noted that the interim may not have the same level of authority as someone hired for the position. Steffen pointed out that it would depend on who the interim person is and cited Interim President Linder as an example of someone who assumed authority while serving as an interim.

2.2 Update on Guidelines for Extension Educators Serving on Outside Boards

Nickerson reported that Dean Hibberd is drafting the document with the assistance of the Extension Dean's Advisory Council. He noted that Professor Albrecht serves on this Advisory Council and is also the current chair of the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee. He stated that the document will eventually come to the Senate.

2.3 Travel Reimbursement Improvements

Nickerson noted that at a previous Executive Committee meeting he mentioned that the East Campus Business Centers might be involved in efforts to try and simplify the travel reimbursement process, but he received a letter from Assistant VC Bassford of IANR who stated that this will not occur.

Nickerson stated that he recently learned that some European countries will not allow a faculty member to enter the country if the person's passport is set to expire within 90

days of their return. He noted that faculty members should make sure that their passports are up to date when traveling overseas. Sollars pointed out that the regulations can vary and are country specific.

2.4 University of Nebraska Branding

Joeckel noted that during a previous meeting there was some discussion regarding the Medical Center and the branding of Nebraska Medicine. He stated that at a recent athletic event he observed that the jerseys of the UNO players displayed Omaha, not UNO. He stated that he would like some explanation for the branding and what it means and portends. Nickerson reported that he has heard complaints from the other campuses regarding how they are identified as the University at Kearney or at Omaha whereas we are the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Joeckel questioned how the system brands itself and identifies the different entities within the university. Griffin suggested that this question be one of the identified topics of discussion for President Bounds when he speaks to the Senate on April 28. Woodman noted that Online Worldwide could be having an influence on the branding because it is trying to market University courses without distinguishing these courses between the campuses.

3.0 Approval of March 18, 2015 Minutes

Guevara moved for approval of the revised minutes. The motion was seconded by Rinkevich and approved by the Executive Committee with one abstention.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Possible Executive Committee Nominees

The Executive Committee worked on trying to identify Senators who would be willing to serve on the Executive Committee if elected. Griffin noted that three Executive Committee members will be needed along with President Elect and Secretary.

4.2 Revisions to Professional Ethics Statement

Bender reported that he has made suggested revisions to the preamble, research and creative activity, and teaching section of the Ethics Statement incorporating some of the existing document along with portions of the AAUP Ethics Statement and other relevant AAUP documents resulting in a blend from multiple sources. Steffen pointed out that the document should be more generic and simple and provide generic guiding ethical principles. He stated that within the university system there are stated regulations at the university and campus levels that are written in the bylaws and other existing policies and documents. Nickerson noted that the idea is to use this document rather than having a statement similar to Harvard's recent policy. However, if this document is going to be used it needs to be updated since it was written in 1990. Joeckel suggested that the document be made shorter and more succinct. Guevara stated that the document should apply to everyone who works for the university. Steffen pointed out that the Senate only has jurisdiction over the faculty.

The Executive Committee discussed other possible revisions. Griffin suggested that the Committee members edit the document and send the changes to her so she can incorporate all of the suggestions into the document which the Committee can later

review. Nickerson noted that the Committee will review the suggested revisions at the April 15 meeting since it will only meet briefly after the Senate meeting on Tuesday, April 7.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Request to test Alertus Threat Warning System in School of Natural Resources

Nickerson reported that a request has been made to test a new threat warning system called Alertus in the School of Natural Resources. He noted that Woodman, who chairs the Information Technologies and Services Committee (ITSC), has inquired how the system differs from the system that is currently in place. Woodman noted that the ITSC is meeting later this week and will be discussing the system. He reported that Mark Robertson, the University Preparedness Coordinator, will be speaking to the ITSC about the new system. He pointed out that currently the system is only being tested and thus it is not a critical issue. He stated that he will report back to the Executive Committee regarding the ITSC's response to the request. Konecky suggested that in the meantime Nickerson can communicate that the Executive Committee has no objections to testing the system, but a report from the ITSC is needed before a formal approve from the Senate can be given.

5.2 Creation of Vice Chancellor of Information Technologies and Chief Information Officer Position – Change to UNL Bylaws

Nickerson reported that the Senate has received a request from Chancellor Perlman to elevate the Chief Information Officer position at UNL. He noted that the change in the position will need to be recorded in the UNL Bylaws and therefore needs the approval of the Faculty Senate as well as ASUN and eventually approval from the Board of Regents.

Joeckel wondered if the change will increase administrative bureaucracy. Woodman reported that the ITSC will discuss this issue and will ask how the change will make a difference to the duties of the CIO. Nickerson pointed out that the question also needs to be asked as to how many other people will be needed to support the new VC position. He suggested that the Executive Committee vote on whether to forward this to the Senate at its next meeting after they have heard a report on the ITSC's discussion on the change. Steffen noted that he would like to see the budget implications associated with the change.

Joeckel asked whether promoting this position will lead to other changes. He noted that Information Technologies Services is a huge enterprise. Woodman stated that it is a huge enterprise and it is taking over more and more of the teaching enterprise. Joeckel stated that another question that needs to be asked is if operations will be more beneficial and efficient with the change in this position.

5.3 Poll of Executive committee on How Mid-Year Salary Increases Should be Distributed

Nickerson stated that his questioning of the Executive Committee relates back to the salary adjustments that were going to be made in January to compensate for the loss of

salary increase funds due to earlier budget concerns. He noted that originally the intent from administration was to give all regular employees \$250 in January, but there is a state statute that prevents this kind of payment since it would appear to look like a bonus. He stated that the Chancellor has not targeted the money to be part of the permanent salary increase beginning on July 1, but instead that it would be part of the merit pool. He stated that he thinks it should be more evenly distributed and asked the Executive Committee how they think the funds should be used.

Guevara pointed out that the funds would be based on this year's evaluation, not the previous year's evaluation which the increase in July 2014 was based on. Bender suggested that a formal recommendation be made. He moved that the Executive Committee recommend to the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee that the salary money from the 2014 enrollment increase be distributed evenly amongst eligible faculty and staff members as an increase in base salary rather than it being put into the merit pool. Joeckel seconded the motion. He wondered if there were any other possible outcomes for the use of the money. Nickerson noted that the Chancellor stated that we will not lose the money, but it will be added to the merit pool. Joeckel pointed out that this might be a golden opportunity to pursue something for the common good. He noted that there are many possibilities in that regard. The Executive Committee approved the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 immediately following the Faculty Senate meeting. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Tad Wysocki, Secretary.