

## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**PRESENT:** Anaya, Bender, Guevara, Joeckel, Nickerson, Reisbig, Rinkevich, Ruchala, Schubert, Sollars, Woodman, Wysocki

**ABSENT:** Zoubek

**DATE:** Wednesday, August 28, 2013

**LOCATION:** 201 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.

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### 1.0 Call

Guevara called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

### 2.0 Chancellor Perlman/VC Green

#### 2.1 Long Term Goals for Innovation Campus and Expected Impact on Defining the Nature of Research at UNL and Availability of Resources for Other Directions of Research

Nickerson stated that he read an article in the Alumni Association magazine on Innovation Campus and Dan Duncan, Executive Director of Innovation Campus, was quoted as saying that it is envisioned that there will be 2,000,000 square feet of buildings and 7,000 people working and living on the Campus. He asked if all of the buildings and people will be research related and how would this be integrated with the rest of the campus in terms of funding research. He questioned how much of this large research area will be strictly university buildings or strictly corporate buildings and how much of it would be interlocking. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the figures presented are not new and have been used since Innovation Campus was first being advocated five years ago. He stated that it is known that the physical space of the Campus can accommodate 2,000,000 square feet of buildings and 1/3 of these will be for public use and 2/3 will be used privately. He pointed out that the development of Innovation Campus is a 15-20 year process and the figures are projections.

Nickerson stated that he has colleagues in Food Sciences who are wondering if any other university departments will be housed on Innovation Campus. Chancellor Perlman stated that Food Sciences has a lot of connection with private industries that has been built up over the years and having them on Innovation Campus closer to some of these private industries makes sense, but at this time he does not see another entire department that has the same level of existing private sector engagement. However, if a department was to emerge with that level of involvement it is feasible that it could be located on the Campus. He noted that

we do not have a set of criteria that are inflexible, but any businesses out there must have an association with the University whether it is through offering internships with students or working with faculty on research.

## **2.2 Delays Occurring in Transfer of Credits for Students**

Chancellor Perlman noted that SVCAA Weissinger is traveling this week but he did make an inquiry and believes the transfer of credits is working much better. He pointed out that transferring credits takes two parties and we are not the sole player in the process and sometimes delays occur on the other end.

## **2.3 Update on Task Force about MOOC Courses**

Chancellor Perlman stated that he will be talking about this issue at his State of the University address on September 17.

## **2.4 Update on Deans' Searches**

Chancellor Perlman reported that the search for the Dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications is getting geared up but he is not clear on what the plans are yet for Dean of Arts & Sciences search and what stage of the process it is in.

## **2.5 Update on Finding a New Director for the Rural Futures Institute**

VC Green noted that the Rural Futures Institute is a program at the system level. He reported that four finalists have been identified by the search firm, however one candidate withdrew due to being offered the deputy US Trade Representative by President Obama. He stated that the three remaining candidates are: Charles Schroeder, currently President and Executive Director of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum; David Ivan, Interim Director of the Greening Michigan Institute at Michigan State University; and Marty Matlock, Executive Director of the Office for Sustainability, Director of the Center for Agricultural and Rural Sustainability, and Professor at the University of Arkansas. He noted that the interview process involves all four of the UN campuses. He stated that one candidate has been interviewed and he is looking forward to the conclusion of the interviewing process so a new Director can be hired.

## **2.6 Update on CYT Proposed Changes and Visitor Housing on East Campus**

VC Green noted that he has mentioned the renovation of CYT Library to the Executive Committee in a previous meeting. He stated that a faculty task force recommended last spring that the CYT can be renovated to serve as a student and community success/learning center. He noted that he hopes to receive initial estimates for cost of the renovation soon, and that funding for the renovation would have to be raised privately. A private donor has expressed willingness to lead the fundraising effort in honor of a prominent UNL alumni.

VC Green reported that the first of two commercial buildings being constructed on the south side of Holdrege Street is going up rapidly and IANR just signed the

contract for rental of the second floor of the residential complex. He noted that the complex will have 13 studio apartment units that can be used as hotel space for IANR visitors. He reported that he has been told that the space may be available before the December holiday break.

## **2.7 Update on New Faculty Hires for IANR**

VC Green stated that recruiting to hire 36 new faculty positions began in January and recently 15 letters have been signed. He noted that the new faculty members will be trickling on to campus beginning this semester. He stated that offers are being negotiated on an additional 9 of the positions currently with recruiting active for the remainder at various stages. He stated that the goal is to have all of the searches completed by the end of the year and things appear to be on track to allow that to happen.

VC Green reported that one of the pleasantly surprising things in this recruiting effort is the depth of the pools of candidates. He noted that some of the positions had a huge pool of candidates which is encouraging. He stated that there have been several dual hires which will not only benefit IANR but the rest of the campus as well. Guevara asked if the spousal hires are included in the 36 new faculty hire positions. VC Green stated that the spousal hires are in addition to the 36 planned hires. He stated that some of the dual career hires have been outside of IANR.

Nickerson asked if any of the searches have failed. VC Green reported that three searches did not result in a hire from the first pool of candidates, but overall he is very pleased with the hiring rate. He noted that in all three of the cases it was a disappointment because the candidates would have been such an optimal fit but their current institutions made successful efforts to retain them.

## **2.8 Upcoming Issues**

Nickerson noted that he has received quite a few positive feedbacks from other faculty members regarding the notice that Academic Affairs sent out about the changes to Career Services. He stated that the feeling is that the move is very useful and beneficial to the students and takes some of the burden off of the faculty.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he was glad to hear this. He stated that he thinks this was the right move, but noted that academic units are going to be held somewhat accountable in relation to the career paths of their graduates. He noted that he will be commenting more about this in his State of the University address. He stated that many student affairs offices at universities report directly to academic affairs but we have no intention of moving in this direction at this time.

Woodman noted that traditionally faculty members would learn about their graduates through some kind of direct correspondence. He asked how departments are going to get information on what happens to students once they

leave the program. Chancellor Perlman noted that this can be tricky to do. He noted that it is easier to conduct a survey with students from a professional school, but in a college like Arts & Sciences it would be more difficult. He stated that the Nebraska Department of Labor wants to get similar information to see what happens to graduates if they remain in Nebraska and some of this information can be obtained through company employment records. He stated that we need a system that will allow us to get this kind of data and Career Services could be help with this.

Chancellor Perlman stated that currently the priorities in Academic Affairs are again with enrollment and student success. He hoped that everyone has had the opportunity to visit the student success center in the southeast corner of Love Library. He reported that studies are continuing on the eventual renovation of Love North.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the other objective is to increase tenure track hiring and there is some movement on city campus in that regards. He noted that if enrollment holds up like the administration believes it will, we will be able to hire more tenure track faculty members. He pointed out that there are many students on campus and he recently attended the new student convocations ceremony and was amazed at how many students came through the tunnel walk. He stated that things are looking pretty good for us in terms of enrollment. Woodman pointed out that the organization for the student orientation was spectacular and the band performed very well. Chancellor Perlman stated that overall it was very good but there could be a little tweaking. He stated that the issue is what we gave up in terms of the traditional convocations which were the academic feel of the ceremony. He noted that he and the other administrators were not in their academic attire and did not discuss the academic component as much as in the past. He stated that we need to figure out how to get the academic component back into the event in a way that keeps the interest of the students. He noted that overall he liked the new orientation.

Wysocki asked if there are any updates about the Engineering program at UNO. Chancellor Perlman reported that he thinks things are moving along fairly well. He reported that there is a framework on how the Peter Kiewit Institution might evolve and how the two colleges at PKI might interact with the Institute. He noted that the Board of Regents seems reasonably supportive of the direction we are going with it. He stated that the Board will be meeting on September 20 and he and Chancellor Christensen will present strategic plans for the two colleges and PKI on how they will eventually be integrated.

Chancellor Perlman reported that he just recently received a first draft of the revised UNL Bylaws from the Law College student that was working on it. He stated that repetitive language that is already found in the Board of Regents Bylaws was removed. He stated that when he has the opportunity he will review it and see how we can go to the next phase of the revisions.

### **3.0 Announcements**

No announcements were made.

### **4.0 Approval of 8/21/13 Minutes**

Joeckel moved to approve the revised minutes pending Woodman's revision. Ruchala seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **5.1 Update on ACE Ad Hoc Committee**

Guevara reported that Professor Lynch suggested adding Professor Homestead from English to the Ad Hoc Committee because of her extensive experience with recertifying ACE courses for the English department. The Executive Committee agreed that this would be a good idea and Guevara stated that he will contact Professor Homestead.

#### **5.2 Draft of Senate Goals**

The Executive Committee made slight further revisions to the goals which will be distributed to the Faculty Senate at the September 10 meeting.

#### **5.3 University of California Bylaws' Amendment to Protect Faculty Speaking Critically of Administration**

Sollars reported that in researching this issue she found that the only university that has incorporated any language in its bylaws to protect faculty is the University of California. She pointed out that this is really more of an issue for local school boards and many of them have already incorporated language into their bylaws.

Woodman asked if this is really an issue for universities. Sollars stated that her sense is that it is not an issue at this time. However, it did come up as an issue in 2007. She pointed out that since the UNL bylaws are being revised it might be a good time to take some preventive measures and seek to include language in the bylaws to protect faculty members.

Bender stated that this is an issue that can become a problem because the Supreme Court basically said it was okay for high school administrators to take action against a faculty member for speaking critically about the administration and the lower courts have said it is applicable to colleges and universities.

Sollars reported that the issue was raised at the University of California as an issue of shared governance. She pointed out that it makes complete sense to include it as part of our shared governance. Nickerson suggested that it might be good to work towards getting this done now because things could change on campus.

Guevara stated that he thinks this is something that the Executive Committee should keep in mind. He stated that he will make an announcement about it at the September Senate meeting. Schubert wondered if there was anything that could prohibit this from being added to the UNL bylaws. Joeckel noted that fundamentally this is what tenure is about. He thought that this might be a good time to work on this issue.

Reisbig asked what the rationale is as to why this is important. Woodman stated that it is because the Supreme Court's decision could apply to higher education and there are many non-tenured faculty members on campus who could be vulnerable.

Joeckel noted that the University of California's language "freedom to address any matter of institutional policy or action when acting as a member of the faculty whether or not as a member of an agency of institutional governance" is a comparatively mildly worded sentiment. Reisbig noted that trying to get this included into the Bylaws would fall under the Executive Committee's goal of working towards improving the intellectual climate at UNL.

Joeckel questioned whether this could meet with resistance from the administration. Schubert stated that if the four campuses should come together to present it to the Board of Regents the Board will need to address it. He suggested that Guevara speak to the other campuses' Faculty Senate Presidents about it. Guevara reported that he spoke with Professor Bacon, Faculty Senate President of UNO, about it and she thinks it is also a matter of concern. Joeckel stated that we should consider pursuing cross-system acceptance and he thinks it is important to move forward in a timely fashion. Schubert stated that the Executive Committee needs to get feedback from the Senate on it in order to pursue it further.

Ruchala stated that it makes sense to make an announcement about this at the September 10 Senate meeting and that Guevara will be speaking to the other Faculty Senate Presidents about it to see if they are in agreement. She stated that the issue can be addressed when we review the proposed changes to the UNL Bylaws. Nickerson pointed out that the change would also need to be made to the Board of Regents Bylaws. The Executive Committee agreed to address the issue further at next week's meeting.

## **6.2 Executive Committee Summer Report**

The Executive Committee reviewed and revised the Summer Executive Committee Report that will be sent to the Senate.

## **6.3 Proposed Change to Faculty Senate Representative's Term Length on University Curriculum Committee**

Guevara reported that one of the reasons he thinks the Senate does not know much about what the UCC is doing is because the faculty appointment by the Senate President only has a term of one year. Griffin noted that on the majority

of committees appointed faculty members serve a three year term. Woodman suggested increasing the number of representatives to two. Guevara noted that the UCC is a Faculty Senate committee and the Senate can make changes to its composition and term length.

Nickerson stated that he is not sure that the UCC is functioning as it was originally intended. He noted that there seems to be a duplication of courses starting to occur, for instance in bioinformatics and genomics, and pointed out that the UCC is supposed to review and eliminate course duplication.

Reisbig noted that a three year term is fairly lengthy and suggested that there might need to be consideration for a two year term. Griffin stated that she has wondered if a three year term length makes some faculty members reluctant to serve on committees. Schubert pointed out that three year staggered terms helps to functionalize a committee. He noted that adding more people to a committee will not necessarily address the problem.

The Executive Committee agreed to discuss the issue further at its next meeting.

#### **6.4 Proposed Change to Add Non-Tenure Track Faculty Members to the Senate Executive Committee**

Woodman noted that the current syllabus of the Executive Committee states that at least one member from IANR must be an Extension Educator. He suggested adding another member to the Executive Committee that would be a non-tenure track person. Anaya asked how this additional seat would affect the representation across the colleges. Griffin noted that the syllabus states that no more than four people can be from the same college on the Executive Committee.

Schubert stated that an argument can be made that adding a non-tenure track faculty member to the Executive Committee might increase the constituencies of these people in the Senate. He noted that an existing seat on the Senate could be designated rather than adding another person. He noted that having a non-tenure track person on the Executive Committee could help keep these faculty members informed.

The Executive Committee agreed to have further discussion on the issue.

#### **6.5 Effort to Update UNL Assembly Definition for UNL Bylaws**

Griffin noted the section of the Senate Bylaws regarding the UNL Assembly is part of the UNL Bylaws and changes could be made when the Bylaws are updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 3:00 in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator of the Faculty Senate and Professor Toni Anaya, Secretary of the Faculty Senate.