

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: **Bender, Joeckel, Nickerson, Reisbig, Rinkevich, Ruchala, Schubert, Sollars, Woodman, Wysocki, Zoubek**

Absent: **Anaya, Guevara**

Date: **Wednesday, September 4, 2013**

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 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Arts & Sciences Dean Search

Nickerson reported that Dean Poser, who will be chairing the search committee, held a meeting with Arts & Sciences faculty members to hear what they are looking for in a Dean. He noted that Professor Lahey, Classics & Religious Studies and chair of the Academic Planning Committee, wanted a Dean who is interested in protecting and entitling professors of practice. He stated that he does not know if Professor Lahey is aware that the Executive Committee is also working on this issue, but it would be good to keep him in mind as the Committee continues its efforts.

Nickerson stated that he has heard that Arts & Sciences is encouraging the use of more professors of practice. Woodman asked if this would involve new hires. Schubert stated that he has heard this same information and stated that he believes the original intent was to replace lecturers with professors of practice. Nickerson noted that using professor of practices more could free up time for other professors to conduct research. Woodman stated that there needs to be caution about hiring more non-tenure track faculty members to ensure that their efforts are not out of proportion when compared to efforts of tenured/tenure-track faculty members in the same department. He added that teaching loads need to be defined based upon proportion of teaching effort and the normal teaching load of a tenured faculty member.

Nickerson stated that the topic of protecting non-tenure track faculty members is an issue that the Executive Committee can ask when interviewing candidates for the open Deans' positions on campus.

3.0 Approval of 8/28/13 Minutes

Ruchala moved for approval of the revised minutes. The motion was seconded by Wysocki. The motion was approved.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Associate VC Goodburn's Response to UCARE Changes

Nickerson stated that he has a few concerns with items in Associate VC Goodburn's response about the changes made to UCARE. He stated that he would like to have Associate VC Goodburn and Assistant Dean Bellows meet with the Committee to discuss the concerns.

Schubert stated that a question for SVCAA Weissinger is why UCARE has been moved to the Graduate Studies Office when it is an undergraduate program. He noted that when Associate VC Goodburn wrote to him she informed him that faculty members on the UCARE Advisory Board were consulted with the change, but she did not provide any names which would have allowed other faculty members to talk with them about the changes. He pointed out that one of the changes is to eliminate time sheets that need to be entered into SAP. Instead, the student is to be given a grant of \$2400, but if the student does not show up to work on the research project the faculty member is to let Graduate Studies know. He pointed out that the math shows that the increase in the amount of funding for the student will decrease the number of UCARE projects that can be funded.

Joeckel asked how many unsolicited comments have been received about the changes. Griffin noted that the issue first came to the attention of the Executive Committee from a professor involved with a UCARE student. Joeckel stated that he did not receive any responses from faculty in his department when he brought the issue to their attention. He pointed out that if the Committee could get a consensus of concerns from faculty involved in UCARE across the campus it might add weight to the Committee's argument against the changes. Zoubek noted that a list of faculty members who were involved with UCARE last year is available on the web. Schubert reported that everyone he has talked to about the changes think it will not function as well as it previously has worked. He noted that UCARE is an outstanding strength for UNL and external reviewers have said it is a very good program with many stories of success. He stated that both faculty members and students have had very positive interactions with Laura Damuth who used to coordinate the program, but now the program has suddenly been changed and someone else is in charge of it. He stated that Associate VC Goodburn claims success with the new procedures during the summer, but he is doubtful there will be the same success during the regular academic year. He reported that he received approval for a UCARE research project but turned it down because of the changes.

Griffin noted that Guevara was unsure, in his conversations with Associate VC Goodburn, whether she would be willing to meet with the Executive Committee. Sollars suggested inviting the faculty representatives of the UCARE advisory committee to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss their concerns.

Nickerson wondered if the administration would be open to modifications to the changes. Griffin reported that Guevara indicated that they may be open to some changes. Schubert noted that part of the changes was to reduce the amount of paperwork with all of the timesheets. Nickerson pointed out that this has been handled in departments as a matter

of course just like any other undergraduate researcher. He read the memo from Jane Schneider in Graduate Studies about the change and how the student will receive a \$2400 stipend for the fall and spring and distributed biweekly and an additional \$400 is to be used for supplies. Reisbig questioned how the expenses will be accounted for. Will this be done on an honor system? She stated that this does not make sense, particularly since faculty members must account for all of their expenses to get reimbursed.

Joeckel stated that he would like to have a mandate from the faculty involved with UCARE about whether we need to address the issue and whether we should seek additional changes or get the changes reversed. He suggested having a list of specific questions pertaining to Associate VC Goodburn's response.

Ruchala suggested asking the Senate to form an ad hoc committee to evaluate UCARE and the changes that are being proposed. Reisbig suggested that Nickerson contact Associate VC Goodburn and Assistant Dean Bellows again to see if they will meet with the Executive Committee. Woodman pointed out that the greater concern is that Academic Affairs seems to be systematically ignoring contact with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee when they are asked to meet with the Committee. Joeckel suggested making an additional request to the administrators and if they do not respond that we proceed with creating an ad hoc committee. Schubert noted that Associate VC Perez is Dean of the Graduate Studies and technically he oversees the supervision of the UCARE program and suggested that he be invited to speak with the Executive Committee. Nickerson stated that he will contact Associate VC Goodburn and Assistant Dean Bellows together and if he received no response only then would he contact Associate VC Perez.

Schubert stated that the situation with SVCAA Weissinger not meeting with the Executive Committee since April 17 is a separate issue and needs to be dealt with separately. Wysocki stated that the Chancellor should order SVCAA Weissinger to meet with the Executive Committee as stated in the UNL Bylaws. Nickerson stated that he will contact SVCAA Weissinger to try and arrange a meeting. Ruchala suggested that the Executive Committee should send a letter to the Chancellor formally requesting that he instruct her to attend a meeting with the Committee should Nickerson's conversation fail to arrange a meeting. Woodman stated that as part of the Executive Committee's summer report there should be an announcement of the increasing difficulty the Executive Committee has had in meeting with the SVCAA.

4.2 Possible Bylaw Amendment to Protect Faculty Speaking Critically of Administration

Nickerson stated that he can meet with the other campus Senate Presidents at the September 20 Board of Regents meeting to discuss whether they want to support an effort to have the Regents Bylaws include language that would protect faculty members if they spoke critically of the administration. Joeckel stated that efforts should proceed now rather than waiting for the Board meeting. Nickerson stated that he will contact the other Senate Presidents to see if they want to unite in this effort.

4.3 Proposed Changes to the University Curriculum Committee

The Executive Committee discussed possibly making changes to the UCC syllabus to extend the length of term of the Faculty Senate President's appointment to three years instead of one and to possibly add an additional member. The Executive Committee agreed to allow the ACE Ad Hoc Committee to review and make recommendations on the ACE procedures and the UCC. Schubert moved to table the discussion until the ACE Ad Hoc Committee gives its report. Wysocki seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

4.4 Proposed Addition of Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member to Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee

Nickerson noted that the idea to add a non-tenure track faculty member to the Executive Committee and the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee (FCAC) is to give these faculty members more visibility and input into faculty issues. Griffin pointed out that criteria should be included for these appointments so people with knowledge and history of faculty concerns are appointed. Woodman suggested using the same criteria as for being a member of the Senate: they must have .50 FTE or greater and have an appointment for at least three successive years or greater.

The Executive Committee discussed whether to add an additional person to the Executive Committee or to designate one of the members' seats for a non-tenure track faculty member. Reisbig moved that at least one member of the Executive Committee must be a non-tenure track faculty member other than an Extension Educator. Schubert seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

Woodman moved that similar language be used for the FCAC syllabus. Reisbig stated that an additional faculty member should be added. Ruchala seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Proposal to Create a Technology and Accommodation Center in Love North Renovation

The Executive Committee agreed to defer the discussion until next week to allow everyone the opportunity to thoroughly read the proposed motion.

5.2 KACE

Woodman reported that he spoke with CIO Askren recently about the purchase of Microsoft Tool which has much stricter controls on what can be viewed on computers and access can be regulated locally. He noted that the Information Technologies and Services Committee is meeting on Friday and will learn more about it and he will report back to the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, September 11 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.