

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Sollars, Steffen

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 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

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Faculty Senate Designee to Academic Planning Committee

Nickerson reported that Professor Lahey, Classics and Religious Studies, has agreed to serve as the Senate designee to the APC.

2.2 UNL to Host the Statewide AAUP Meeting

Nickerson reported that UNL will be hosting the AAUP's statewide meeting on September 13. He noted that Professor Schleck has asked that the Senate Executive Committee provide suggested topics of discussion at the meeting and possible speakers for the event. He asked that anyone with suggestions contact either himself (knickerson1@unl.edu) or Professor Schleck (jschleck2@unl.edu). Woodman suggested the topic of AAUP's position on non-tenure track faculty members.

2.3 CIC Faculty Leadership Conference

Nickerson noted that he and Bender will be attending the CIC Faculty Leadership conference September 24-26 at Ohio State University and he will be on a panel that will discuss faculty representation in hiring a university president.

3.0 Approval of July 30, 2014 Minutes

Joeckel moved for approval of the revised minutes. Guevara seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Nickerson noted that the Chancellor stated in the minutes that he would check to see if his office could find a way to provide iterative comments on proposed changes to the UNL bylaws suggested by the subcommittee working on revising the bylaws. He stated that he was not sure how this could be accomplished but said that the subcommittee would work with the Chancellor's office to figure this out.

4.0 VC Green

4.1 Background and Progress of the Resource Optimization Task Force

VC Green reported that in March he appointed faculty and staff members from across the campus and the state to the Resource Optimization Task Force. He asked the Task Force to take a hard look at IANR's infrastructure across the state which included the research and extension centers and all of the land and physical assets managed by IANR. He noted that he wanted the Task Force to review whether the Institute is optimized in its mission in regards to these resources. He pointed out that there have been a number of lands given as gifts to the university and several large gifts will be coming in the future. As a result the Institute needs to be doing long range planning. He stated that so far he has received very good feedback on this effort.

VC Green stated that he asked the Task Force to address the management structure of the faculty across the state. He noted that currently Extension faculty are split into four districts, but he wants to know if this is the best optimization. He pointed out that this is a timely discussion to have because of a transition in leadership of the districts: one director position is vacant, one was just recently filled, and another director is close to retirement.

VC Green stated that the third item for the Task Force to look at is the IANR administrative structure at the senior level. He noted that his position is mandated by the state and in the university bylaws but he wanted to see if the Institute has too many, or too few administrators.

VC Green stated that lastly he asked the Task Force to look at the communication and technology needs across the state. He pointed out that there is a need for greater technology in the districts.

VC Green reported that the Task Force is being headed by Associate VC Yoder along with co-leaders Dean Clutter and Dean Hibberd. He stated that the Task Force recently gave its report to him and it includes a fairly robust set of suggestions. He stated that he is now in the process of proposing work groups to conduct further studies so good decisions can be made on the suggestions.

VC Green reported that the Task Force looking into the technology needs was formed in July and he expects to receive a report from this group in October. He noted that the report on the land and infrastructure is not due until January 1. He stated that the recommendations made in the report on IANR's administrative structure were more tweaking than significant changes and included a refinement on what they thought would be helpful in the district structure and administrative structure. He pointed out that any changes on the district side will be held off until the report on the infrastructure is made. He said that the report focused on his dual role within in the university system and the campus. He noted that they wanted to know what Varner Hall does to support his university system duties.

VC Green stated that he is very pleased with the reports he has seen from the Task Force to date. He noted that the members of the Task Force were serious about their efforts and made good recommendations. He reported that he has covered some of the details with unit heads and center directors at a recent retreat and he will present a similar summarization for the rest of the Institute at an all hands meeting on September 3.

4.2 Update on Rural Futures Institute

VC Green reported that things are going very well and the new director, Chuck Schroeder, has done a very good job in engaging all of the four campuses. He noted that Schroeder has developed a direction and is identifying six star point leaders at the university who will work with the RFI. He pointed out that this will involve a 60% buyout of these faculty members' time in order for them to serve as a leader. He stated that this effort will involve faculty members from across the university-wide system. He noted that UNL Extension has engaged with the RFI and a team of professionals have been engaged that will work directly as part of Extension and RFI through UNL Extension's Community Vitality Initiative.

VC Green stated that the RFI has received an increase in their budget and the plan is to increase this additional amount by \$500,000 in the next biennial budget. Purcell asked what the goals are of the RFI and how it will be determined that the RFI has been successful with its efforts. VC Green stated that one of the goals is to have increased entrepreneurship in the rural communities and we will be able to know if we are successful in our efforts if we have success stories from the rural communities. He reported that almost \$1.5 million in grant work has been distributed. These grants partner faculty members and rural communities and involve areas of health care, community leadership development, and business opportunities to name a few.

Wysocki asked if there is a special set of criteria for the RFI. VC Green pointed out that the Water for Food Institute is another system-wide program, but the boundaries for it are well defined because the subject area is very focused yet it has broad reaching implications. He noted that the RFI has a much larger scope and it can be more challenging to see how you are going to engage the faculty in this dispersed model. He pointed out that the proof will be seen in the next few years.

4.3 IANR's Involvement with Innovation Campus

VC Green noted that it is obvious that IANR is integrally engaged with the Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC) and things are moving rapidly. He reported that the former 4-H building that has been converted to the conference center has its grand opening tomorrow evening. He stated that the UNL Alumni Association will be operating the facility which has state-of-the-art conference rooms. He reported that the NIC staff will soon be moving into their new facility on NIC.

VC Green stated that the Food Innovation Center and Greenhouse Complex is under construction and will be ready for the Food Science and Technology department to move into in July 2015. The building will house not only the entire Food Science and Technology department, but ConAgra and other partners as well. He reported that there

will be approximately 160,000 square feet for occupancy and the university is leasing this building so it can control who will go into the facility. He stated that the other side of the building will have 42,000 square feet of greenhouse space plus head houses and there will be opportunities for more greenhouse space in the future. He noted that the Institute's involvement in NIC is expensive and the operational costs to move the Food Science and Technology department and to put the needed infrastructure in place is not trivial, but there is funding in place to manage the commitment if the next biennial budget goes as planned by NU.

VC Green stated that on August 26 ConAgra has helped IANR and NIC to convene a group of companies to come to NIC to see the potential for creating a new alliance among food companies in the area of advanced sanitation. He noted that some of the companies coming include Nestle, Kellogg, Cargill, Hershey, Neogen, and Ecolabs. He noted that a Director of Strategic Alliances for Food, Fuel, and Water has been hired (Ann Willet) and she has been very effective in bringing these companies together.

Purcell asked if the Dairy Store will be moved to NIC. VC Green stated that the Dairy Store will remain on east campus because it was determined that it should not be moved from its traditional location because the public is so familiar with its location. He noted that the rest of the building is planned for use once Food Science moves out. He pointed out that one of the plans for the building is to build a new state-of-the-art active learning classroom in a part of the former food processing center pilot plants.

Nickerson asked if the shuffling of offices on east campus once Food Sciences moves is the reason why east campus pulled out of the planned office space being built on the south side of Holdrege Street by a private developer. VC Green pointed out that east campus has never made a commitment to have office space in the second buildings being constructed on Holdrege. He reported that the second building, which will be constructed on the space currently occupied by the old Valentino's building, is a mirror image of the newly constructed building on Holdrege. He stated that originally the plan was to have both buildings as half residential and half commercial, but the developer wants to have it 2/3 residential and 1/3 office. He reported that east campus committed to having one floor in the first building which is now being used, but there was no actual commitment with the second building. He stated that there were some discussions with the university to possibly put the Online World Wide offices as well as the Rural Futures Institute headquarters there but it was determined that it would be too costly compared to other lease spaces.

4.4 Update on East Campus Housing

VC Green reported that a proposal for new housing on east campus will be reviewed by the business affairs committee of the Board of Regents in October and with the expectation that it will be voted on by the full BOR in November. He stated that the new student residence will house just under 400 students and it will be a mixture of traditional dormitory rooms along with suites. He noted that if approved by the Board there will be an increase for room and board and construction would begin July 2015. He stated that the facility will be located on the site that is currently the location of the old Biochemistry

Hall, which will be razed to make room for the residence hall. He pointed out that this residence hall is being developed by Student Housing. He reported that there has been some discussions about the proposed site and there has been some concern about the loss of some very old trees and part of the prairie on east campus. He noted that the residence hall will be a geothermal building which will disturb the prairie but this will be replaced.

VC Green stated that the labs and office spaces currently housed in the Biochemistry building will be moved to the Food Industry Complex and the USDA offices will be moved from Keim Hall so these offices can all be located in the same building. He noted that the Food Industry Complex was built in the 1980's and has good lab space.

Nickerson asked if the new residence hall will include married student housing. VC Green stated that married student housing still needs to be determined. He pointed out that the former married student housing apartments off of Holdrege Street have been closed since July 1 and Housing plans to tear them down. He stated that Housing is exploring whether there would be private interest in putting up a residence hall that would cater to married students.

Purcell asked what will happen to Burr and Fedde residence halls. VC Green stated that these will likely be razed. He reported that there is discussion with Campus Recreation to utilize the land as playing fields that would be connected with the new recreation center and it is possible that the tennis courts on east campus would be relocated there too. Those decisions have not been finalized.

4.5 RedTire Program at the University of Kansas

VC Green stated that he does not know the details of the RedTire program but it sounds similar to the Nebraska Business Development Center funded by the Department of Economic Development and housed at UNO. He noted that there are several offices across the state and the mission is to help with small business development. He stated that the Rural Futures Institute might be looking at keeping young professionals and businesses in Nebraska and could possibly develop a similar program as RedTire in the future. He noted that the university has two programs at NCTA at Curtis that are similar to this. He stated that the students at Curtis receive a two-year associate degree and the program links these students with people who do not have succession plans for their livestock or agriculture plans. He stated that Curtis works with the banking systems to allow students to pair up to work their way into the operation of these businesses.

4.6 Can Extension Faculty Utilize the Coursera Platform for Developing and Offering Workshops?

VC Green pointed out that Coursera is not the platform for this. Nickerson reported that Associate VP Niemiec, Distance Education, sent an email message suggesting that a committee could be formed to see if there are other platforms that the Extension faculty could use for their workshops. VC Green stated that we have a contract with Great Plains IDEA and Ag*IDEA and it is possible that this platform could be used. Nickerson stated that he will follow up with Associate VP Niemiec to see if a meeting could be arranged to discuss this issue further.

4.7 Update on Phase II of Faculty Expansion

VC Green reported that phase II of the faculty expansion is now fully underway with only three positions left in phase I to finish filling. He stated that position descriptions for the phase II positions is beginning and he believes it is possible to add another 30 faculty members. He noted that at a recent IAQNR leadership retreat 53 priority tenure-track faculty positions were identified where there is a need for new faculty members. He stated that after reviewing all 53 areas the field was narrowed down to 40 areas of highest priority. He reported that teams of individuals have been asked to write position descriptions, and the Dean's Council will then select the final positions to begin hiring later this calendar year.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Report on Incident Reporting Program Committee Meeting (Guevara)

Guevara reported that the committee working on the implementation of the incident reporting program has been discussing how to make the program more efficient and user friendly. He noted that when incidents are reported they will fall into specific categories and there will be a team of people for each category that will address the issue. He pointed out that the team members will be selected by the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors based on the individual's knowledge and expertise in the specific category. He noted that there are no faculty members on any of the teams, but he requested that if an incident involves a faculty member that the incident be reported to the departments for proper handling. He stated that a website is being created on the program.

Woodman asked what position the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee (ARRC) would take in cases of reported incidents of faculty misconduct such as in research. He asked if an accused faculty member could go to the ARRC or whether the ARRC is automatically contacted in incidents involving faculty members. Guevara stated that nothing has been adopted with the implementation of the program that guarantee that the faculty member can go to the ARRC. Bender pointed out that reports of possible violations in research are first handled by the Office of Research and Economic Development under the UNL Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct. Nickerson stated that language should be included that steers incidents involving faculty members to the ARRC.

Rudy asked how the team members were selected. He pointed out that some of the teams seem unbalanced and are not a broad representation of university citizens. Joeckel stated that he has concerns that some of the team members are represented on several of the teams. Guevara stated that the Chancellor makes the decision as to who will be on the teams. He pointed out that this system could create a lot of work for the team members. Konecky noted that there is only one female team member on the team addressing sexual misconduct complaints and suggested that the Chancellor be contacted with the recommendation of other women on the team.

Woodman asked why there were no faculty members on the teams and whether the “complaints” would have a termination point or whether they would exist forever on the internet. Also, what sort of security would be in place to guarantee that this information would not become public and potentially misused.

Wysocki wondered how well the program will work and if there is a “denial of service attack” with the huge number of complaints lodged almost simultaneously and what will be done to filter the legitimate complaint(s) from those submitted to mask the legitimate complaint. Nickerson pointed out that in the presentation of the alternative provider it was pointed out that the number of incidents reported is not that great, and a school as large as Ohio State on average only had about 150 incidents reported a year.

Joeckel asked if the campus will have the opportunity to review the program in a year to see if it is effective. Guevara stated that a review after a year is written in the contract. Joeckel asked if the Senate will be able to adequately inform the faculty of the program. He wondered if complaints about the program will start filtering into the Senate several months after it has been implemented. Nickerson pointed out that discussion on the program has been reported in the minutes since the Chancellor first announced his intentions of having such a program. He noted that the program has not been completely implemented yet. He stated that it should be announced at an upcoming Senate meeting. Konecky pointed out that timing is important and that an announcement should be made when the program is launched. She suggested having Assistant Vice Chancellor Currin come to speak to the Senate about it when it is initiated. Griffin noted that there will probably be several announcements to the entire UNL community when the program is ready to be launched. Guevara reminded the Executive Committee that the program is an administrative initiative and the administration will be responsible for making the campus aware of the reporting system.

5.2 Report on July Board of Regents Meeting

Agenda item postponed due to lack of time.

5.3 Topics of Discussion for Interim President Linder’s Visit to the Senate

Agenda item postponed due to lack of time.

6.0 New Business

No new business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Administration Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Tad Wysocki, Secretary.