

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Guevara, Wysocki

Date: Wednesday, November 5, 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 3:05 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 SVCAA Search Committee

Nickerson reported that he forwarded the Executive Committee's suggestion on possible members for the SVCAA search committee. He stated that the Chancellor was finalizing the members and an announcement will be made soon.

2.2 Student Absence Form

Nickerson stated that he sent the student absence form to Dr. Guest of the University Health Center (UHC) and Vice Chancellor Franco of Students Affairs suggesting that the form be placed on their websites since the UHC no longer wants to hand out class absence notes for students. He noted that he has not heard back from either Dr. Guest or VC Franco yet, but the faculty will be notified once the form is available online.

2.3 Meeting of the Academic Planning and Scheduling Advisory Group (APSAG)

Sollars reported that she attended the meeting of the APSAG and gave a brief update. She noted that faculty members with comments on the Best Practices in Course Scheduling document should send their feedback to either herself (patricia.sollars@unl.edu) or Nickerson at (knickerson1@unl.edu). She noted that the plan is to roll out the best practices over the next three years.

3.0 Approval of October 29, 2014 Minutes

Joeckel moved for approval of the revised minutes, including the amendments made by Ruchala. The motion was seconded by Ruchala and approved by the Executive Committee.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Meeting with Sr. Associate Athletic Director Leblanc and Faculty Athletic Representative Potuto

Griffin reported that the Executive Committee will be meeting with Leblanc and Potuto on December 10 to discuss further the academic support program Athletics provides to student-athletes.

4.2 Charge to ARRC Regarding Academic Freedom to Serve on Organizations' Boards

Nickerson noted that this follows up on the issue raised by a recent letter to the editor of the Lincoln Journal Star. He pointed out that the two individuals mentioned in the letter do not want the Executive Committee to press the issue on their behalf. He reported that the AAUP is interested in the issue from an academic freedom standpoint. He stated that the Executive Committee discussed charging the ARRC to look into the policies allowing faculty members to serve on organizations' boards. He pointed out that there is a disparity between tenure-track faculty members and extension faculty who do not have tenure, and are therefore vulnerable in these kinds of situations. Purcell noted that extension faculty members can be terminated with 90 days' notice. Nickerson stated that a broader issue that he would like the ARRC to investigate is to what extent are extension considered faculty members. Sollars stated that the issue is the vulnerability of our extension faculty members.

Ruchala stated that last year there was concern over the California statutes and arguments regarding academic freedom, and this issue is a close example that could be considered a test issue for UNL. Joeckel stated that he has concerns with making sure that the two individuals mentioned in the letter are protected. Ruchala pointed out that any action the Executive Committee takes is in response to a letter that has been made public.

Steffen stated that it is important to know specifically what bylaws or policies prohibit faculty members from serving on boards because we want to be able to communicate with the faculty to let them know what the guidelines are should they wish to become a member of a board. Nickerson noted that Bender prepared a draft charge to the ARRC. The Executive Committee will review the charge and discuss it at its next meeting.

Woodman stated that a question is whether faculty members are subject to review if they are members on any editorial boards, even if the board is in association with our university.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Agenda Items for Chancellor Perlman

The Executive Committee identified the following items for Chancellor Perlman to discuss:

What is the policy or bylaw that was used as an explanation of why faculty members needed to resign from a board?

Update on Alleged Rape Case

Update on the Hiring Process of a New President

Brief Summary of the Strengths of the Candidates

Update on sanctions on fraternities and whether there have been other sanctions and ramifications on the Greek system.

Update on the Possibility of a Wage Increase in January

VSIP Update – Was the decision to provide the VSIP made before July 1.

SVCAA search committee timeline

Update on Implementation of TIPSPrevention – any complaints, glitches, how has it functioned

Implications for the University after the Elections

5.2 Grievance Policy for Graduate Students

Joeckel reported that he was approached by a graduate student who wanted a grievance policy for graduate students at UNL. He noted that UNMC has a policy which was forwarded to the Executive Committee. Rudy noted that the College of Education and Human Sciences has a college grievance policy. Woodman wondered if each college has its own policy. Bender noted that graduate students can file a complaint with the ARRC. Joeckel stated that he will speak further with the graduate student and inform him/her about the ARRC and will get back to the Committee if needed.

5.3 Review of Senate Meeting

Rudy stated that he thought there was good response to the open mic forum discussion on the use of technology in the classroom. Nickerson stated that it was an interesting topic and suggested that there should be a course for faculty on how to use technology properly in the classroom. He noted that there used to be a Century Teaching Club for faculty members who taught classes of over 100 students and he found it to be very helpful. Woodman pointed out that Information Technology Services provides training and so does the University Libraries. He stated that the list of classes available is published on the Information Technology Services website <http://its.unl.edu/>.

Rudy noted that the faculty in his department have stated that they really like the President's newsletter that is being sent out each month. Bender reported that he found out that the university's N logo cannot be used in a word so the format of the newsletter will be slightly revised.

The Executive Committee discussed possible future topics for Senate forums:

Business Centers and Reimbursement for Travel

Best Practices of Mentoring Junior Faculty Members

Academic Freedom and the Fate of Faculty Governance

Discussion on eShop

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, November 12 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Tad Wysocki, Secretary.