

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**Absent:** Konecky, Ruchala

**Date:** Wednesday, September 3, 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.

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### 1.0 Call to Order

Nickerson called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

### 2.0 Announcements

#### 2.1 Intercollegiate Athletics Committee

Nickerson stated that he is still seeking a faculty member, preferably someone who previously was a student athlete, to serve on the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee.

#### 2.2 Academic Scheduling and Planning Advisory Group (ASPAG)

Sollars reported that the ASPAG recently met and discussed three major points: the accreditation timeline; having course designators for things such as service learning opportunities; and policies regarding registration holds. She noted that the Senate President will be asked to be involved in accreditation procedures. She said she will forward ASPAG discussion materials to the Executive Committee. She pointed out that she will be attending the Enrollment Management Council meeting next week and therefore will not be able to discuss the ASPAG materials until the following week.

Nickerson asked if the ASPAG has looked into the problem with Tuesday-Thursday classes on East and City Campus. Sollars reported that this has not been discussed yet.

Nickerson asked what he will be expected to do with the accreditation process. Sollars stated that nothing specific has been indicated, although she had the impression he would be an ex-officio member on one of the committees. She guessed that the Senate President could appoint a designee if the workload becomes too cumbersome. She noted that there are five criteria of the accreditation to be met and that working groups will be formed to gather evidence to show how these criteria have been met.

### **2.3 Recruiting Students through 4-H**

Purcell distributed Extension's 4-H brochure which encourages Nebraska youth, ages 5-19, to become a member. She noted that the brochure explains 4-H's connection with UNL and emphasizes how 4-H is a young person's first class at UNL. She pointed out that a lot of student recruiting is done through the 4-H program. Nickerson stated that he will be meeting with Associate Vice President, Niemiec, of Distance Education, to follow up on the meeting that Purcell attended last week regarding Extension non-credit courses being taught through online education and to discuss how lab courses can be offered through distance education. Woodman pointed out that many professional schools will not accept online lab classes.

### **2.4 President's Newsletter**

Bender stated that the first Faculty Senate President's newsletter is complete and ready for distribution to the campus faculty.

## **3.0 Approval of August 27, 2014 Minutes**

Guevara moved for approval of the revised minutes. Motion seconded by Rinkevich. The motion was approved.

## **4.0 Unfinished Business**

### **4.1 TipsPrevention Program**

Guevara reported that he met with Associate to the Chancellor Nunez and expressed the Executive Committee's concerns from our previous meeting on the TipsPrevention system. He reemphasized that the goal is for the campus to have a mechanism to make sure that the university maintains a welcoming environment. He indicated that he was reassured by Associate to the Chancellor Nunez that it is a routing system only and does not replace existing procedures or processes. He stated that there is always the possibility that some reported incidents will not be actionable because not enough information is provided. He noted that he asked what will happen to these complaints since they are entered through the web. He stated that Associate to the Chancellor Nunez says that he will look at an expiration date, especially for non-actionable items, that are entered into the TipsPrevention program. Purcell asked if the system provides instructions for reporting an incident. Sollars stated that the website does provide instructions and states that if the complaint is filed anonymously that action cannot be taken.

Guevara noted that every incident reported will be reviewed by one of the teams assigned. He stated that he requested that incidents that are of a non-criminal nature should be consistent with an expiration policy similar to the grade appeals expiration policy. Woodman asked if a report of a criminal activity goes to Chief Yardley. Guevara stated that they do go to the UNL Police. Woodman asked if the complaints are traceable and whether IP tracing is being done. Guevara stated that he does not think IP tracing is done.

Guevara reported that faculty members will be informed if they are involved in any way with a complaint providing that the complaint is actionable. He stated that he is not the

only one not convinced that the system will work as smoothly as presented and asked if there are enough people in place to handle numerous complaints. He said he was told that the Chancellor would hire more people if needed.

Nickerson stated that he thinks it is essential that the campus has a system in place for people to report incidents. Guevara noted that the Chancellor said that something would be done to make the campus more welcoming after the incidents that occurred last year and is clearly following through with his promise.

Guevara reported that only two people on campus have access to the data and the Senate Executive Committee will receive a report on the system next semester. Joeckel asked how soon we would get a response to the question regarding the purging of complaints. He pointed out that a lot of people's fears would be allayed if they knew that complaints would eventually be purged. Guevara indicated that he would follow up with Associate to the Chancellor Nunez and also noted that faculty members should be able to ask if any complaints have been made about them. Rudy pointed out that some complaints might need to remain in the system before a pattern emerges. He noted that something like sexual harassment might go unreported sometimes so it could take longer for a pattern to emerge. Steffen stated that he thinks that any item that is actionable would probably stay in the system for a longer time. Guevara pointed out that the administration is adapting the system as needed and they are very aware of the faculty's concerns.

Sollars asked if any effort is being put forth to the ASUN leaders to have them inform the students to be responsible and to use the system properly. She pointed out that the student leaders can provide tips on how to use the system.

Guevara noted that many other universities have implemented similar systems and there has not been any great need, as far as he can tell, to request more memory space to handle the complaints. He stated that there is no doubt some complaints involving faculty members would be submitted, but did not think it would amount to a great deal of them. Nickerson pointed out that Ohio State University, which has a very large student body, only receives about 140 complaints a year. Woodman stated that the issue is what can be done if a complaint is made. Nickerson stated that any complaint that is actionable needs to be dealt with immediately. Joeckel pointed out that the system might function entirely differently here and that we will have to try it out to see how it works. He stated that telling people that they do have a right to get information if complaints are made against them might help allay fears. Wysocki pointed out that if the system works well it could help correct bad behavior.

#### **4.2 Guest Speakers for Faculty Senate and Executive Committee Meetings**

The Executive Committee identified possible guest speakers for the Faculty Senate:

- Vice Chancellor Green
- Vice President Niemiec – Distance Education
- Director Clayton – Benefits and Changes to Health Care Coverage
- Dean Busch – Update on Changes to the University Libraries
- Vice Chancellor Jackson – Savings from eShop and SAP

- Directors Campbell – Changes to Campus Recreation

The Executive Committee identified possible guest speakers to meet with the Committee:

- CIO Askren
- Dean Cerveney
- Associate VC Goodburn and Director Watts
- Associate Dean Bellows

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 Upcoming Senate Meeting**

Nickerson noted that Interim President Linder will be speaking to the Faculty Senate on Tuesday, September 9. He noted that one of the items on the agenda is the open Senate seats in various departments. Wysocki pointed out that some of the departments have not had representation on the Senate for years. He suggested that these seats be turned into at-large seats for any faculty member who wants to fill them. Griffin pointed out that this would require a change in the Senate bylaws. She stated that having at-large seats could cause departments or colleges to create a voting block in the Senate.

Joeckel suggested that an assessment needs to be done to see how faculty members are credited with doing service work because it seems like some faculty members are not given credit for being on the Senate. Guevara pointed out that it is other faculty members that do not value service to the Senate and faculty are demeaning their own representation when they do this.

### **5.2 Online Tuition Budget Changes and Impacts on Departments**

Nickerson reported that an email from a Senate member was received regarding the change in the distribution of online tuition and how it has negatively impacted his department's budget. Nickerson stated that he thought the administration had been very open about the change and that both the Chancellor and SVCAA have talked about the change and the rationale for why it was necessary. He noted that the Executive Committee had detailed discussion with them on this subject.

Nickerson stated that some of the email messages he received say that there have been large budget shortfalls within departments. He noted that each of the colleges received an increase in their permanent budget to compensate for the loss of the online tuition and the Deans were in agreement with this decision. He stated that the Deans were then to distribute the funds within their colleges. He noted that SVCAA Weissinger stated that individual colleges have ample money to cover the shortfalls in departments. He pointed out that there seems to be difficulty within the colleges of getting some of these funds and he wondered whether there has been a breakdown in communication and whether the departments knew that they were going to have a loss in their budget. He noted that the biggest problem with this seems to be in Arts & Sciences and suggested that it could be in part due to the transition to a new Dean.

Nickerson stated that all of the email messages he received have concern over shared governance and feel that shared governance did not occur in these cases. He pointed out that the Chancellor said back in January that changes were going to be made to how the online tuition revenue is distributed. Woodman stated that he did not think it was a shared governance issue but the shock of suddenly not having the money. Guevara pointed out that not everyone in Arts & Sciences feels they are being mistreated. He stated that for some departments they had a sudden increase in their budget when they started offering online courses, and now that those funds are being removed rather quickly, it becomes a painful issue. Woodman noted that departments should not be paying faculty members with temporary money. He stated that a bigger problem is what the Deans have decided to do with their increased budgets.

Nickerson asked what the Senate could do about the issue. Woodman suggested that the Deans be asked as to how they spent the increase in their permanent budget. He reported that the faculty of Arts & Sciences was informed of the change in the distribution of the online tuition, but it was not until July that they saw how it would affect their department budget. Wysocki noted that there seems to be a breakdown in communication in that actual figures of what the budget impacts would be for each department were not communicated. Steffen pointed out that some departments gained from “digital online” delivery of courses to on-campus students and these courses did not always meet the distance education intent to reach off-campus students or bring new money. The model was unsustainable. Woodman noted that fall online classes are being honored because of the commitment students have made to take the courses, but he knows that there are a lot of online classes being cancelled in the spring because of the change in the distribution of the tuition.

Sollars pointed out that the issue may not be that the departments did not hear about how Deans were distributing the money, but rather that they did not have a voice in the matter.

### **5.3 Changes in BC/BS Coverage of CHI Facilities and Doctors**

The Executive Committee suggested inviting Director Clayton, Benefits Office at UNL to speak to the Senate about the changes to the BC/BS coverage. Griffin stated that she will contact Director Clayton to check on his availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, September 10 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Tad Wysocki, Secretary.