

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Konecky, Wysocki

Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Location: 201 Canfield 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.

1.0 Call to Order

Nickerson called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

2.0 Chancellor Perlman/VC Green/SVCAA Weissinger

2.1 Update on the Merger of the College of Architecture and the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts

SVCAA Weissinger reported that the Academic Planning Committee unanimously approved the proposal to create a new college combining the departments of the two colleges. She noted that the proposal then went to the Chancellor for approval and he transmitted it to the President of the University. She stated that under normal circumstances the proposal will go to the Board of Regents under Reports and at some point the Board will act on the campus recommendation.

Nickerson stated that he has heard some commentary that a subset of faculty members from the Community and Regional Planning (CRP) program of the College of Architecture felt that they would be more appropriately placed in the School of Natural Resources. He asked if this would be a consideration for the future. SVCAA Weissinger reported that the four faculty members in CRP were invited to a meeting to explore other possible administrative solutions. She stated that last spring there were a series of conversations, first with the College of Arts & Sciences, and then the School of Natural Resources, but she did not see a sufficient advantage of moving CRP into any of these units and this was communicated to the faculty of CRP. She stated that a member of the Academic Planning Committee reconnected with these faculty members to see if they could be relocated, but at the present moment they are administratively housed in Architecture and will be a part of the new college. She noted that some members of the profession in Nebraska, including members of the professional advisory board for CRP have stated that the CRP program belongs administratively connected to Architecture and Landscape Architecture. She pointed out that any tenured faculty member, from her perspective, has that ability to hold conversations with other units to see if they could be transferred as individuals into that department.

Rudy noted that his department and college went through a similar merger and he stated that merging colleges and units is a sensitive issue for faculty members. He asked what kind of conversations are going on to make the faculty of CRP feel like they have a home. SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that CRP has been a part of the College of Architecture since the inception of the college. She reported that a facilitator has been hired to assist in the planning process of the merger. She noted that all eight of the programs are to create a shared vision and she foresees CRP being a part of these conversations. Rudy pointed out that it is important for the faculty to feel that they have a home unit where they feel comfortable. SVCAA Weissinger stated that consideration needs to be given on where the unit will have the greatest and best trajectory for growth over the long run.

2.2 Report on merger of Electrical Engineering and Computers and Electronic Engineering

SVCAA Weissinger reported that the new department is Electrical and Computing Engineering and as far as she knows, the merger has gone well.

2.3 Report on HLC Retreat – Opinion on Whether the Next President-Elect Needs to be Actively Involved with the Reaccreditation Process

SVCAA Weissinger noted that the President of the Senate is a member of the campus reaccreditation steering committee and is directly involved with the oversight of the process. Rudy stated that the question arose from a conversation that he, Joeckel, and Sollars had at the retreat when it was realized that the Senate President Elect will be heavily involved in the process. SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that it is really up to the Senate to make this decision. She noted that there is a formal seat for the President on the steering committee, but anyone can volunteer to serve on any of the working committees. She stated that it would not be difficult to bring someone up to speed quickly.

Nickerson noted that he was surprised to find out how many committees he would become involved in as Senate President. He asked if someone stepping into the role would need four or five months of preparation time to get up to the date with the reaccreditation. SVCAA Weissinger stated that she did not think it should take that long to become familiar with the process. She pointed out that 80 faculty and professional staff members have built great working committees and the goal is to have these committees produce 80-90% of the raw product that will be needed for the accreditation report. She reported that there will be a variety of ways that the campus will be involved.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the campus needs to be comfortably aware that the faculty has been involved in the reaccreditation self-study. Nickerson noted that there are already Senate members who have been actively engaged. SVCAA Weissinger noted that the working groups welcome more participation and anyone who wants to join the effort should get in touch with her office.

2.4 Guidelines for Extension Professionals Document – Should it apply to all Faculty Members?

Nickerson reported that the document has been revised after receiving input from the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee members. He noted that the suggestion was made from several people that the policy should cover all faculty members and the Executive Committee wanted to get the administrators' opinions on it. VC Green stated that he can understand the reasoning for this question since the document has morphed from being specifically for extension faculty to now saying it applies to all IANR faculty. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that he has not had the opportunity to review the document. He noted that there could be some differences for extension faculty from other faculty in given situations as outlined in the document. He pointed out that the campus does have a conflict of interest policy already. Nickerson noted that the Senate will be considering whether to try and extend the document to faculty in general, but if any of the administrators sees a problem doing this they should let him know.

2.5 Legislative Bill #54

Chancellor Perlman stated that he has asked Assistant to the Chancellor for Community Relations Michelle Waite to speak about a legislative bill that faculty might have interest in. Waite reported that she works with the unicameral and represents the UNL campus along with Ron Withem, Senior Associate Vice President for University Affairs, from Central Administration.

Waite reported that LB 54 deals with transfers of credit. It was created by Senator Scheer from northeast Nebraska who feels that all four-year institutions in the state should streamline their transfer credit process. She pointed out that the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education supports the bill. She noted that, as drafted, the bill requires the Coordinating Commission to draft policies regarding transfers. She pointed out that one of the problems with the bill is that it gives the Coordinating Commission more power to write policies on what is acceptable transfer of credits with little input from the colleges.

Nickerson asked if the Senate or Executive Committee can do any work on this issue. Waite stated that she, Withem, and others are working with the other Senators on the Education Committee, but she will keep the Senate informed of what is occurring with the bill.

Chancellor Perlman wanted to emphasize that we have reached out to the community colleges and other colleges and we have streamlined our transfer procedures. He noted that for the most part community college courses transfer for credit, but they do not necessarily satisfy ACE requirements or discipline requirements. He stated the one area that we are somewhat vulnerable on is with general education courses. He pointed out that the issue of transfer for purpose of satisfying general education requirements is not localized to Nebraska and is occurring in other areas of the country.

Guevara asked if there are any Regents who support the bill. Chancellor Perlman stated that there might be some sentiment, but he believes we have demonstrated that most of the courses transfer in. He pointed out that our faculty needs to decide whether transferred courses meet the specific objectives of our courses.

Waite noted that she will be speaking to the Senate at its meeting on February 3. Guevara stated that it is important to make people realize what the bill could entail. Rudy pointed out that the reaccreditation process states that the institution must have control over approving the transfer of credits for students. Steffen stated that he would be interested to know what the root of the concern is for introducing this bill. He noted that his department gets a lot of transfers from Wayne State and he believes the department approves all of them.

2.6 Mid-year Faculty Salary Increase Update

Chancellor Perlman reported that the faculty salary increase scheduled for January will now be rolled into next year's budget because of concerns raised by Central Administration about giving a mid-year increase. He stated that the increase will probably go into the merit pool. He pointed out that the allocation for next year's increase would mean that the UNL pool will be slightly higher than the amount the rest of the university would receive for salary increases. He pointed out that he would be open to a conversation with the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee about how the increase would be allocated. He noted that it is difficult to build up a merit process when the amount of the increase for everyone is so small.

2.7 Update on Searches

VC Green reported that the search for a new SVCAA has started, the committee has formed and met with the search firm. He stated that the search firm is now actively gathering a pool of candidates. He reported that the search committee is scheduled to meet in mid-March to screen applicants with the search firm and the hope is to have airport interviews conducted by the end of March.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the position for Director for Institutional Equity and Compliance has been hired. He noted that the original search committee recommended three candidates: one withdrew from the pool, two were interviewed, but it was generally agreed that these two candidates while good candidates, were not at the point in their career to lead the office. As a result a targeted search was conducted and after consulting with some faculty in the Law College he contacted Susan Foster who was subsequently hired for the position after she was interviewed by the search committee and others within the administration.

Chancellor Perlman reported that Director Foster has worked in a major firm dealing with compliance issues and she was a teacher earlier in her career so she is familiar with Title IX. He asked that the Senate Executive Committee meet with her at its next meeting.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the search for the Director of the Alumni Association is progressing with six or seven airport interviews planned. Nickerson asked if all of the candidates are UNL graduates or have connection with the Alumni Association. Chancellor Perlman stated that the initial charge was that a UNL graduate would be preferred, but he believes there is one candidate that is not an UNL alum.

2.8 Diversity of the Faculty Council of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color

Chancellor Perlman reported that he is reformulating this committee after receiving renewed interest from some of the African American faculty members. He noted that a number of faculty members are willing to participate in the committee, but some felt that it is not truly diverse because there were no Caucasians. He noted that this is a legitimate concern and he would like to have a Caucasian faculty member on the committee. He stated that he would like the Senate Executive Committee to make a recommendation.

2.9 Update on Sigma Nu

Chancellor Perlman noted that the fraternity has been suspended for two years and is on probation. After this time period the fraternity will have to recolonize and the alumni of the fraternity have been accepting of this agreement. Bender asked if the house will be torn down or renovated. The Chancellor stated that it will be renovated. Nickerson asked if the fraternity was optimistic that all of the money needed for renovation will be available. Chancellor Perlman stated that he has been assured that the money is available and pointed out that the fraternity order has to pay all of the expenses.

Chancellor Perlman reported that he believes the Farm House fraternity is close to an agreement with the university.

2.10 Reports of Sexual Assaults on Campus?

Nickerson noted that the Daily Nebraskan reported that there have been eleven sexual assaults on campus and asked if this is correct. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the campus reports what we know and the statistical information can be found on the University Police website (<http://www.police.unl.edu>). He noted that universities are under enormous scrutiny and pressure, and although rape is easy to define, it is not easy to deal with. He stated that victims of rape have life time consequences, and if someone is unjustly accused they can also have life changing consequences. He stated that we have a number of obligations under federal statutes to serve our students and to provide training on how to deal with sexual assault issues. He pointed out that currently the training has not been extended to all faculty members, but this could happen.

Rudy asked the Chancellor if he thinks Vanderbilt University could be at risk of a civil lawsuit after the conviction of two students for rape. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that a university has the obligation to provide care and safety for their students and employees. If it is determined that Vanderbilt did not deal with the rape it could be liable.

Woodman asked what the most prudent way is for faculty members to handle a situation if a student confides that they have been assaulted, but the student says they want to keep it confidential. Chancellor Perlman noted that this is a difficult situation. He stated at the least it should be reported to the Title IX officer on campus, but if the student is reporting an incident that is a criminal case his instinct would be to tell the student that he could not keep that confidential and that he would have to report it.

2.11 UNL Wellness – Any chance of reduced recreation fees to encourage faculty/staff to join the Recreation Center?

Chancellor Perlman stated that he doubts this will happen because the Recreation Center is student funded and the argument would be that it is the students who should receive a price break. He stated that until there are financial impacts for a person, such as being assessed a fee on their insurance, he does not think we will make real progress on a wellness program.

Nickerson stated that he wanted to thank the Chancellor and Chancellor Gold for suggesting the University Health Center and College of Nursing be combined into one facility which he believes makes sense. He noted that the Executive Committee had a very productive meeting with Jill Lynch-Sosa, Nebraska Medicine, Jim Yankech, University Health Center, and Brian Larson, Facilities about the project. Chancellor Perlman stated that he is very excited about the project and UNMC is very interested in expanding some medical services, such as urgent care, to the faculty and staff.

Nickerson asked whether retired faculty and staff could use the Health Center. Chancellor Perlman stated that he did not know if there would be the capability of handling the medical needs of retirees, but perhaps there could be the possibility of them using the pharmacy. He noted that Chancellor Gold believes that the price point for prescriptions is better through Nebraska Medicine which could save the campus some money. He stated that the project is moving forward.

2.12 Upcoming Issues

Chancellor Perlman stated that the core university budget has been proposed by the Board of Regents, but it does not include the salary increases at this time. He noted that the budget comes in three sections: the core operations budget, university initiatives, and the economic development package.

Chancellor Perlman stated the economic development component includes funds for PKI and Innovation Campus as well as other activities. He stated that the Governor recommended a 3% increase for the state as a whole, but we would need a 5% increase if everything we asked for is to be funded. He reported that the two unionized campuses, UNO and UNK, have already reached an agreement with the Board of Regents regarding salary increases.

Chancellor Perlman stated that there is a bill in the legislature to give the university \$25 million for revolving maintenance of buildings. He noted that this bill would allow us to get matching funds from private donors.

Chancellor Perlman stated that President Bounds has been on campus and has met with students. He noted that there will probably be a reception for President Bounds sometime this spring.

2.13 CYT Renovations

VC Green reported that the renovation program statement for CYT Library has been approved by the Board of Regents. He noted that the renovation will cost \$22.5 million and the idea is to turn two of the floors into learning commons similar to Love North. He stated that a library would remain on the ground floor. He stated that the renovation will be privately funded and he is optimistic that the money will be raised. He stated that hopefully the renovation of the library will occur at the same time the construction of the residence halls occurs since they are next door to one another. He reported that architectural planning on CYT is moving forward.

Nickerson asked if the learning centers could be connected with the dorms through a tunnel system, in case of blizzards or other inclement weather. VC Green stated that the renovation is not being planned that way, in part because it is felt that students need to get out of the building. Woodman asked if CYT is being modeled on the renovation of Love North. VC Green stated that it is, but with the exception that there will be learning centers outside of the facility as well. He noted that there will actually be academic space in CYT and testing services for East Campus will move into the building which will provide considerable increase over their existing space.

Anaya asked if the collections for the library portion will be part of the learning commons. VC Green stated that part of first floor would be the traditional library and the other part would be a portion of the commons area. Anaya asked if CYT is identifying what should be retained in the library portion of the facility. VC Green stated that his staff is working with Dean Busch to determine what should go to the repository and there are discussions on the need to expand the repository.

Anaya asked if something is being done with the atrium. VC Green stated that it is part of the redesign. He noted that the facility is being redesigned so we can get the maximum amount of space while turning it into an active learning space. He noted that a part of the pilot plant space currently occupied by Food, Science and Technology, will be turned into a learning facility once that department moves to Innovation Campus later this summer.

Rudy asked what the plans are for the dorms once they are emptied. VC Green stated that this has not been determined yet. He noted that the East Campus residence hall proposal approved by the Board of Regents in November originally included the demolition of Burr and Fedde Halls, but the Board pulled that part from the proposal and asked UNL to evaluate potential repurposing them or to renovating and retaining them as lower cost option dorms. He stated that the Burr and Fedde question will be evaluated and he will report back to the Board in a year. He noted that the Board would like it to be reconsideration to provide low-cost student housing, but the cost of the renovation may not make this feasible. He pointed out that it could also create a stratification of the students which could be problematic. Rudy noted that renovating the dorms to bring them up to code would be more expensive than building a new one. VC Green stated that this is correct and students want more suite and apartment style dorms. He stated that they will be considering whether renovating Fedde to convert it into an academic space might be feasible, but he suspects that the cost of removing asbestos and dealing

with the old building would be high. He noted that there is an increasing need for space for faculty and students on East Campus, so every option is open to consideration.

2.14 IANR Resource Optimization Task Force Update

VC Green noted that a subgroup of the optimization task force suggested that there could be some changes in the infrastructure of the eastern section of the state with the research centers. He stated that he received the subgroup's report on January 1 and it recommended that the Ag Research and Development Center at Mead, which is currently a satellite site operated by East Campus, be made into a regional research and extension center for eastern Nebraska. He noted that there would be significant changes in the financial model and management of the site, including having resident faculty members. He stated that he is reviewing the suggestions and considering whether this is feasible. He reported that he has shared the information with his staff and have asked them to complete the financial models and operational justification for the change, and to ask the public if the proposed changes make sense. He stated that at this point he does not know whether the Northeast and Southeast Research & Extension Centers will be combined into one district, although it is trending that way.

Steffen asked if changing the infrastructure to combine districts is trending across land grant universities. VC Green noted that the changes are related to the budget. He stated that consideration is being given to serving the needs of eastern Nebraska better and if Mead could be run better. Steffen stated that he can see huge opportunities for operational efficiencies with the proposed change, but it is important to make sure that academic units have access to the animals at Mead.

Purcell stated that she has received several email messages from extension specialist faculty members who would like to know the criteria that was used by the VC's subgroup to put together the suggested changes for eastern Nebraska. She stated that the faculty of this area are hoping that there will be open discussion about it. VC Green stated that he wants to hear about the operational component first, and if the recommendation says to go forward there would be a process that would take at least six months. Purcell stated that there is concern that the VC has not received all of the information if he has not talked directly to the extension educators and specialists. VC Green stated that he will relay this information to the task force and deans and determine if and how it should be addressed. He pointed out that right now it is just in the discovery process and there will be a long time before a decision is made whether to make any changes.

2.15 New York Times Article on U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) at Clay Center

VC Green noted that UNL faculty and staff may have seen the recent article in the NY Times alleging animal welfare concerns cruelty occurring at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service's US Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center. He noted that this is a very well known, highly internationally respected animal science research center and the largest and most respected of its kind in the world. He reported that IANR has been a partner with the Center since its inception 50 years ago. He stated that in years past the

federal government could not carry funding over from year to year making UNL's partnership important to them for operating farm and livestock operations on the site.

VC Green reported that he personally did his Ph.D. research at US MARC in the 1980's and feels that the article is grossly misrepresentative and he hopes the USDA will be revealing this information soon. He noted that the policies and procedures used at the Center have been in place for a long time. He pointed out that the university is not backing away from our support of the Center while this is being investigated, and although the university has not made any comments yet, there will more than likely be comments at an appropriate time after USDA has concluded their diligence regarding the article's allegations.

Nickerson asked how many UNL employees are at US MARC. VC Green stated that the U.S. MARC operates on a budget in excess of \$20M. He stated that we do have UNL veterinary science faculty and staff who are involved in our Great Plains Veterinary Education Center co-located on the site, but this is a UNL unit operated and funded in our budget. There are additional employees at the US MARC who are paid by funds generated by the USDA Center's operations and revenue – not from State of Nebraska funds. These employees manage livestock and farm operations for US MARC according to USDA policies and protocols.

Nickerson asked if the stories represented in the article are from the 1980's. VC Green pointed out that the story is presented in a very misleading and misrepresentative way and ties together activities spanning over 30 years of time to this past year. He stated that some particular details in the article are accurate, but these represent everyday occurrences in livestock production and are not exceptional to normal accepted and expected practice in natural production environments. He pointed out that the statistics for death losses and health presented in the article at MARC is, at an aggregate level, below what would be observed in the greater industry, even though they are presented as egregious and outrageous by the article's author. He also indicated that there were a number of gross inaccuracies, statements, and quotes to sources in the article presented out of context, including in relation to UNL's partnership with US MARC.

Bender asked if the university's protocols governing research on animals is different from the USDA's protocols. VC Green stated that USDA has their own institutional policies on the use of animals in research. Bender asked if there is oversight by the university. VC Green said that our relationship to US MARC was evaluated as a part of the process resulting in our recent accreditation by AAALAC – the highest standard for lab animal accreditation which we received recently, and was found to meet their standards for animal care process. He noted that the USDA will likely have a greater level of bureaucracy as a result of this article, at a minimum. Steffen pointed out that there will probably be greater documentation of the quality of care although this does not necessarily mean that the care will improve. VC Green stated that whatever changes are made it will add costs to USDA's system which will ultimately mean less actual research.

Bender asked if there will be some kind of response from the university at some point. VC Green stated that there would be further information forthcoming, but that we are not in a position to comment at the present given that this is USDA's research center and not under our funding authority. He pointed out that it has been surprising that the university has received only one media contact about the article. He stated that the response is being managed in a way that the USDA can come out with their own responses that will allow them to adequately and fully address the questions raised by the article and its author.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Changes for International Travel

Nickerson reported that at the Deans and Directors meeting it was announced that anyone traveling overseas will now have to get electronic approval through Travel & Transport and they will be provided with insurance for medical transportation or safety reasons if needed.

4.0 Approval of January 21, 2015 Minutes

Rinkevich moved for approval of the minutes as revised. Purcell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5.0 Unfinished Business

6.0 New Business

6.1 Possibility of Changing the Executive Committee Meeting Time

The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of changing the meeting time to a different day so there would not be a conflict with the Academic Planning Committee which meets every other Wednesday. Various members of the Committee stated that they preferred the current time and suggested that efforts be made to schedule the administrators on days that the Academic Planning Committee does not meet. The Committee also decided to not have a meeting the Wednesday following a Senate meeting unless absolutely necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, February 4 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.