

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Guevara, Joeckel, Ruchala, Wysocki

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Location: 201 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 3:03 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Perlman/SVCAA Weissinger

2.1 Priorities between Regents Bylaws and UNL Bylaws

Nickerson stated that the Executive Committee was seeking advice from the Chancellor concerning whether the Regents Bylaws super cede campus bylaws. He noted that in the past former General Counsel Dick Wood informed the Senate Office that the Regents Bylaws must be adhered to before campus bylaws. However, at the recent Board meeting the Regents passed an amendment to Regents Bylaw 2.1: "it is the intent of the Board of Regents that the existing bylaws and practices of each major administrative unit for appointing chancellors, vice chancellors, and deans are unaffected by [this Board action]." He noted that while he was relieved and pleased that the Regents added the amendment he wanted to get clarification about which bylaw should be followed for searches for deans and/or vice chancellors.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the normal rule is that the Regents bylaws take priority and campus bylaws cannot do anything that is inconsistent with the Regents bylaws, but the campus bylaws can be supplemental to the Regents bylaws. He noted that there were two proposed changes to the Regents bylaws that were of concern to the faculty: one was the elimination of lists of faculty members and students for the search advisory committee as provided by the leaders of faculty and student governments in searches for deans or vice chancellors; and the other was whether the hiring officer was bound to select a person for the open position from the final group forwarded by the advisory committee. He pointed out that it is clearly within our ability to make our bylaws more restrictive to the process, and now that the Regents have added the amendment he is more comfortable that the faculty's involvement in the search process is protected.

Chancellor Perlman noted that a search for a Chancellor is handled by Central Administration and although this portion of the Bylaws was not changed in the Bylaws there is some uncertainty about the search process for a Chancellor and this is something the Executive Committee might want to consider. SVCAA Weissinger stated that she

can understand the dilemma between the searches that the Board or President conducts and the ones the campus conducts. She pointed out that the President organizes the search for a chancellor and this is something that should be clearly stated.

Nickerson reported that Central Administration is having an orientation meeting for the four Senate Presidents.

2.2 Request to Have a Senate Rep on Ad Hoc Committees (pertaining to academic issues) formed by the Administration

Nickerson stated that this suggestion is to help maintain better communication with the administration and to avoid wasting anyone's time with duplication of work which may have occurred because people were unaware of what efforts are being made. He cited last year's miscommunications with changes to the UCARE program as an example. He pointed out that having a Senate representative on these committees could head off any potential problems. He noted that having someone from the Senate or the Executive Committee on some of these committees, when feasible, could be helpful and save time. SVCAA Weissinger and Chancellor Perlman agreed that if it is feasible they will include a Senate representative on ad hoc committees.

2.3 SaVE Act – Implications for UNL

Nickerson noted that the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act is a federal law that seeks to address violence against women on university campuses. Chancellor Perlman stated that the campus is working on getting better organized to address the SaVE Act requirements. He pointed out that there are some things that the SaVE Act might constrain the faculty on, but the Act must be adhered to. He reported that we will have to make clear who our Title IX investigator will be and if anyone comes to a university employee and tells you about an incident you must report it to the police and turn the matter over to the Title IX investigator. He noted that the investigator will have to be trained and information will be made available to the campus before the fall semester begins regarding the SaVE Act.

Woodman stated that the new Student Code of Conduct that was just approved contains only one line regarding sexual harassment. Chancellor Perlman reported that the Board of Regents just accepted a sexual harassment policy which is very lengthy and more detailed. He pointed out that the new Student Code of Conduct incorporates the Board's policy and will be referenced into any other policies that might arise. He reported that the Board's policy not only pertains to acts that happen on campus but also at events off campus that involve university personnel.

Purcell asked how safe our campus is for females. She noted that nationally one in five women are assaulted on college campuses. Chancellor Perlman stated that he believes that our campus is relatively safe, but people need to be realistic and have to understand that most of the incidents that occur are between students who know each other and usually alcohol is involved. He pointed out that the campus does all that it can to protect the students and every year the campus is walked to determine if there are any unsafe spaces. He reported that there are 400 cameras to monitor what is happening on campus,

but there can always still be a risk and women need to be aware of their surroundings at all times.

2.4 Update on Incidents Management Program

Chancellor Perlman reported that he is still moving forward on obtaining a program that will allow people to report incidences of concern that occur on campus. He stated that we will most likely sign up with TIPS Prevention which is provided by a local company. He noted that there were no major differences between the two programs that were reviewed and the university wants to make an effort to support local providers. He believes that Associate to the Chancellor Nunez will be putting a committee together to consider the policies for the use of the program and it should be available for the fall semester.

2.5 Update on Classroom Task Force Report

Nickerson reported that he just received the report but has not had the time to review it in detail. SVCAA Weissinger stated that she also just received it and has not had the opportunity to look at it either, but she did have more information on this topic. She stated that the Enrollment Management Council is chaired by Dean Cerveny and comprised of Associate Deans from each college and members of various student affairs groups. She reported that Dean Cerveny created the Classroom Task Force with some of the members from the Enrollment Management Council and various faculty members as well as people who manage department courses and room scheduling. She stated that there should be a Senate representative on the Council and this relates to having a Senate representative on other ad hoc committees such as the Academic Scheduling and Planning Advisory Group.

SVCAA Weissinger reported that the Academic Scheduling and Planning Advisory Group (ASPAG) is chaired by Associate Vice Chancellor Goodburn who said that she would welcome a Senate representative on the ASPAG. She stated that she wants to give the Classroom Task Force report to the ASPAG to see what they think of it from a college perspective and the issue of the Tuesday/Thursday class scheduling conflict could be added to the issues the ASPAG should address.

Woodman asked if there was anyone from advising on either the Enrollment Management Council or the ASPAG. SVCAA Weissinger stated that there are advising people on the ASPAG including Bill Watts, Director of University Advising and Career Services.

Nickerson noted that the problem with the Tuesday/Thursday class scheduling is that there is not enough time for students to commute between the campuses when they have back-to-back classes on either campus. He stated that he will find an appropriate Senate representative for the two committees. He asked if it should be the same person for the Council and the ASPAG. SVCAA Weissinger noted that the Enrollment Council meets three times a year to discuss broad issues and suggested that the representative could be the Senate President.

2.6 Decision on CIC Academic Leadership Program Participants

Nickerson asked if any decision has been made regarding who will participate in this year's program. SVCAA Weissinger stated that the list of participants is usually not finalized until late July or August, but she will let the Executive Committee know when the decision has been made.

2.7 Process for Blackboard Renewal in 2015

Woodman stated that as chair of the Information Technologies and Services Committee he has been actively involved at the campus effort to look at learning management systems that could possibly replace Blackboard. He pointed out that the RFI process has been started and he wondered how much buy-in is needed from the other campuses in order for the university to replace Blackboard with either Desire to Learn or Canvas. He asked if the Regents need to have input in the decision. Chancellor Perlman stated that Blackboard is a system-wide program and the other campuses need to provide input, and the Regents have to review the purchase. These combined factors could be why the process is moving slowly. He noted that there are a lot of other products that are very good and while there are a lot of good reasons to go with a different product, there are also a lot of reasons to stay with Blackboard.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that it is very fortunate that CIO Askren is so well embedded nationally and that he is trusted and respected by our sister campuses. She noted that he is trying to coalesce the campuses so they can communicate well with each other on this issue and he is very involved with the CIC computing group. She reported that CIO Askren is trying to make Blackboard a better path and he and his colleagues are looking into the future with learning management systems. Woodman pointed out that many of the CIC universities are leaving Blackboard. SVCAA Weissinger noted that about a third of the universities are on Blackboard, a third are on Canvas, and a third are on Desire to Learn.

Woodman stated that there is some concern that the decision about the learning management system will be forced on the other campuses without their input. SVCAA Weissinger reported that CIO Askren has been working with the other campuses and she believes they trust him. Woodman noted that CIO Askren comes to the ITSC meetings and provides clear input on issues being discussed.

2.8 Preliminary Enrollment Figures for Summer

SVCAA Weissinger stated that the final enrollment figures for summer classes are not available yet. She noted that the preliminary numbers on the first five weeks session look good. Nickerson asked if it is possible to see whether summer enrollment has increased. SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that summer enrollment does not track in the same direction as fall and spring semesters. She stated that the colleges are much more involved with the summer programs and summer graduation and have more information on enrollment figures.

2.9 Opinion on Idea of Allowing Two Representatives from the Colleges on the University Curriculum Committee's ACE Subcommittee

Nickerson reported that there is continuing effort to speed up the ACE recertification to help reduce faculty time and the Executive Committee is trying to understand the constraints that are currently in place for recertification and approval of ACE courses. He understands that there is a state law that says that each college has control over its own curriculum. SVCAA Weissinger noted that it is a statutory law that colleges have control over their undergraduate curriculum. Nickerson noted that because of this law there needs to be a unanimous vote on approval and recertification of ACE courses. The problem this creates is that the UCC ACE Subcommittee cannot vote if even one member is missing. He stated that a simple solution would be to have a backup person for the Subcommittee or a designee that could vote. He believes that this would not need to go to the colleges for approval but could be made in collaboration with the current ACE Subcommittee.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that the ACE governance documents are well written and eloquent and it is not simple to modify them. She noted that the basic principle of ACE seems intuitive now but it was not when the program was first created. She said that she had heard that there is a strong assumption that changes to the governance structure would need college approval. She stated that the real solution to the problem is for the Subcommittee to do their work electronically unless they needed to debate an issue. Nickerson noted that most of the Subcommittee's work is done electronically. He pointed out that the suggested changes would be to the Subcommittee's operating procedures. The question is whether to incorporate the operating procedures as an addendum to Governance Document Four or to have them as a standalone document. SVCAA Weissinger stated that the Subcommittee should propose what to do with the operating procedures. Nickerson stated that the Subcommittee would like to add the operating procedures as an addendum. SVCAA Weissinger stated that the central question is whether the concept that every college gets a vote about recertification should be refined. She pointed out that the principle is that every college gets a vote. Nickerson stated that it is his understanding that each college has veto power which allows them to protect their own courses.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that it is her sense that the procedures are working. She asked if it is a timeline issue or recertification issue. Woodman reported that it takes a lot of work for faculty members to go through the recertification process. SVCAA Weissinger asked if the process would be clarified with the guidelines. Nickerson stated that the guidelines would help with the process, but the question is whether future Subcommittee members will adhere to the guidelines. SVCAA Weissinger suggested that the question of whether operating procedures should be approved by the colleges would seem to be in the responsibility of the ACE subcommittee.

2.10 Upcoming Issues

Chancellor Perlman reported that he received the final list of candidates for the Director of the Sheldon Art Gallery and hopes that a new director will be in place soon.

Chancellor Perlman noted that there was great fear that the Pinnacle Bank arena would eat into the proceeds from the Lied Center, but he is happy to report that the Lied's

audience and revenue have increased. He stated that the director of the Lied Center has done a terrific job both in providing performances and interacting with the state and students.

Chancellor Perlman reported that a memorandum of understanding with UNMC has been met to provide leadership and oversight with our Student Health Center. He stated that UNMC will conduct an intensive on the ground study of the facility which will probably result in them taking over the management of the Health Center. He noted that the goal is to bring modern medical practice and billing to the Health Center and the new Chancellor of UNMC is very enthusiastic about helping us. Nickerson asked if UNMC will eventually provide management to UNK's and UNO's Student Health Centers. SVCAA Weissinger noted that they already provide management at UNO.

Nickerson asked if UNMC's management will deal with the building of a new health care facility. Chancellor Perlman reported that consideration of a new building is part of the agreement.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that we need to continue caring about the cost of education and the gap between salaries of faculty in administrative roles and those that aren't. She pointed out that there have been efforts at UNL to reduce the administrative FTE by eliminating the undergraduate dean position and merging some administrative positions such as the Graduate Dean and Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs position. She noted that the creation of the new college will help reduce some administrative overhead.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Meeting with VC Franco and the Council of Student Affairs

Nickerson reported that he recently met with the deans of the Council of Student Affairs and VC Franco to discuss various issues regarding student affairs on campus.

4.0 Approval of 5/28/14 Minutes

Nickerson noted that he wanted to include an addendum to the May 28 minutes to provide an update on the action of the Board of Regents regarding changes to Section 2.1 of the Regents Bylaws. Several Executive Committee members pointed out that the minutes reflect what was said at a meeting and suggested that Nickerson should provide a report of the May 30 Board meeting at the present meeting. Rudy moved that Nickerson make a formal report about the Board meeting regarding the actions of the Board later in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved.

Bender voted for approval of the revised minutes. Woodman seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Committee Appointments

Nickerson reported that there are some committees that need faculty members because no one volunteered to serve on these committees. He noted that the Parking Advisory

Committee, Commencement and Honors Convocations Committee, and University Curriculum Committee all need one or more faculty members.

Nickerson pointed out that the Parking Advisory Committee has no faculty member from east campus on it. Griffin suggested that an email message be sent out to the east campus senators asking for their assistance in identifying a faculty member to serve on the Committee. Rudy volunteered to serve on the Commencement and Honors Convocations Committee.

Rudy stated that there is a real dichotomy about the amount of committees that different faculty members serve on from the various colleges and departments. Konecky pointed out that there are some units where serving on professional committees is really pushed making it difficult for faculty members to serve on department, college, and campus committees. Rudy noted that there seems to be a split in terms of service work in some units with 20% of the people doing 80% of the work. Konecky stated that someone within departments needs to be pushing the value of doing service work.

Woodman stated that a real problem is that administrators do not recognize service work. Steffen pointed out that faculty members are going to do the work that is being valued and counted by their administrators. He wondered whether the deans look at how much service work a unit is providing.

Nickerson suggested that this is a topic to be explored further at the Executive Committee retreat this summer.

5.2 Proposed Revisions to UNL Bylaws

Nickerson stated that this is a continuing agenda item and that Bender is taking the lead on it.

5.3 Executive Committee Retreat

The Executive Committee worked on trying to identify a date for the Executive Committee retreat.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Report on Board of Regents Meeting

Nickerson reported that he spoke at the May 30 Board of Regents meeting in opposition to the proposed changes to the Board of Regents Bylaws, Section 2.1 on Administrative Searches. The Regents then approved their proposed changes but with the following significant addition: "It is the intent of the Board of Regents that the existing bylaws and practices of each major unit for appointing chancellors, vice chancellors, and deans are unaffected by the following:" Thus, the changes approved pertain to presidential searches only.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 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.