

**UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**City Campus Union, Regency Suite**  
**April 1, 2014**  
**Presidents Guevara and Nickerson, Presiding**

**1.0 Call to Order**

President Guevara called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

**2.0 Announcements**

**2.1 Academic Freedom Award**

President Guevara reported that no nominations were received this year for the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award. A call for nominations will be sent out next year.

**2.2 Recognition of Outgoing Senators**

President Guevara reported that the following senators' terms have ended on the Senate: Professor Abel, English; Professor Vazansky, History; Professor Eccarius, Special Education and Communication Disorders; Patricia Crews, Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design; Professor Dahab, Civil Engineering; Professor Wilson, Biochemistry; Professor Woldt, Biological Systems Engineering; Professor Subbiah, Food Science & Technology; Professor Saner, West Central Research & Extension Center. He noted the following senators have been re-elected: Professor Neal, Art & Art History; Professor Stoltenberg, Psychology; Professor Konecky, University Libraries; Professor Phillips, Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education; Professor Purcell, Southeast Research & Extension Center. He thanked these senators for their service and encouraged them to consider returning to the Senate at some time in their career.

**2.3 Presidential Search Survey**

President Guevara noted that an email message was sent to senators a couple of weeks ago seeking feedback on what people wanted to see in the next University President. He encouraged the Senators to send their feedback in because the Senate has specifically been asked to provide input by Central Administration. He reported that there is also a link on the Board of Regents website to provide feedback (<http://www.nebraska.edu/presidentsearch>).

**3.0 Vice Chancellor Green**

Vice Chancellor Green stated that he appreciated the opportunity to have a dialogue with the Senate and would highlight a few issues identified by the Executive Committee and is certainly glad to open the floor for questions.

Vice Chancellor Green reported that the building expansion taking place on east campus includes the building of a new east campus recreation center which started construction about six months ago. He noted that the reason for the delay was due to the removal of asbestos, but this has been taken care of and hopefully the new facility will be opened by the end of the year. He stated that a key component of the building expansion plan is relocating the entire Food Science and Technology department to Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC). He stated that the move is projected to take place in July of 2015. He noted that the premises for the move is that ConAgra, and hopefully some other companies, will have moved onto NIC and the Food Science and Technology department will work closely with these firms. He pointed out that the Board of Regents approved a new master lease that is associated with Food Science's move. He stated that the administration and Food Science are confident that it will be successful. He stated that the current space occupied by Food Science and Technology is in the Food Industry Complex and a few other areas and these areas will be available for repurposing. He noted that this space is significant for IANR given that it has just increased the tenure-track faculty size by 14%.

Vice Chancellor Green reported that the Board of Regents is considering action for a badly needed new residence hall on east campus. He stated that the last time a residence hall was built was in the 1950's and the existing halls are not in compliance with Board of Regents fire codes. He pointed out that these residence halls will be student supported rather than state funded and he thinks the proposal will be approved by the Board. He reported that the new residence hall is tentatively sited where the old biochemistry hall is located. He stated that the plans call for this building to be razed to allow for the construction.

Vice Chancellor Green stated that plans are for the repurposing of the CYT Library to go to the Board for approval this summer. He noted that the repurposing will retain the library function of the building on the bottom floor and the top two floors will be made into student common areas and learning centers. He reported that the repurposing of the building and the surrounding outdoor plaza to the west is projected to cost approximately \$26 million. He stated that the plan is to have IANR fund half of the project and the rest of the funds will come from private donors and hopefully some state support. He stated that the repurposing will probably occur over the same time as the residence hall construction. He pointed out that the programs in biochemistry will be moved and by the end of the expansion process Filley Hall and the Food Industry Complex will be filled again. He noted that this is a very exciting time for east campus because it has had limited expansion since the late 1980s.

Vice Chancellor Green stated that one of the issues raised by the Executive Committee is about safety, particularly with the new development of commercial buildings on Holdrege Street and the construction of the new Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house. He reported that the commercial buildings will house residential efficiency apartments and retail space. He noted that Valentino's will be moving into half of the first floor of the first building that is being constructed. The current Valentino's will then be torn down and a second mirror image commercial building will be constructed on that site. He pointed out that Holdrege Street is very busy with few stop lights on it and he does not know the city's long term plans, but in the near future a new pedestrian entrance to east campus will be created directly across from the commercial properties. He stated that the new entrance will be similar to the 14<sup>th</sup> and R Street entrance on city campus and it will look straight up the mall on east campus. He stated that he personally felt that east campus has lacked an entrance identity and this is an attempt to really provide the image that east campus is an important and visible part of the UNL and the University of Nebraska system. He stated that a long term goal is to have a stop light with a cross walk at the entrance.

Vice Chancellor noted that everyone is aware of the Chancellor's announcement of his plans to address the \$4.65 million UNL budget deficit. He noted that the Chancellor will soon be speaking with the Academic Planning Committee regarding the cuts. He pointed out that three quarters of the budget deficit will be recovered by using 1% of the previously projected 3% salary increase pool. This will leave about \$1.4 million that has to be allocated out to the various divisions of the university. As a general rule, IANR's budget cut is based on its portion of the UNL budget. He stated that IANR had to cover their portion of the shortfall and this deficit is being dealt with by a reduction in programming support in educational media. He stated that this is not the first time that this area has been on the budget reduction list, but he believes that there is room for the reduction that will allow us to still have a sustainable media support program at lower cost. He noted that the EdMedia covers print media, web and applications development, event planning, video production, and a variety of other offered services and since 2011 has operated under a cost recovery business model. He pointed out that he is aware that some EdMedia units have been very profitable and he does not anticipate any changes in their operation.

Professor Reisbig, Child, Youth & Family Studies, asked if the Dairy Store located in Filley Hall will be relocated when Food Science and Technology is moved. VC Green stated that it will not be relocated and while the Food Science and Technology Department operates the Dairy Store, it is currently being evaluated as to whether it will continue under this model after the department moves to NIC. He noted that the dairy plant will also remain in Filley Hall. He stated that part of the proposal for moving Food Sciences to NIC is that there will be bus service connecting all three of the campuses: city, NIC, and east.

Professor Purdum, Animal Science, asked for clarification on the budget regarding the 5% levy on revolving accounts. She also asked if there is a task force looking at online tuition revenue and how the problem with the distribution of the revenue will be solved. VC Green stated that there is a 5% assessment on auxiliary accounts and most of the UNL campus has had this assessment for some time, although it has not been consistently done across the campus. He pointed out that in IANR many of these accounts have not had to pay this assessment fee, but come July 1 this will change and all auxiliary accounts will be assessed 5% on the revenue they generate during the year. He reported that town hall meetings and meetings with individual faculty members have occurred to discuss the assessment. He noted that there will be some exceptions, typically on pass through funds where the revenue is received but then gets paid out immediately in the same amount (e.g. insurance settlements). He stated that this will be a significant change particularly since there are about 1,300 of these accounts in IANR, but only approximately 600 of them generate revenue annually.

Vice Chancellor Green reported that when the amount of the deficit became clear the administration discussed the structural nature of the deficit and the cause of it. He noted that the structural deficit is because Colleges had been incentivized to develop online courses by a greater distribution of the tuition generated being

returned directly to the Colleges. However, that was not meant to take tuition funding away from that generated from resident students on campus, which has unfortunately proven to be a large percentage of the total to date. He stated that the APC has raised the question on how the distribution of tuition from online courses will be addressed and although he does not know specifically how the Chancellor and SVCAA will address the revenue problem, models have been looked at to resolve the issue. He stated that there will most likely be some changes in how the revenue from online courses are distributed.

Professor Neal, Art & Art History, noted that there are sculptures on east campus that are not being taken care of and that are showing signs of deterioration. She stated that there used to be a beautification committee on campus and wondered what kind of system IANR is working with to make east campus appear more attractive. VC Green noted that there still is an active Aesthetics Review Committee and any project that has to do with the design or architecture on campus is required to be reviewed by the Aesthetics Review Committee. He stated that there is the Sheldon collection across all of the UNL campus that needs to be maintained, but the issue with the art work is who pays for the upkeep of these pieces of art.

President Elect Nickerson asked if there are any plans in place for additional faculty lines in the Virology Center since construction on an extension of the building has just finished. VC Green noted that an \$8 million wing has been added to the Morrison Virology Center. He stated that the addition was paid for by stimulus funds received from NIH with the requirement that eight new positions would become available over time. He reported that the prioritization of some of these positions will begin this summer and fall. He noted that the search for a new director of the Center has been reopened because the first search was unsuccessful. He pointed out that IANR hopes to hire an additional 20 faculty members in the next phase of its hiring.

President Elect Nickerson stated that he is interested in the Vice Chancellor's perspective on why there are two committees for the presidential search. He pointed out that this is a significant change in the way a new president is selected. He asked if the Presidential Search Outreach and Advisory Committee, which the Vice Chancellor and Chancellor are members of, will redefine the president's position. VC Green reported that after President Milliken's announcement that he will be leaving the university the Board began discussions about having a more robust process for selecting a new president. He noted that the Board wanted to try and have a more closed search process because they strongly believe that it would create a stronger pool of candidates. He stated that, in his opinion, if someone is genuinely interested in the position they would apply for the position regardless of whether the search is open or closed, and noted that at some point the search would have to be open.

VC Green stated that when the Legislature voted down the efforts to have a closed search the Board discussed how to have the kind of robust search that they wanted and on March 21 it was announced that there will be a two committee search process. He stated that he is not sure how this will work yet and he cannot speak on how the board determined the members, but it is a balancing act to get representation from all four campuses, and the entire geography and demographics of the state. He noted that there is representation from UNL on both of the committees as well as considerable out-state and private individuals that have affiliations with UNL.

VC Green stated that the two committee process could be quite positive because it provides a double check on the search process. He noted that the larger committee will check the credentials of nominees and will provide the names of nominees to the search firm. The nominees will then be screened by the committee into acceptable and unacceptable candidates. The acceptable candidates will be forwarded to the other committee which will conduct further screening. He stated that he did not think the Board had any agenda to redefine the president's position and he believes they want someone that can serve as President Milliken did. He pointed out that the Board thought very highly of President Milliken and would like someone similar in the position of president. He stated that the search firm can identify and bring candidates forward, but will play the role of due diligence and bring back to the committee a complete profile with references on candidates.

VC Green reported that the biggest single difference with this search from previous president searches is that there are Regents sitting on the committees. He noted that four Regents are members on each of the committees and Student Regents are also on the committees. He stated that the Regents will play an active role in the vetting of candidates. He stated that the committees will be looking for input into identifying candidates. He pointed out that we want a good, deep pool of candidates because this is such an important position for the university and he will be working very hard to help to make that happen.

#### **4.0 Approval of 3/4/14 Minutes**

Professor Bender, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, moved for approval of the minutes.

Professor Joeckel, School of Natural Resources, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

## **5.0 Committee Reports**

### **5.1 Information Technologies and Services Committee Report (Professor Woodman)**

Professor Woodman reported that last year the ITSC was changed from a committee heavily composed of IT committee members to one dominated by more faculty members. He noted that currently seven faculty members, an ASUN member, and a graduate student are on the Committee. He stated that CIO Askren is an ex-officio, non-voting member. He pointed out that one of the responsibilities of the Committee is to review campus-wide computing budgets but this information has not been made available to the Committee.

Professor Woodman reported that the ITSC meets once a month and this past year looked at a replacement for the KACE system. He stated that the client management system provided by Microsoft will be adopted and KACE will become a thing of the past on April 4. He reported that support for the XP operating software on computers is expiring in April and these computers will either need to be replaced or have a new system installed if possible.

Professor Woodman stated that the summary results of the survey created by the ITSC and Associate Vice Chancellor Perez were discussed. He noted that Lecture Capture technology was also discussed and the Echo360 system was tested in Henzlik Auditorium in the fall semester and is currently being tested by the Mathematics department. He noted that this is a very efficient system which automatically records lectures and puts them on the web. He reported that students look at the lectures on line heavily before exams.

Professor Woodman stated that the most important function that was discussed was the upcoming expiration of the Blackboard contract in 2015. He noted that the current Blackboard hosted at UNL has some limitations with the frequency of updates which puts us about a year behind in updates on the system. He stated that as a result three vendors are being investigated to see if a different learning management system should replace Blackboard. He noted that the three vendors: Canvas, Desire to Learn, and Blackboard, gave presentations on campus and the ITSC felt that there was adequate cause to investigate these different programs further to see if they fit the needs of the campus better. He pointed out that in observing the other programs it appears that Blackboard is more cumbersome and behind current technology. He reported that a decision will be made at the end of the semester on whether we want to pilot test the other programs but the issue with this is that volunteers are needed to test the pilot programs. He stated that the ITSC hopes to encourage either individuals or units to pilot test the programs. He pointed out that we need to invest a significant amount of time in testing the programs to make a switch from Blackboard as transparent and easy as possible. He suggested that the piloting could be conducted in the spring of 2015 with a parallel system running for a year.

Professor Woodman reported that the ITSC also discussed an agreement with Box.com that would provide free storage of 25 gigs, and the Adobe license which is being set up for a monthly fee of \$12 for the Adobe Creative package. He noted that the password system needs to be updated to interact with some federal agencies but discussions have surmised that only those who need access to the federal agencies will require the higher level of password security.

Professor Woodman stated that the ITSC's recommendations for the upcoming year are to continue evaluating different learning management software and to seek faculty input on it and to see if the other NU campuses can switch to a new program.

Professor Bender asked how much students would have to pay for the Adobe Creative package. Professor Woodman reported that the students would have to pay \$15 a month but they do not have to sign up for the program for a whole year like the faculty and staff would need to do. Professor Neal pointed out that while this is true the students would not have access to the work they have done in Adobe Creative once their contract expires.

Professor Eccarius, Special Education & Communication Disorders, asked if the ITSC looked at what programs other Big Ten schools were using. Professor Woodman reported that the programs used were a mixture of Blackboard and the other programs, but most of the movement is in the direction of leaving Blackboard. He noted that the ITSC looked at Moodle but it had a number of limitations. He reported that Desire to Learn is in the middle price range and Blackboard is the most expensive. Professor Eccarius asked if any input on the use of Blackboard was obtained from non-traditional students. Professor Woodman stated that the impetus for looking at other programs was prompted by a faculty survey where many faculty members

responded that they had problems with Blackboard.

Professor Wysocki, Computer and Electronics Engineering, asked if the new system would have an interface so faculty members can easily transfer over what they already have working on Blackboard. Professor Woodman stated that there was an interface and the whole system can be converted so transferring should not be a serious problem. He noted that the companies for the other programs stated that they have done these kinds of transfers so often it really does not pose a problem.

## **5.2 Senate Executive Committee Report**

President Guevara reported that the Executive Committee met with the Chancellor five times since the beginning of the fall semester and met with SVCAA Weissinger and VC Green four times. He noted that the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet once more with the administrators this semester. He stated that the Executive Committee discussed every concern that was brought to his or the Senate's attention. He pointed out that the more issues brought forward to the Executive Committee, the more the Committee can address the concerns of the faculty.

President Guevara reported that as President he met with President Milliken and the other Faculty Senate Presidents, participated in the commencement ceremonies, went to the Board of Regents meetings, and represented the faculty at the Gator Bowl.

Professor Purcell, Southeast Research & Extension Center, asked if the Executive Committee had recommendations for next year. President Guevara stated that the Committee plans to continue working hard on issues that affect the faculty. He noted that when there is little participation from the faculty issues cannot be addressed. He stated that faculty members need to communicate their concerns to the Executive Committee so it can raise these issues to the administrators. He pointed out that any faculty member can contact the Executive Committee members or the Senate office, not just senators.

Professor Shea, School of Natural Resources, asked what the status was of the CIC survey on its faculty leadership conference. President Guevara noted that the survey was conducted because many attendees of the CIC conference were disappointed with this year's meeting because it had little to do with faculty governance. He stated that the attendees want to make it a more effective conference. Consequently, guidelines were developed to help future hosting institutions design the topics for the conference.

## **6.0 Unfinished Business**

### **6.1 Motion to Revise the Faculty Senate Rules**

President Guevara stated that the motion to revise the Senate Rules regarding electronic emergency voting was presented at last month's meeting and since the motion comes from a Senate committee it does not need a second. The motion was approved to revise the rules.

Professor Peterson asked if the Chancellor has to give final approval. President Guevara stated that since these are rules of the Senate they do not need the Chancellor's approval.

## **7.0 New Business**

No new business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, Auditorium. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Toni Anaya, Secretary.