

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Anaya, Bender, Guevara, LaCost, Nickerson, Rinkevich, Zoubek

**Absent:** Purdum, Reisbig, Ruchala, Schubert, Woodman, Wysocki

**Date:** Wednesday, March 6, 2013

**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**

Guevara called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

### **2.0 Announcements**

#### **2.1 Report from the CGLBTC to the Faculty Senate**

Guevara noted that the report from the CGLBTC was very informative and good questions were raised at the March 6 Faculty Senate meeting. He stated that he was a little concerned with the question regarding a person overhearing biased remarks, but he thought the response that was given by Pat Tretreault, Assistant Director of Student Involvement, was helpful and informative.

### **3.0 Approval of 2/20/13 and 2/27/13 Minutes**

Anaya moved for approval of the 2/20/13 minutes as revised. The motion was seconded by Zoubek and Rinkevich. The motion was approved. Anaya moved for approval of the 2/27/13 minutes as revised. The motion was seconded by Rinkevich. The motion was approved.

### **4.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **4.1 Associate VC Goodburn's Response to Proposed Revisions to ACE Governance and Assessment Document**

Guevara stated that his first reaction to Associate VC Goodburn's response to the Executive Committee's proposed revisions to the ACE Governance and Assessment Document is that she is proposing an administrative response to a faculty issue. He pointed out that Schubert's response strongly emphasized that this is a faculty issue and that the faculty needs to address it. He stated that he finds it disturbing that Associate VC Goodburn and Director Mitchell stated that they have had discussions with the Associate Deans of the colleges about this and will take the offered revisions to the Associate Deans. He pointed out that the curriculum belongs to the faculty. Nickerson stated that after reading the comments he thought Schubert handled the response very clearly and is appreciative of his response.

LaCost noted that Associate VC Goodburn's response states that the colleges will need to vote on the changes because the governing documents are being changed. Guevara noted that the changes being proposed are not substantial and at this point the Executive Committee is waiting for the University Curriculum Committee to respond to the proposed changes.

Nickerson stated that he was under the impression that the Senate would only need to vote on the issue because the revisions would change the University Curriculum Committee's work. Guevara pointed out that the revisions are about the recertification process, not about the ACE program itself. He noted that there will more than likely be further discussions on this issue.

Nickerson stated that when ACE was first created and voted on he didn't fully understand all of the details of it, but knew that we needed some kind of diversification program because the former ES/IS program was no longer working. He pointed out that since ACE was first created it has become apparent that some tweaking is needed to make it work better. Guevara noted that few faculty members have complained about the ACE program itself, it is the recertification process that has received the complaints. He stated that the recertification process deviates from how we structure the university in that each department is trusted with creating and overseeing its own curriculum. Nickerson stated that the current requirements of assessment and recertification are time consuming for some faculty members, particularly those who teach multi-section courses.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 Proposed Changes to Information Services and Technologies Committee Syllabus (ITSC)**

Guevara noted that the ITSC has reviewed its syllabus and is suggesting revisions to its membership and responsibilities as suggested by the Executive Committee. He noted that the number of faculty members will be reduced from nine to seven and only faculty members will have voting rights. He pointed out that the revision states that the ITSC recommends policies to the Senate and asked if the Senate has approved policies in the past. Bender and Griffin stated that the Senate has approved past policies relating to information services and technologies. The Executive Committee agreed that the proposed revisions should be presented to the Senate at its next meeting.

### **5.2 Proposed Changes to Commencement and Honors Convocations Committee (CHCC)**

Guevara reported that the CHCC is requesting a change to its membership. Griffin noted that a request was made by Diane Mendenhall, Executive Director of the Alumni Association, at the end of last April to add the Executive Director to the CHCC. The Executive Committee sent the request to the CHCC to consider and decide whether to add the Executive Director. The CHCC did discuss the issue but did not formally vote on it last spring, and with the difficult task of having to locate three different sites for graduation ceremonies for the 2013 year the issue was put on the back burner. The CHCC met this past Friday and formally voted to add the additional member. Nickerson

noted that the addition seems reasonable. The Executive Committee agreed to present the proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate at its next meeting.

### **5.3 Report on Dell Presentation**

Griffin reported that both Woodman and Ruchala were unable to attend today's meeting and will report on the issue at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. She noted that Professor Hartke, Chair of the Information Technologies and Services Committee, said that he plans on providing the Senate with information on what KACE can and cannot do when he gives the ITSC report at the next Senate meeting.

LaCost pointed out that, even if KACE remains, she thinks the Executive Committee brought up concerns that the administration did not consider in regards to the use of KACE. She noted that CIO Askren has been charged to make Information Services more efficient but in his efforts he might have overlooked some of the faculty concerns.

Anaya reported that the Library faculty members did not seem to have any concerns with KACE being on their computers, although it could be that many people now use their own personal computers to do their work. Guevara stated that he thinks the key will be the selective use of KACE. He noted that some faculty members are very concerned with the privacy of their research because there are large sums of money that are involved with these kinds of research.

LaCost asked how someone would know if KACE has been installed on their computer. Anaya stated that there is a symbol on the computer that will pop up saying KACE and that updates will require rebooting. She stated that this typically happens on Tuesday evenings.

### **5.4 Report on Meeting with Architects Regarding Renovation of the City Campus Union**

Griffin reported that she attended a meeting of frequent users of the City Campus Union and the architects hired to develop plans for renovating the Union. She noted that everyone was in agreement that the first floor needed to be opened up so it is more inviting and particularly that the south entrance needs to be renovated because it is very unwelcoming in its current state. She stated that Admissions and New Student Orientation are probably the heaviest users of the Union and they require a large meeting place such as the Centennial Room and Ballroom but these rooms need renovations. Guevara pointed out that students get lost in the Union and that the bathrooms can be difficult to locate. Griffin noted that these were issues that were discussed at the meeting. She reported that the idea is to have more concrete plans available for review this summer.

### **5.5 Executive Committee Elections**

Guevara asked if any nominations have been made for elections to the Executive Committee. Griffin stated that she has not received any nominations and does not think Schubert has received any. The Executive Committee discussed possible candidates for running for election to the Committee. Zoubek noted that serving on the Executive

Committee allows people to really learn about the greater university. LaCost pointed out that being a professor can be a very self-absorbing profession, but participating in the Senate and Executive Committee allows faculty members to do volunteer work and to become a greater part of the campus environment. Guevara stated that for him the most rewarding part has been to hear what other colleges are doing and how they handle procedures and processes. Anaya stated that being on the Executive Committee allows faculty members to see the very different experiences of other instructors on campus.

## **6.0 Vice Chancellor Green**

### **6.1 36 New Faculty Positions – funding sources for the start-up costs? Will the large number of start-up costs cause problems for funding non-IANR new faculty setups? Space availability for 36 new faculty members?**

Vice Chancellor Green noted that Associate Vice Chancellor Yoder reported to that Senate on the 36 positions but he would provide additional information regarding funding. He stated that the funding for these positions is not new money given to IANR rather it was reallocated from several different pools. He noted that in the past IANR would have a large salary pool from carryover positions. He reported that he decided to reduce that carryover pool to use it for hiring new faculty members. He pointed out that some money will still be retained in the carryover pool but less than in the past. He reported that the salary base for these positions is \$3 ½ million which comes from a variety of sources.

Vice Chancellor Green noted that IANR owns land across the state that is a part of the Research and Extension Centers operations. He stated that the agricultural economy has been strong the past several years and we have been able to recover funding from these operations as well as receiving some significant increases in private funding. These sources of funds will be important to start up for the new hires.

Vice Chancellor Green reported that he and his administrative staff determined that the collective aggregate start-up costs for 36 people will be approximately \$5 million. He noted that for some of the positions \$800,000-\$900,000 would be needed for start-up funds but other positions require very little start-up money. He reported that there are multiple pools of funding other than VC Paul's office, where the funds will come from. He stated that the Agricultural Research Division has some funds that have been traditionally set aside for start-up and some federal money will help with the start-up funds for the extension positions. He noted that there is already \$4 million set aside now for the start-up funds and he hopes that the other \$1 million will come from indirect funds. He reported that he and his staff tried to be liberal with their thinking in regards to the amount of start-up funds that will be needed. He noted that some of the 36 positions are senior ranked which changes the dynamics of the hires. He pointed out that both VC Paul and the home departments have been part of the discussions all along and he does not think the needed funds will limit VC Paul's ability to provide funds for other new faculty hires. He suggested that the Executive Committee might want to contact VC Paul to discuss this issue further.

Vice Chancellor Green stated that 7 of the 36 positions are for the research and extension centers so there is no need to find space on campus for these people. He reported that in a number of the departments where the hires will be made space is already available. He noted that for one of the departments consideration is being given to possibly moving the department to Innovation Campus because it will have close partnership with ConAgra. He pointed out that the department has just begun discussion on whether such a move would be in the best interest of the unit, but if this happens it will open up a considerable amount of space on East Campus. He stated that space in the Plant Sciences will be tight and where people will have their offices needs to be figured out.

### **Update on Proposed East Campus Changes – CYT Libraries**

Vice Chancellor Green reported that discussions have been held with both former Dean Giesecke and Interim Dean Busch of the Libraries about CYT Library and whether the building should continue to be used for library purposes or whether to do something different with it. He stated that it was thought that we need to do something different with CYT, but exactly what still need to be determined. He stated that a taskforce was formed in December and met in January to look into this issue. He noted that the taskforce is being co-chaired by Professor Van Tassel and Professor Balschweid and is composed of faculty members, staff, students, and East Campus neighborhood stakeholders. He stated that a series of sessions have been scheduled for this spring to talk and brain storm about what could be done differently with CYT, whether to keep a library there, and if so, what kind of library it could be. He stated that he has asked the taskforce to give a report by summer which will be given to the Deans Council and to Interim Dean Busch. He noted that similar discussions are occurring at Love Library.

Nickerson noted that he has used CYT for 30 years and while it used to be well populated, these days there are not that many people using it as a library. Vice Chancellor Green agreed and stated that it gets very little traffic but the question is why? Would it get more use if it could be used differently? He stated that some ideas are having a student learning center that would serve the need of all East Campus including the Law College and Dental School.

Anaya pointed out that librarians are very actively involved in providing support and helping people with resources on campus. She asked what presence they would have on East Campus if changes to CYT are made. She wondered if East Campus faculty members use the library the way that City Campus faculty members use it. Vice Chancellor Green stated that he did not know this answer, but his instinct is that East Campus faculty members do not use the libraries the same way. He pointed out that CYT librarians and faculty members are included on the taskforce.

### **Update on Small Hotel Complex on Holdrege Street**

Vice Chancellor Green reported that across the street from East Campus the fraternity house being constructed is moving along quickly and is scheduled to open in the fall. The two blocks just west on Holdrege where Valentino's is located is slated for renovation with two buildings planned: one in the Valentino's parking lot and the other where Valentino's is presently located. He noted that these buildings will have parking,

housing, and some space for lease. He noted that Valentino's will move into the bottom floor of the first building that is constructed allowing for the old building to be torn down.

Vice Chancellor Green stated that there has been some talk about putting the Rural Futures Institute in one of the buildings and there has been discussion of hotel type rooms available on one of the floors. He noted that the Online Worldwide Office has talked about possibly moving into the building but no contracts have been signed. He stated that the buildings are all private development being done by WRK which is also building the fraternity house. He noted that the building of the AGR house has been developed over a ten year period. He reported that originally the Valentino's parking lot was purchased by the fraternity but it was able to purchase enough property to the east and south that it no longer needed the parking lot which enables the construction of the other two buildings.

Vice Chancellor Green stated that he does not know if the Rural Futures Institute would be housed in one of the new buildings. He noted that it is a system-wide effort, not a UNL effort, so in some sense it would make sense to have it located off of the UNL campus, but it would be difficult to justify the cost of leasing space if space is available on East Campus. He noted that the hotel rooms are a different story and this is being pursued more strongly. He reported that an analysis was recently conducted looking over the last two years and it was determined that IANR required 1300-1500 hotel rooms a year in Lincoln. Anaya pointed out that the Executive Committee recently conducted a survey of faculty members to assess needs for housing visitors to campus. She wondered if the 1300-1500 was included in the findings. Vice Chancellor Green noted that the information he obtained was gathered through accounting, not through faculty members.

Nickerson pointed out that in a previous discussion Vice Chancellor Green had indicated that the hotel could be tied into the Hospitality, Restaurant, and Tourism Management program and students might be able to intern with the hotel. Vice Chancellor Green stated that there does not seem to be any interest in this because the program did not want to be responsible for managing the hotel rooms. He suggested that there might be some thought of having the program help design the facility.

Nickerson asked if it is questionable whether the second building will be constructed. Vice Chancellor Green stated that he thinks it will be constructed especially with Valentino's slated to relocate in to the first new building and possibly a branch of a local bank. He noted that if necessary it will be made completely into a residential building. He noted that one of the major issues surrounding East Campus is the parking situation in the nearby neighborhoods. He stated that he is not sure how these new buildings will impact parking the parking problem in the neighborhoods.

Vice Chancellor Green reported that he will be making a series of appointment announcements in the next couple of weeks, one of which will be the announcement of a new Director for the School of Natural Resources. He pointed out that this position has been under recruitment for a year and a half. He stated that a Dean for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis has been hired and we were able to attain the

top candidate out of a very deep pool to fill this position. He stated that he hopes to be announcing a new department head for Statistics soon.

Anaya asked what made the difference in the School of Natural Resources search. Vice Chancellor Green noted that the former director wanted to go back to teaching before retiring and a search process was started before this happened. He stated that a full national search was conducted but a year into the search the committee came back and said it did not have a viable pool. He stated that he was a little puzzled by this but apparently some of the candidates felt that the School should be its own college and that the position should really be a dean's position. He stated that he did not agree with this idea but noted that the School is a very diverse group of faculty members that was comprised through the merger of a lot of departments. He stated that the thought was to hire a search firm but before this could happen a couple of strong candidates were located and brought to campus in December. He reported that recently there was a search for a department head in another unit in CASNR which was filled by an internal person but the department voted unanimously to appoint this faculty member who had served exceptionally well as interim head.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, March 13 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and David Woodman, Secretary.