

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Anaya, Bender, Guevara, Joeckel, Nickerson, Reisbig, Rinkevich, Ruchala, Sollars, Woodman, Wysocki

Absent: Schubert, Zoubek

Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Location: Faculty Senate Office

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call to Order

Guevara called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Non-Tenure Track Faculty Forum

Woodman reported that the forum for non-tenure track faculty members is scheduled for April 18 at 2:30 in the Love Library auditorium. He noted that there will be several guest speakers including Associate Vice Chancellor Perez from Academic Affairs, Professor Jacobson, Chair of Modern Languages and Literature and former Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Professor Bender, Chair of the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee, and other guest speakers.

2.2 Revised Student Code of Conduct

Reisbig announced that VC Franco informed the ad hoc committee that worked on revising the Student Code of Conduct that the senior administrative team has approved the new Code with some minor changes. She stated that the Code will go back to Associate General Counsel Mauer for a final review before going to the Board of Regents for final approval. She noted that the minor changes were to define the word hazing to coincide with Nebraska state law.

2.3 CIC Academic Leadership Program

Nickerson reported that he sent the nomination of Wysocki for participation in the CIC Academic Leadership Program to Associate VC Perez for consideration. He noted that he received a thank you note which stated that Wysocki will be considered with the other nominees. Woodman asked if the email message calling for nominations was sent campus-wide. Nickerson thought it was sent only to departmental chairs and other administrators, but he wasn't really sure. This would need to be verified with Associate VC Perez. He stated that the Executive Committee should nominate one person each year for the program.

3.0 Approval of 3/19/14 Minutes

Joeckel moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Wysocki. The motion was approved.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Upcoming Executive Committee Elections

The Executive Committee continued working on identifying candidates to run for election to the Executive Committee.

4.2 ACE Concerns

Guevara stated that it appears that the University Curriculum Committee's ACE Subcommittee has not done anything about making changes to the ACE recertification process even though the Subcommittee had reported at the end of the fall semester that they believed changes were going to be made and that a draft of the changes to the ACE document would go to the Colleges and the Senate Executive Committee. Nickerson reported that he has sent the chair of the UCC email messages but has not received any response. Wysocki suggested that an official letter from the Senate President should be sent to the chair of the UCC asking when the changes will be completed. Nickerson stated that Professor DeFusco and Director Mitchell should be invited to attend an Executive Committee meeting to provide an update.

Guevara stated that part of the problem is how the UCC Subcommittee operates. He pointed out that the procedures require a unanimous vote and just one member of the subcommittee can veto the vote on a motion.

Guevara stated that part of the problem is that ACE is not a Senate program but a Senate committee manages the program. He noted that the Senate can change the composition of a Senate committee and its charge. Nickerson pointed out that the Senate does not have control over the UCC ACE Subcommittee composition because the faculty members who serve on it are selected by their college. He questioned how the ACE program could be managed if the UCC was to be eliminated. Guevara suggested that a Senate ACE committee could be created. He noted that ACE is a campus-wide program and colleges have veto power on voting on ACE courses because the colleges have to accept the courses should a student transfer to a different college.

Guevara noted that chairs of committees do not receive compensation for the work they do, and that as service to the University, in some departments it is not very well appreciated, consequently, many faculty members are unwilling to serve as a chair on a committee and dedicate the needed attention, time and energy. He also indicated that this leaves the administrator charged with the program, with a lot more say on matters where such administrator has no vote. Wysocki suggested that there be a set of guidelines to faculty members serving as chair of a committee. The guidelines could explain what the chair's role is and what the responsibilities of the position are. He suggested that there be an initial meeting with the chairs to assist them and an exit meeting to see what kinds of problems they encounter.

4.3 Budget Reductions

Joeckel reported that he received an email message from a faculty member who serves of the APC and has some concerns with the budget cuts. Sollars suggested that the Senate Executive Committee might want to meet with the faculty members of the APC to discuss the budget concerns. Guevara stated that it appears that the APC is trying to determine who is responsible for the deficit and what departments collected tuition and to go after them as an alternative to using 1% of the faculty salary increase to augment the budget cuts. He indicated that this is the wrong approach and that perhaps asking about the tax that deans have collected from online tuition is a more legitimate approach to finding out where the money has gone. Guevara also indicated that such approach at the end of the day does not serve any purpose because the money is just not there and it will not solve any kind of deficit. He pointed out that most of the money was used to pay faculty to teach online courses and that thinking of recovering such money is, in his view, totally unrealistic. He pointed out that the Chancellor has stated that he does not see any other ways to cover the deficit unless he cuts academic programs.

Joeckel noted that the faculty should be working constructively with the administration to address the deficit. He stated that the faculty member asked if the Executive Committee has a consensus of views on the proposed cuts. It was pointed out that the March 19 Executive Committee minutes reflect the Executive Committee's views on the proposed budget cuts.

5.0 New Business

5.1 President Search Survey

The Executive Committee reviewed the feedback received on the presidential search survey and consolidated the responses to send them to Central Administration.

5.2 Review of Senate Meeting

The Executive Committee agreed that they appreciated VC Green's candor and the information he provided to the Senate. Griffin noted that Chancellor Perlman will not be able to attend the April 29 Senate meeting because he will be coming back from Turkey that evening. The Executive Committee agreed that Guevara should contact the Chancellor to see who he would like to represent him at the meeting.

5.3 Report on Board of Regents Meeting

Nickerson stated that the Board approved the ice rink and had short recognition ceremonies, with pictures, for the departing student regents and President Milliken as well as for the four Faculty Senate Presidents. Their other business included a unanimous vote to change their operating procedures for Presidential hires, permitting the two part search and advisory committee structure whose members had been announced in the newspapers the day before. The vote on this issue took place without discussion and was concluded in about 30 seconds. The Board then went into closed session. Wysocki questioned whether the Board's two presidential search committees are legal since a number of the Board members are members of the search committee. He asked whether there isn't a conflict of interest since several Board members will sit on the two advisory committees and then will be involved in making the final decision on who is hired.

Bender stated that he does not think the search process established by the Board can be changed at this late a time in the legislative session.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, April 9 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Toni Anaya, Secretary.