EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bender, Dawes, Fech, Hanrahan, Lee, Leiter, Purcell, Reisbig, Rudy, Steffen, Vakilzadian, Woodman

Absent: Konecky

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016

Location: 203 Alexander 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
Woodman called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2.0 Announcements
2.1 Search Process for Vice Chancellor of IANR and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of Academic Affairs
Woodman reported that the search committees for the two open Vice Chancellor positions recently met to select the top candidates for the short list. He noted that airport interviews will be conducted with these individuals and then three or four people will be brought to campus for further interviewing. He stated that all of the candidates were well qualified. Purcell pointed out that the candidates on the short list were not ranked. Woodman stated that he and Purcell are planning to ask the candidates their philosophy on shared governance and to give examples as to how they have supported and rewarded faculty who are involved in faculty governance.

2.2 August Graduation Ceremony Concerns
Rudy reported that the Commencement and Honors Convocations Committee is concerned that there could be a push from administration to have a graduation ceremony in August only for graduate students. Undergraduate students would not be included and would have to come back to campus in December if they wanted to be part of a graduation ceremony. He pointed out that the Committee is vehemently opposed to the change. Lee asked how long the ceremonies have been combined. Rudy stated that it has been done for the last few years, partly due to the cost of renting out Pinnacle Bank Arena. Lee suggested renting out the Lied Center for the graduate ceremony instead. Rudy pointed out that it also costs money to rent out the Lied Center.

2.3 New Faculty Orientation
Woodman stated that he will be speaking briefly at the new faculty orientation and asked if there were specific items he should discuss. Bender suggested encouraging the new faculty to participate in the Senate and on committees once they have been here for a year. Hanrahan stated that the new faculty members should seek out their senator(s) if they have concerns or questions. Vakilzadian suggested talking about the need for
committee volunteers. Reisbig stated that it should be pointed out that working on the Senate and the committees allow for good collaboration and interdisciplinary networking.

3.0 Approval of August 2, 2016 Minutes
Purcell moved for approval of the minutes as revised. Motion seconded by Vakilzadian and approved by the Executive Committee with three abstentions due to absences at the August 2 meeting.

4.0 Unfinished Business
4.1 Update on Having a Representative from Institutional Research, Analytics and Decision Support (IRADS) on Academic Planning Committee
Griffin reported that she consulted with Associate to the Chancellor Nunez about the APC’s decision to not include a representative from IRADS and she was told that due to the recent structural changes made in IRADS there is no longer a central person to present the data and that he remains the conduit for getting information to the APC. Lee stated that it is important to have a non-partisan person providing the data rather than the Associate to the Chancellor. Reisbig asked how often the data is needed. Lee stated that it is frequently needed, particularly during budget cuts. The Executive Committee agreed to invite Associate to the Chancellor Nunez and Professor Wagner, chair of the APC to and Executive Committee for further discussion.

5.0 New Business
5.1 How Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee (ARRC) Procedures Relate to Title IX
Woodman noted that in an email message Professor Peterson, chair of the ARRC, disagreed with Assistant to the Chancellor Susan Foster regarding the ARRC being an appeals committee for faculty members accused of Title IX violations. Peterson pointed out that the ARRC can evaluate and make recommendations but cannot make a termination decision. Bender noted that the ARRC’s recommendation, which goes to the Chancellor, can either be accepted, rejected, or modified, and agreed that it is not an appeals committee. He did state that the Chancellor would have to take recommendations made by the ARRC seriously and in some cases the AAUP could become involved.

5.2 Tobacco Free Campus Policy Summit
Woodman reported that there is an effort to make the campus totally tobacco free. He noted that there will be a meeting this fall to discuss the issue further. He stated that he is not aware of who is driving the summit but received the message about the meeting from VC Jackson. Rudy stated that the effort is not coming from the Chancellor’s Wellness Committee. Reisbig pointed out that smoking is an addiction that many people cannot easily quit. Such a restriction could really impact people who work here. Vakilzadian suggested that there should be educational programs that could help people quit. Hanrahan questioned whether vaping would be allowed.
6.0 Chancellor Green/Interim VC Kostelnik/Interim VC Yoder

6.1 Enrollment Figures
Chancellor Green reported that final enrollment numbers will not be known until September, but the deposits and housing data indicate that there will be an increase of approximately 300 first-time freshmen which is the largest class in the history of the institution and it is the most diverse class. He noted that 24% are first-generation students. He stated that 150 students are going through the First Husker program this week and he was pleased to visit with the students and their families. He noted that overall enrollment is hard to predict but estimates are that we should be up 2-3%. He reported that the increase is across the board and not just in any particular college. He said that increases are with in-state, out-of-state, and international students, however he does not know about graduate student enrollment at this time.

Rudy asked how we are doing with retention of students. Chancellor Green stated that it is too early to tell, but sophomore retention rates were down slightly last year. He noted that this could mean that we need to pay greater attention to students who may need some assistance adjusting to the university. He stated that he is anxious to see if the slight decline in retention is a trend or whether it just occurred last year. Rudy asked if any initiatives have been developed to try and increase retention numbers. Chancellor Green stated that a number of programs under the supervision of Associate VC Goodburn have been developed and there are also several programs across the campus and within some colleges. Rudy asked how long it will take to see if these programs are working. Chancellor Green pointed out that it will take several years to see if we have improved in retention in all areas.

Interim VC Kostelnik noted that national data have indicated that there are several things that the faculty need to do that impact retention rates. The first is taking attendance because a pattern of absences can indicate that a student needs assistance. Students also feel like they are invisible when attendance is not taken. The other thing is for the student to get some kind of grade by the fourth week of class. Woodman pointed out that the campus used to have the Teaching & Learning Center which would provide faculty members with this kind of information and assistance and when it was eliminated there was a massive loss of communication for faculty members, particularly those with large classes. Interim VC Kostelnik reported that new TA’s were recently welcomed and the number in attendance was over 300 while in previous years it was only 60 or 70. She stated that they received the same message as the faculty. She reported that the new faculty orientation meeting will have 122 faculty members participating and the tips mentioned will be emphasized.

6.2 Update on Searches for Vice Chancellors
Chancellor Green stated that the searches for Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor of IANR are active and on time and had a significant number of applicants. Both search committees met yesterday to shorten the list of candidates down to nine and airport interviews will be scheduled next week. He reported that he has received good reports from both committee chairs and he believes the finalists will be coming to campus between the third week in September and the third
week in October. He stated that the goal is still to have the new Vice Chancellors on campus by the first of the year.

Chancellor Green stated that after the new Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost is hired she/he will have the opportunity to change the reporting lines of the Vice Chancellor of Research and the Vice Chancellor of Students Affairs. Making these changes will fulfill the responsibilities of the Provost. He noted that the current Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development position will be split with there being a separate lead person for economic development. He reported that there is a real need to have a person who can head economic development across the university and the position will be elevated to cover all of the university campuses.

Chancellor Green stated that there will be another wave of recruiting because other positions will need to be filled after the new Vice Chancellors are in place. He noted that the faculty of the Law College are anxious to begin the search for a new Dean, but he wants to have further discussions with the faculty about the direction of the College.

6.3 Department of Education’s Debt Forgiveness Plan and Will It Have Impacts for UNL

Steffen noted that the federal government is working on finalizing regulations about this plan. Chancellor Green stated that he does not know the details of it. Fech stated that the plan is that graduating students who work as teachers or for a non-profit organization for ten years can have their student loans forgiven, but the plan has a number of restrictions. For instance students had to be interested and signed onto the program for their chosen field upon entrance to the university.

Interim VC Kostelnik noted that Nebraska’s Department of Education has a similar program but for students who want to be teachers. She stated that if they decide to leave the program there is a penalty.

6.4 Possibility of allocating scholarship dollars at UNL equivalent to Walter Scott, Jr. Scholarship at UNO

Chancellor Green said that he is aware the Scott Scholarships through the Peter Kiewit Institute at UNO provide full ride scholarships and has asked our Scholarships and Financial Aids Office to look at how we support our students to see if our scholarships are being used effectively, whether they are under used, or whether there are enough resources. He pointed out that currently we are not able to recruit as effectively as we would like high end students due to the lack of available scholarship dollars. He stated that Director of Admissions Amber Williams and Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid Justin Brown have come forward with a proposal on how we can move forward to improve our ability to offer more scholarships and enable us to recruit top students. He noted that while the Regents scholarships provide funds for course tuition, they do not provide full living costs that many universities are offering. He stated that he will be working with Housing to try and figure out how we could find scholarship support to provide housing for the high end students. He noted that part of the difficulty is that Housing is considered an auxiliary unit.
Hanrahan noted that students from Iowa can get in-state tuition at UNO. Chancellor Green reported that the University adopted a provision that allows students from three bordering counties in Iowa to pay in-state tuition at UNO. This was an incentive initiative for the greater Omaha area. He stated that we are looking at a much broader picture with what we do with tuition from students in neighboring states and he has argued that we are not competitive with our surrounding states in some respects.

Purcell stated that it is known by parents that the best scholarships are at UNO and we lose students because of this. Chancellor Green stated that there is some accuracy to this belief, but also some myth. He said that the myth is that you get better Regent scholarships, but the reality is that UNO has lower standards for getting these scholarships.

6.5 Title IX and Study Abroad Programs
Woodman asked if faculty and students in study abroad programs are covered by Title IX. Chancellor Green said absolutely if they are enrolled as a student in an active course. Fech noted that there is great vulnerability for these students due to the distance and being in a different culture. He asked if there is a protocol in place to deal with issues that could occur abroad. Chancellor Green reported that in order for faculty members to participate in study abroad programs they must go through Title IX training and are identified as a responsible employee.

Hanrahan stated that it is common for Music faculty to teach summer programs elsewhere but UNL students take it. He asked if there are protections in place and is there a plan to communicate this to these faculty members. Chancellor Green stated that Title IX would still apply, but the faculty members would not have to take the training because it is not a UNL program.

6.6 Changes in Academic Affairs Office and IANR Offices – New Appointments
Interim VC Kostelnik reported that former Associate VC Perez is now Interim Dean of the College of Engineering. She noted that he was responsible for three portfolios: faculty development, facilities, and graduate studies. These duties have been dispersed to Professor Judy Walker from Mathematics who is serving as Interim Associate VC for Faculty. Much of the work under facilities has moved forward but Associate to the Chancellor Nunez will oversee the completion of these projects. Rudy asked who will coordinate the campus master plan. Chancellor Green noted that this has always fallen under Nunez’s responsibilities. Interim VC Kostelnik reported that renovation projects will also be handled by Nunez. She stated that Laurie Bellows is now Acting Dean of Graduate Studies. Chancellor Green pointed out that interim means that a search will be conducted while acting means that the person originally in that position will return to it. He said, for example, that Kostelnik will return as Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Interim VC Kostelnik reported that Sonia Feigenbaum is the new Associate VC for International Engagement and Global Strategies located in Academic Affairs. She noted
that Tom Farrell, who was interim for the position, has returned to the Chancellor’s office as Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for International Affairs.

Interim VC Yoder reported that Professor Balschweid, department head in Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication, is serving 50% of his time as Interim Associate VC in IANR.

6.7 Identification of college needs for faculty positions and how they will be evaluated
Chancellor Green stated that the identification and evaluation process will be conducted the same way as in previous years. He stated that the administration will work with the Deans to determine the hiring plans for the next fiscal year and hiring plans are in place for this year. He noted that in his State of the University address he will lay out a number of efforts that have come out of the administration’s planning this summer. One thing that will be looked at carefully is the budget model for the campus. He noted that the university system is beginning discussions about state allocations and how they are distributed to the campuses.

6.8 Progress on Extension Educator Resolution to Board of Regents
Chancellor Green stated that he has informed Interim VC Kostelnik that she needs to get this ready for the Board of Regents. He noted that the motion will be presented at the October Board committee meetings and placed on at the November Board meeting agenda.

6.9 Progress of Construction Projects on East Campus
Interim VC Yoder reported that things are progressing well and that the Veterinary Diagnostic Center is moving along on schedule. The outside structure for the East Campus residence center is up and work is being conducted on the inside of the structure. He said that the planning for the renovation of CYT Library is ongoing but the fundraising for it is progressing but not complete. He reported that more options are being considered for the East Campus Union renovation project. Chancellor Green pointed out that the CYT project requires $22 ½ million dollars from private funding. He noted that a gift of $10 million has been committed and hopefully more donations will be made by October.

Rudy asked if the feasibility study on Burr/Fedde residence halls has been completed. Chancellor Green stated that Housing recommends that they be torn down, but this will need to be approved by the Board. He noted that the Ruth Staples Child Development Lab is being considered for renovation and East Campus will need additional parking for the new residence hall that is being constructed. He stated that the tennis courts will be moved to the current location of Burr/Fedde and new parking will replace the old tennis courts.

Lee asked what will happen with the old CBA building. Chancellor Green reported that the new CBA building is on schedule. He stated that funding is in place to renovate the first floor of the old building to provide large classroom space. He stated that careful planning is in process for how the additional floors of the building will be used and
consideration needs to be given to where faculty members from Engineering and the College of Education and Human Sciences will be temporarily relocated while their buildings are being renovated.

Purcell asked if the new East Campus residence hall will have a new name. Chancellor Green stated that a name is being suggested but this would require a change in policy by the Board of Regents because the person is still living. He noted that Housing will move into the new dining facility on N. 17th street when it is completed.

Vakilzadian asked why the old Reunion parking lot was not being used to construct a new engineering building rather than trying to renovate Nebraska Hall and the Walter Scott link. Chancellor Green stated that he has asked the engineering team to relook at some of the renovations planned for the College of Engineering.

6.10 Report on Allocation of Monies from 5% Tax
Interim VC Yoder reported that in IANR proposals for the use of the money from the 5% tax were due on July 31 and these are being compiled and will be reviewed. He stated that there is a priority list with the highest priorities being deferred maintenance and initiatives to leverage units. Plans are to notify departments in September of the distribution of the funds.

6.11 Upcoming Issues
Chancellor Green stated that the deans and administrators have developed a core belief document on dignity, respect, diversity, acceptance, and inclusion which will be unveiled to the campus at the freshmen convocations on Friday. It was felt that these university beliefs are particularly important given the events that have occurred nationally and locally. He reported that the administrators had a good and deep discussion about these issues and felt that it was important for the campus to be proactive in stating what kind of community we are and bracelets highlighting these values will be distributed to the campus as a reminder. He noted that the campus will be going through a diversity and inclusiveness survey this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 203 Alexander Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Allison Reisbig, Secretary.