

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**Absent:**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 20, 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.

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### 1.0 Call to Order

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

### 2.0 Announcements

#### 2.1 2016 Lane Lecture Series – Law College

Leiter reported that Professor Eugene Volokh will be presenting “Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom in American Universities” on September 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:10-1:15 p.m. in the Law College. He noted that Professor Volokh is a well-known and well respected Professor from UCLA and he encouraged the Executive Committee members to attend the lecture, particularly since the issues of free speech and academic freedom are so prevalent.

#### 2.2 Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Honesty

Rudy reported that the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Honesty will be on Tuesday, September 27, and suggested that the Executive Committee might want to ask Chancellor Green the difference between department bylaws and department policies and procedures. He understands that there is a push to have department bylaws revised into procedures because it is easier to get them approved and they do not have to go to the Board of Regents. Woodman stated that he does not believe department bylaws, and perhaps college bylaws, need to be approved by the Board of Regents. He pointed out that changing bylaws to procedures could weaken them.

#### 2.3 Free Concert on Campus

Woodman reported that a free concert will be held near the stadium on October 13 with events beginning at 7:00 p.m. He pointed out that this is a working day for the university and there is concern that the noise and crowd will cause issues, especially for evening classes and lab work that is being conducted. He noted that he contacted Chief Yardley about the concerns, but was told that as with any live special event the rest of campus activities continue. He stated that these kinds of special events can cause massive inconveniences for the students and the campus. Lee suggested that Woodman contact Dan Carpenter, Director of Parking and Transit Services, since the concert will be held in a university parking lot. He noted that when the sound system in the stadium was being

tested during the day, complaints were made about the disturbance it caused and the practice was stopped.

#### **2.4 Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance**

Woodman reported that has he been in contact with Interim Director Tami Strickman about working with the Executive Committee regarding the procedures for Title IX complaints and she has agreed to meet with the Committee on October 18. He noted that he sent her the AAUP documents on Title IX procedures.

#### **2.5 Breakfast Meeting with President Bounds and Regents Schroeder and Schafer**

Woodman reported that he attended the meeting and noted that Regent Schroeder suggested that this kind of meeting should occur more often. He stated that the four Senate presidents and four staff representatives were in attendance so there was very limited time to discuss many issues. He pointed out that President Bounds did report that the Board of Regents felt that having faculty representatives on the Board's committees was not necessary because they believe that many of the items on the agenda have already been vetted by the faculty at the campus level. Bender pointed out that there are a lot of things, both academically and business matters, that do not come to the faculty. Reisbig stated that it would be helpful if an audit was conducted to see if faculty input had been provided on some of the issues brought to the Board. She asked if the faculty needs to provide input on business matters. Bender pointed out that there are times when business matters do have an impact on an academic program. Purcell noted that a business matter that affects the faculty and staff are health care costs. Woodman added that there is a difference between elected faculty representatives and faculty chosen by the administrators.

Woodman stated that Regent Schroeder wants open communication with everyone. He stated that he told the President and Regents that the faculty want to make sure we have a Provost that communicates with the Faculty Senate. Woodman also stated that he would be inviting a Regent, or Regents, to attend a Faculty Senate meeting.

#### **2.6 Report on Board of Regents Meeting**

Woodman stated that UNK had created a Memorandum of Understanding of Shared Governance which was approved at the local level with the administration at UNK, but is now with General Counsel at Central Administration. He looked forward to what could emerge from this situation.

Woodman reported that information was given on the upcoming increases in health care costs. He stated that the actuaries for the university said that, if looking strictly at the numbers, an increase of 16% would be needed the first year and 6% for the second year to cover health care costs, but the university has decided to increase the cost of health care by 10% for the next two years. He noted that the President was asked about the reprieve from paying for health insurance for a few months this summer. Woodman stated that President Bounds said that we had too much in the health care reserve and to reduce the amount the reprieve was given. However, the state mandate is that employees

must contribute to cost of health insurance and if we do not put any money in, then the state will not make its contribution. He stated that there were two options: lose the state contribution altogether or persuade the state to use some of the money for deferred maintenance. Rudy asked when the announcement will be made to the campus regarding the increase. Woodman wondered if the Chancellor would mention it in his state of the university address.

Woodman stated that a report was given updating the Regents on the progress of the College of Nursing and another report was made on UARC research. He noted that none of the raises for administrators was mentioned at the time the meeting was open to the public.

Woodman reported that there was mention of the NU Credits being only \$63 and that this had not changed for many years, and although the Board felt the amount was archaic, no comment on a change was made.

Woodman stated that he will invite Regent Schroeder and Regent Whitehouse to meet with the Faculty Senate.

### **3.0 Approval of September 13, 2016 Minutes**

Leiter moved for approval of the minutes as revised. Motion seconded by Bender and approved with one abstention.

### **4.0 Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was discussed.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Faculty Members Needed for Course and Lab Fees Committee**

Griffin reported that three faculty members are needed for the course and lab fees committee. Fech noted that the committee actually only meets once, but prior to the meeting members review proposals for course and lab fees. Vakilzadian asked if students are assessed a single fee or whether there are department and college fees. Woodman pointed out that there are differential tuition fees for the College of Business Administration, the College of Architecture, and the Engineering College. Lab fees and course fees are related to a department and the department receives the funds earned from these fees, although the department is assessed the 5% tax.

### **6.0 Chancellor Green/Interim SVCAA Kostelnik/Interim VC Yoder**

#### **6.1 Finalists for VC of IANR and Executive Vice Chancellor**

Chancellor Green noted that the finalists have been named for the two positions and he is extremely pleased with the candidates. He pointed out that the goal was to be interviewing by the end of September into October and we are meeting that goal. He stated that he believes the candidates are hireable and hopes the campus feels the same way. He wanted to encourage a high level of engagement from the campus in the interviews and forums. He noted that the search committees worked exceptionally hard to get us the needed candidates.

## **6.2 Clarification on the Director of Institutional Equity and Compliance**

Chancellor Green noted that there has been a change in the leadership of the Office. He stated that it is fortunate that Interim Director Tami Strickman-Hansen was able to step in to assume the role. He reported that additional staff will be hired to help the office and he feels that the office is in a good, and stable position.

## **6.3 Capital Construction Plans: update, future plans**

Chancellor Green reported that a number of projects are in progress and on track. The new Business College is to be occupied July 1, 2017 and will be operational for the 2017-18 academic year. He noted that renovations of Behlen labs is near completion and should be finished soon. He pointed out that the renovations will facilitate National Strategic Research initiative work with the Department of Defense through the UARC. He stated that the Veterinary Diagnostic Building construction is on time and it is expected that it will be turned over to the university in April with plans for occupancy in June.

Chancellor Green reported that the dorms on East Campus appear to be on schedule and students will be in the building in the fall of 2017. He noted that a lot of buildings will be coming on line next year. He pointed out that the Law College addition had a slow start but is now proceeding nicely.

Chancellor Green stated that the 17<sup>th</sup> Street dining complex is on schedule. He noted that the Housing Department offices will be relocated into the facility and it is expected that it will be fully operational by fall of 2017.

Chancellor Green reported that the new facility housing the University Health Center and the College of Nursing was approved by the Board and is a joint effort with UNMC. He stated that the facility will be located in the A parking lot south of the Beadle Center. He noted that four rows of parking will remain between the new facility and the south side of Beadle. He pointed out that studies have been conducted to make sure the new facility will not shade the greenhouses. He noted that the University Health Center has transitioned to Nebraska Medicine and for the most part the transition has gone well, although there may be some issues that need to be addressed.

Chancellor Green stated that the next big construction projects include the renovations of the engineering complex and Mabel Lee Hall. Approximately \$70 million will go towards the engineering renovation and plans are now being developed to see how much additional money will need to be raised for the construction. He reported that approximately \$25 million from the state will be for the Mabel Lee Hall renovation, but another \$10 million will need to be raised.

Chancellor Green stated that there has been discussion about building more dorms in the future on the north side of campus and to relocate the Honors Program while Neihardt is

renovated, but the idea has been put on hold because we want to see what kind of impacts the private housing skirting the campus will have on the demand for on-campus housing. He pointed out that residency rates this fall, given the enrollment increases, has not been up as much as the figures would indicate. He noted that a number of the new complexes near the university have been offering cheaper rents so that there is fuller capacity in the buildings. He stated that he is aware that we will need a new home for the Honors Program, especially if we hope to expand the program.

Hanrahan noted that the Glenn Korff School of Music put together a planned program for constructing a new building and wondered what happened to it. Chancellor Green stated that the plan was put together when John Richmond was still director and the School was told that the cost was too high. There was also no money available to put into the building. He stated that he is aware that a second plan is being developed.

Hanrahan asked what the criteria is for determining when buildings get constructed. He noted that the School has received many promises that it is high on the list of priorities only to be placed further down on the list. Chancellor Green stated that he thinks Westbrook has remained in the same place on the list. He stated that when state funds are used assessments need to be made. Academic Use and priority needs in relation to academic space and structure are needed. He noted that Westbrook has fallen in the upper level category for need, but so have Mabel Lee and Engineering.

Hanrahan pointed out that UNO is getting a new Music facility and he understands that \$105 million is a huge sum of money, but other schools in the Big Ten have spent twice that amount for their facility. Chancellor Green stated that he understands the issue with Westbrook, but consideration needs to be given with the challenges of raising those kinds of funds.

#### **6.4 Views on Shared Governance**

Purcell asked the Chancellor's thoughts on shared governance. Chancellor Green stated that his views on shared governance have not changed and he believes it is critical to the function of the university. He stated that he thinks shared governance on campus is quite good and works well here and he wants to promote the idea that it will continue.

Hanrahan asked if the philosophy of shared governance will be a priority for the new Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of IANR. Chancellor Green stated that we are bringing in people to lead us, but this does not mean that there will not be any changes. However, the requirement for having fundamental beliefs in shared governance won't change.

#### **6.5 Enrollment Numbers in Context with the Entire State**

Chancellor Green stated that he has not heard the enrollment figures for Wesleyan University or other private schools, but he has heard that enrollment is either stable or up at other institutions. He is not aware of the enrollment figures for the community colleges. He reported that UNO is up about 1%, UNK is flat, and we are up about 2.5%. He stated that the current data point is that everyone is flat or up in enrollment numbers. He stated that most of our increased enrollment is with international and non-resident

students, but that we were also up in resident students and across most of the academic colleges. While we do not yet have the full breakdown of our increase in terms of student retention, the total increase would suggest that freshman to sophomore retention should increase.

Woodman asked if we know what colleges the incoming students are enrolling in. Chancellor Green stated that the College of Business Administration enrollment has been increasing every year in recent time, but has slowed down a bit this year although MBA enrollment is up. He noted that the College of Arts & Sciences increased considerably in enrollment and CASNR has continued to increase enrollment for the 13<sup>th</sup> year.

Woodman asked if any colleges have declined in enrollment. Chancellor Green stated that enrollment in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications is flat this year. Interim SVCAA Kostelnik reported that the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS) enrollment has increased slightly while the same college at other Big Ten schools have declined. She noted that the department of Nutrition and Health Sciences in CEHS has increased significantly, showing that even in colleges the number of students can vary. She pointed out that the interests of the students varies over time so enrollments can go up and down in the different colleges. She stated that what has really been helpful is improvements in communicating with our students, particularly at the undergraduate level. She pointed out that a real fruitful area where we can make some improvements is at the graduate level and we really need to look at our graduate education.

Woodman noted that many departments emphasize their Ph.D. programs rather than their master's program. Interim SVCAA Kostelnik stated that another thing that has happened is that more professions are now requiring that their employees have a master's degree for their job, and this is an area where we have room to grow. She suggested that one of the things we need to do is to look at the calendar. She pointed out that our summer sessions go until the end of August, but many of the public schools begin classes in early to mid-August so teachers looking to take classes to further their education cannot enroll with us. Chancellor Green stated that summer sessions are going to be reconsidered. Interim SVCAA Kostelnik noted that at some universities undergraduate students can get a bachelor's degree in three years, reducing the cost of living and cost of attending college for the family.

Bender asked if the campus has the flexibility of changing its calendar. He believed that the calendar is set at Central Administration. Chancellor Green stated that this is true, but we should have some flexibility if the calendar is hurting our enrollment. He noted that President Bounds has expressed to the Chancellors that he wants them to think creatively with the campuses. He stated that we are looking at the tuition models to see whether we should continue to do the same thing or to explore a different option. Bender pointed out that many things could be done to improve our enrollment and retention numbers if we could change the calendar. Leiter noted that one of the universities in Arizona has a program where undergraduate students can get their bachelor's degree in three years and

enter directly into the Law College. Konecky stated that the same is true for many health professions.

Reisbig asked if we were to transition more to having classes during the summer if faculty could expect to transition from nine-month appointments to twelve-month appointments. Interim SVCAA Kostelnik stated that the faculty would have to explore all of the possibilities.

#### **6.6 What is the status of the University with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR)?**

Chancellor Green stated that the OCR was given all of the information on Title IX reports and the most recent correspondence with them in late August was very positive, but they are still studying our Title IX.

#### **6.7 Feedback regarding the Chancellor's statement on political correctness on campus**

Chancellor Green noted that the campus statement on academic freedom and the way he said it at the freshmen orientation was taken out of context. He stated that his goal was to talk about civility and respect. He noted that he expects us to challenge our students and expects the students to challenge us in return, and we can have discourse in a respectful, dignified, and accepting matter. He did say that he learned a valuable lesson from the experience and will choose his words more carefully in the future.

Reisbig thanked the Chancellor for opening up the system-wide level of dialogue on the matter. Chancellor Green stated that he and the other administrators had long, serious discussions about the subject and felt that it was important to make a statement given recent events around the country. He noted that inclusiveness means inclusive of all perspectives.

#### **6.8 Academic Program Review of the Honors Program**

Interim SVCAA Kostelnik reported that the review of the Honors program was conducted and her impression was that it went well. The review team was very good and represented many of the institutions from our peer group. She noted that the reviewers all came away saying that UNL was a good place to be a student and there were good programs and terrific faculty members. She stated that the team had a lot of ideas on how to grow and expand the program, including growth in non-traditional fields, but the report, which will provide recommendations, has not been written yet.

Interim SVCAA Kostelnik said that 37-40% of honors students who start the program actually complete a thesis. Many more students complete coursework, but do not do the thesis. She noted that one of the questions that needs to be asked is whether writing a thesis is the only benchmark that can be used, or whether there are other benchmarks that should be considered. She pointed out that other schools use an array of different projects. She stated that this will be a good discussion for the campus to engage in.

Lee asked if there is any consideration of having an honors college rather than a program. Interim SVCAA Kostelnik stated that she does not know what the thinking is on this idea.

Lee pointed out that the honors program does not have enough courses. Interim SVCAA Kostelnik stated that ideas that need to be considered are how honors programs are resourced and how honors sections beyond the sophomore level are created. She stated that another consideration is whether you can have an honors course with 30 students in it.

Lee asked if the review team felt that the honors program was too small. Interim SVCAA Kostelnik stated that growth was viewed as a good thing and that there was certainly room for growth, but we will need to see the report before making any decisions. Chancellor Green stated that he thinks there is the opportunity for growth, but there are some challenges with how to get the high achieving students here and to support them given the limitations of the current program. He noted that he has charged ASEM to look at financial scholarships because we are not competitive enough with our peers.

**6.9 Are non-tenure track faculty members included in the new faculty orientation session? If not, how are they informed of their rights as faculty members?**

Interim SVCAA Kostelnik reported that all new tenure track, professors of practice, extension specialists, and research faculty members are invited to the new faculty orientation. She noted that lecturers are not included and she does not know how they get their information. She stated that she knows that some colleges have special sessions for their lecturers. She suggested that this is a question that the Senate might want to ask the colleges. Woodman noted that the Senate has had two forums for non-tenure track faculty members and plans are to have a best practices set of guidelines with information gathered from the forum and the surveys that the Senate conducted.

**6.10 Issues on the Horizon**

Chancellor Green stated that much attention is being given to the accreditation of the campus. Our report has been turned into the Higher Learning Commission and we have received very complimentary comments on it. During the site visit the team from HLC will be looking at evidence to validate what was written in the report.

Lee asked if the Chancellor is proposing a new budget plan and model. Chancellor Green stated that this will be discussed in the state of the university address in regard to preparations for a full strategic plan development for the campus during calendar year 2017. Background work regarding our budget model is one of the areas he has charged the senior leadership team with completing this fall prior to the arrival of the new EVC and VCIANR.

Lee asked where the campus is on the diversity audit that was mentioned by former Chancellor Perlman last year. Chancellor Green stated that the audit is beginning this fall. Lee asked if there has been any responses to the Black Lives Matter document that was given to the administration. Chancellor Green stated that a response to the Black Lives Matter group was made in February and some items in the response have been acted upon. He noted that an advisory group with the UNL Police has been developed

and Interim Dean Lance Perez is chairing the Diversity Council which was created to make sure the diversity audit consultants get to speak to all groups on campus.

**6.11 Have departments been notified if they are receiving funds collected through the 5% tax?**

Interim VC Yoder noted that his office plans to notify departments in October of the disbursement of funds from FY 2016. He also noted that 50% of the funds dispersed last year (FY 2015) have not been spent yet by the departments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, 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.