

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Steffen, Vakilzadian

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

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 (*Woodman*)

Woodman called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Report on Wellness Committee

Rudy reported that the Wellness Committee recently met and was informed that ASUN has an initiative to make the campus smoke free by banning smoking on campus. He stated that the initiative will be on the next ASUN ballot. He pointed out that it is unknown how binding such a policy would be on faculty, staff, and visitors to campus. Purdum asked who would dictate and enforce the ban. Woodman noted that UNO, UNK and UNMC are smoke free campuses. Konecky stated that, whatever level of ban occurs, counseling services and support should be provided to those people who are addicted to smoking.

2.2 Senate Executive Committee Letter to Daily Nebraskan Regarding Travel Restrictions

Woodman reported that he sent the letter from the Executive Committee to the Daily Nebraskan stating the Senate's support of students affected by the recent Executive Order travel ban.

2.3 Budget Cuts

Woodman noted that state revenue predictions are down \$153 million more for the state than previously predicted. He reported that President Bounds and Regent Whitehouse made the appeal for the University yesterday to the appropriations committee, but unless there are changes in the proposed budget, it appears likely that there will be tuition increases.

Purdum pointed out that the department heads have not been told how they should prepare for budget cuts and some of the faculty are concerned that dealing with the cuts will occur over the summer when most of the faculty are not here. She asked if the faculty have input, even if the cuts are vertical. Lee pointed out that the faculty input comes after the budget cut announcements are made by the Chancellor.

Woodman reported that he spoke with Academic Planning Committee Chair Professor Wagner about the Executive Committee's involvement in the budget reduction process and Wagner is supportive of having the Executive Committee's involvement before announcements are made. Fech noted that it would be helpful if the Chancellor would define vertical cuts. Lee pointed out that AAUP has rules on what vertical cuts are and the Bylaws state that AAUP guidelines are to be followed. Purdum stated that she believes that a combination of vertical and horizontal cuts will need to be made if the budget cuts are as large as what is being predicted.

3.0 Approval of February 21, 2017 Minutes

Purcell moved for approval of the minutes as revised. Motion seconded by Hanrahan and approved by the Executive Committee with one abstention.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Proposed Revisions to UNL Bylaws

Woodman noted that Senator Shea, School of Natural Resources, sent a list of recommended changes to the UNL Bylaws and VC Boehm has stated that he wants to make some suggestions to the Bylaws. Woodman pointed out that the revisions to the Bylaws were meant to bring them up to date and to do some housekeeping changes, not to make substantial changes. The Executive Committee agreed that the proposed Bylaws presented in February, and tabled until the March meeting, need to be dealt with first, then any amendments need to be considered separately to avoid confusion. Rudy noted that Senator Buan, Biochemistry, is proposing an amendment to include faculty members whose total FTE adds up to .50, regardless of their title, and to remove the requirement that non-tenure track faculty members must have three years of successive appointment. He pointed out that lecturers, lecturer/t's, and research faculty members are hired for a specific purpose, teaching or research, and do not have a service component to their apportionment. He is concerned that there could be some administrators who would pressure these faculty members to do service work. Griffin noted that the Academic Affairs website shows that many of the non-tenure track faculty positions have a 1-3 year contract. Lee pointed out that the term for a senator is three years. He asked if a non-tenure track faculty member with a tenuous appointment of less than three years of successive employment should represent their unit.

4.2 Resolution from Information Technology and Services Committee

Woodman reported that he received a resolution from the Information Technology and Services Committee regarding the minimum technology needed for faculty to be able to fulfill their responsibilities in teaching and research. He stated that he would forward the resolution to the Executive Committee for review.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Upcoming Meeting with Chancellor Green, EVC Plowman, and VC Boehm

Woodman noted that the Executive Committee will be meeting with the administrators on March 14. Rudy suggested that Plowman be asked what the best mechanism is to let her

know when practices do not follow policies. Woodman stated that another issue is the reappointment process for non-tenure track faculty members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 immediately following the Faculty Senate meeting. The meeting will be held in the East Campus Union, Arbor Suite. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Sheila Purdum, Secretary.