

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: **Alloway, Bradford, Fech, Hachtmann, Ledder, Lindquist, Rapkin, Zimmers**

Absent: **Bolin, Flowers, LaCost, Prochaska Cue, Moeller**

Date: **November 14, 2007**

Location: **Faculty Senate, 420 University Terrace**

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

Bradford called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Review of Board of Regents Meeting

Bradford reported that the Board of Regents is asking the legislature for some supplemental money this year. Funds for two items are being requested. The first is to replace the Student Information System (SIS). He stated that the company that supports SIS is no longer going to be upgrading the system that we currently have. He noted that the Board is asking the legislature for \$17 million to move to a new system.

Bradford reported that consultants will be hired to look into the selection process for a new system and consultants will be hired when a new system is initiated. He pointed out that Central Administration wants a university-wide system that will fold all student records into it from all four campuses. He reported that there is a steering committee that will be looking into a new system. He stated that Vice Chancellor Franco and Professor Ballard, Industrial & Management Systems Engineering, are on the steering committee. He noted that another committee will be formed that will have faculty members on it but he is not sure exactly what they will be doing. He stated that he is waiting to hear more information about this from SVCAA Couture.

Lindquist asked if the company is trying to force the university into buying a new product. Bradford stated that the company does have a new product but he does not know if the university wants to purchase it. He noted that SAP has a product as well but the university will be looking at all the different systems that are available.

Ledder stated that he does not think the company that supports SIS is trying to force us into purchasing a new system, because operating systems have changed significantly over the years and the current system we use is probably out of date. Bradford noted that one of the Regents asked if it was a surprise that the company will no longer support the system. The Regent was told that we knew this was coming down the road.

Fech asked if there are any concerns that the legislature won't provide money for anything else because of the cost of the system. Bradford stated that the university is only asking for two things and this is not a year when the biennium budget is being considered.

Alloway asked if we have heard anything about the second part of the energy costs. Bradford stated that we haven't heard anything lately. He noted that the Mead clean up needs another \$1.3 million. He pointed out that these costs continue to rise. He stated that the university has agreed to pay the Environmental Protection Agency for the clean up. He stated that the question was raised whether the EPA has any limit of what they charge but apparently there isn't. Fech asked why the Department of Defense isn't being charged the money since the waste is from them. Bradford stated that it was reported that there are pesticides there as well. Lindquist stated that the waste has to do with the former ammunition plant that was there and some wastes from UNMC. Bradford stated that he thinks the Department of Defense is paying for part of the clean up.

Bradford stated that a report showing this year's enrollment was given to the Board on non-resident students and the top 25% of Nebraska students. He pointed out that UNL's numbers look really good compared to the other campuses. He stated that UNL's total enrollment is up by 3.9% and the first time freshmen class is up 10% while the other campuses are up by only 2%. He reported that student credit hours at UNL are up by 4.6%.

2.2 Strategic Compass

Bradford noted that the Strategic Compass is the name that SVCAA Couture came up with for the comprehensive goals for UNL. He reported that there will be forums on both campuses about the goals. He noted that the city campus forum will be held on November 27th and the east campus forum will be held sometime in January. He stated that SVCAA Couture states that she definitely wants Senate input on the goals and this will be an upcoming agenda item for both the Executive Committee and the Senate.

2.3 Affirmative Action Initiative

Bradford reported that the initiative to change the language regarding affirmative action in the state was filed on October 9th. He noted that circulation of the petition probably won't start for awhile since the vote will not take place until November 2008.

3.0 Approval of 11/7/07 Minutes

The minutes as amended were approved.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Parking

Bradford asked the Committee what should be done about parking. Rapkin stated that it might be time to make another effort to encourage carpooling. He suggested getting in touch with VC Jackson to see about promoting a campaign to get people to carpool.

Fech pointed out that people need to be given an incentive in order for them to participate. He stated that if the administration could do something to provide a small incentive it would help. Bradford suggested that an information system be set up so people can find someone who would be willing to carpool with them. Hachtmann stated that a bigger incentive would be to give the people involved in carpools a reserved spot at a reduced cost. Ledder pointed out that too much of a financial incentive could increase the problem of high parking fees.

Lindquist stated that what is troublesome is that the employees and students are paying for the cost of building the parking garages. He pointed out that when new buildings are being developed not only should the cost of lost parking spaces be considered but how many additional spaces will be needed for those people working in the new building. He pointed out that these additional people will put more pressure on parking. He stated that these costs should be factored into every new building constructed on campus. Bradford stated that if this had been done originally the parking fees would not have gone up so drastically.

Ledder asked if money is being borrowed to construct academic buildings. Bradford stated that he is not sure but he would think loans are taken out.

Bradford stated that another thing is that we should never have gotten into the position where parking is paying for the transit service. Ledder stated that a motion could be proposed to the Senate calling for the administration to cover the cost of transit services instead of putting it on those who park. He opined that the transit service, particularly the bus that runs between east and city campus, is an essential part of the university and should be part of the operating budget.

Lindquist stated that he would be more willing to pay for the transit system if the cost of constructing the garages was not put on the permit holders. Alloway suggested that this could be a motion for the Senate. Lindquist stated that the Senate should push for this. He asked what happens to the money that comes in for football parking. Bradford stated that it goes to Parking & Transit Services. Alloway stated he was told by Parking Services that employees who purchased a parking permit for the 17 & R parking garage can park in that garage for free on football game days, provided they arrive at least two hours prior to game time. He was told that the garage is also the overflow faculty and staff parking location if the designated surface lots fill. Bradford stated that he has seen employees' cars ticketed for parking in a lot before a game.

Lindquist stated that his biggest complaint is that it should not be the permit holders' responsibility to build these garages. Bradford stated that new construction costs should include covering the loss of parking spaces. Lindquist stated that programs going into these buildings should have a target as to how many students and faculty the program will eventually have and parking should be considered for these people.

Rapkin stated that a lot of information could be uncovered about how different cities and universities provide incentives for carpooling. Alloway noted that VC Jackson showed interest in having an incentive for carpooling.

Bradford asked if the bus pass was free. Ledder stated that it is only free if a person buys a parking permit, otherwise there is a cost.

Rapkin noted that a disincentive for biking to campus is that there are not a lot of bike racks around. He stated that the ones on campus are usually full, especially on nice days.

Bradford stated that he will contact VC Jackson to discuss the issue with her. He suggested that if someone wanted to write a draft motion it could be taken forward to the Senate.

4.2 COIA Representative

Bradford stated that he asked Professor Maxey-Harris, Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (IAC), to attend the discussion on this topic.

Bradford stated that there are two issues that need to be addressed. The first is what procedures to use to appoint a representative. He noted that there are a couple of options for this. The first is that the person could be appointed by the President of the Faculty Senate. Lindquist stated that it is also possible to give this responsibility to the IAC.

Bradford stated that the idea behind the COIA is to separate the faculty governance body from the NCAA. He noted that the appointment could be a Senate appointment or it could be required that the representative be a member of the IAC although it's possible that they may not want to do it.

Lindquist asked why we should have a separate representative when we have the IAC. He stated that they should take care of looking into this since this falls under their responsibility.

Maxey-Harris noted that the policies and recommendations being made by the COIA are all being assessed by the IAC and any issues that are raised by the COIA are addressed. She stated that there are seven faculty members on the IAC and it is possible that the role of the representative can be filled by one of the members.

Bradford stated that the chair of the IAC could be made the representative or the members of the IAC could choose the representative. He noted that it makes sense to have the representative serve for more than one year. He stated that there needs to be the understanding that the representative, regardless of how appointed, must report to the Senate. He suggested the representative serve for two years since the term on the IAC is for three years.

Alloway moved to have a faculty member on the IAC appointed as the COIA representative by the faculty members serving on the IAC. Motion approved.

Bradford stated that the other question is whether or not UNL should remain as a member of the COIA. He noted that this question does not have to be resolved immediately. He pointed out that one of the down sides of being a member is the cost of sending the representative to the annual meeting. He stated that UNL is already doing some of the things that the COIA recommends. He noted that one of the down sides of not being a member is that the COIA could adopt positions without our input. He questioned whether there is value in continuing to belong to the organization.

Hachtmann asked if most of our peer institutions are members. Bradford stated that only 5 of the Big 12 schools are members and the total number of representatives nationwide is 50.

Maxey-Harris stated that she has talked with Professor Logan-Peters about the issue of continuing to belong to the COIA. She stated that some of the issues that the COIA is looking at are not issues for UNL. She pointed out that what we are doing at UNL might shed some light for other universities. She stated that everyone that she has asked about seems undecided on whether Nebraska should continue to be a member.

Ledder asked what kinds of problems the other universities have had with athletics. Bradford reported that at Auburn there were problems with fraudulent grades and there is a perception at some schools that the football program controls even academics; such as creating courses and majors just for athletes to take and athletic departments being out of control. He noted that faculty members here have been actively involved with academic and athletic issues so there are not the problems here as there are at some other schools.

Fech pointed out that you cannot deny the fact that students are recruited for their athletic ability but they need to be a legitimate student. Bradford pointed out that there is no lowering of the standards to get student athletes into UNL. He noted that the pressures here in regards to admissions, courses, or grade point averages, are not the same as schools like Stanford or Northwestern. He pointed out that one of the issues COIA has in its proposals is in regard to an athlete's progress towards their major. He noted that some student athletes take the number of required credit hours each semester but don't make any progress toward getting their degree. Ledder stated that if this was happening then there would be a lower graduation rate for student athletes.

Maxey-Harris stated that the IAC just had a report given at their last meeting on overall graduation rates, progress and success rates. She noted that UNL athletes are doing well if not better than the regular student body in terms of graduation rates.

Ledder asked what happens if a faculty member submits a progress report indicating that a student athlete is failing or is not coming to class. Maxey-Harris stated that she believes Dennis Leblanc's office is notified. Hachtmann stated that athletics will have someone check to see if the student is in class. Ledder pointed out that he has not seen any changes in the student's behavior even after he has sent in the slip. Hachtmann

stated that sometimes the student is set up with a tutor. Ledder stated that he has had students who clearly needed help but it was not apparent that they were getting it.

Lindquist proposed that the IAC look into whether or not we should remain a member of the COIA. He suggested that a member from the committee can attend the national meeting and then report back to the Executive Committee about whether or not we should stay in the organization.

Bradford stated that the Senate will pay for someone to go to the annual meeting. The Senate could then decide after hearing a report from the IAC whether we should remain in the COIA.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Diversity Committee

Bradford reported that he has had correspondence with Assistant to the Chancellor Crump about why she resigned from the Diversity Committee. He noted that he has read Professor Moshman's minutes of the last meeting. It was clear from the minutes that there are a lot of diverging viewpoints on the committee and Crump has indicated that she is concerned that nothing will come out of the committee. He stated that he thinks something will come out of the committee although a resolution may not be reached on all of the issues.

Ledder stated that there needs to be some kind of statement that promotes and accepts diversity on campus. Bradford stated that he thinks the issue of academic freedom will come out of the committee. He noted that the committee will report to the Senate.

Ledder suggested directing the committee that it will be okay if there are separate opinions for each of the viewpoints. Bradford stated that he believes the Chancellor is interested in recruitment and retention although this may not be a priority for the committee.

Rapkin stated that he thinks discussing abstract principles about diversity is a stinging rebuttal for minority faculty and staff. He stated that trying to shift the debate to diversity of ideas rather than diversity of people can be viewed as insulting. Bradford stated that in some cases this may be true but it should not stop discussions about the issues.

5.2 FocusNation

Bradford stated that President Solheim of ASUN sent him a pdf file about an event occurring in January about environmental issues. It will be a nationwide event and professors are being asked to discuss environmental issues if it is relevant to their classes. Bradford stated that he will announce this at the December Senate meeting.

5.3 Public Availability of Syllabi

Bradford stated that he received an email message from a faculty member on the Curriculum Committee. The question is whether a course syllabus is considered public

information. The committee agreed that the syllabus should be considered public information.

5.4 Student Information Systems Committee

Issue discussed under 2.1 Review of Board of Regents Meeting

5.5 12 Month Calendar

Bradford stated that the Committee needs to discuss the issue again with the Chancellor particularly since the Chancellor discussed this at the Senate meeting.

Ledder stated that the main problem with the calendar is that a semester takes 16 weeks. If there are three semesters in a year it would leave only four weeks to build in a spring break, holiday break, and fall break and breaks between semesters. He noted that the length of a semester would need to be cut.

Bradford pointed out that UNL is used heavily during the summer by outside organizations and a 12 month calendar could interfere with these summer events.

5.6 New Dean of Students Position

Alloway stated that a faculty member in his college asked when Dr. Hecker was made Dean of Students. Previously he was Director of Student Judicial Affairs and he is now listed as a Dean. Alloway stated that the faculty member provided a list of responsibilities on the Dean of Students website, some of which could possibly preempt processes that had traditionally begun at the college level.

Bradford stated that this needs to be raised with the Chancellor at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, November 28 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Rick Alloway, Secretary.