

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Alloway, Bolin, Bradford, Fech, Flowers, Hachtmann, LaCost, Ledder, Prochaska Cue, Rapkin, Zimmers

Absent: Lindquist, Moeller

Date: November 7, 2007

Location: Faculty Senate Office, 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 3:01 p.m.

2.0 VC Jackson and Associate VC Phelps

2.1 Parking

VC Jackson reported that one of the reasons why parking costs so much on campus is because Parking & Transportation Services does not receive any campus subsidy. Therefore all of the revenue must cover all of the costs. She pointed out that at some of our peer institutions parking is subsidized which lowers costs for faculty, staff, and students.

VC Jackson stated that since 1999 the campus has been moving towards parking garages. She pointed out that these are more expensive to build and they are also more expensive to maintain. She stated that 78% of parking and campus bus operations are paid through the parking fees.

VC Jackson noted that five years ago a student transit fee was implemented to partially offset the cost of providing bus service on campus. She reported that ASUN was very supportive of this charge and approved a \$9 fee per semester for transit services.

VC Jackson pointed out that there are very few people on campus that are willing to give up their car. She stated that since 1999 the campus has grown. There are 800 more people on campus and this year 1200 more permits were sold. She noted that the number of permits is higher because individuals are now driving to campus who did not before.

VC Jackson stated that one of the challenges is that the campus is going to continue to grow putting more pressure on parking. She noted that if Housing constructs another residence hall it will add another 500 beds to campus.

VC Jackson pointed out that another problem is that the campus is land locked creating limited opportunity for parking. She stated that parking on campus needs to be safe 24

hours a day. She noted that there are a number of students who work off campus and who come back to campus late at night and they need to feel safe wherever they are walking.

VC Jackson reported that Transit Services is composed of four segments. The largest one is the shuttle between east and city campus. She stated that approximately 250,000 people use Transit Services per year. She noted that Transit Services also operates the night van services for students traveling to/from east campus.

VC Jackson stated that Transit Services also provides transportation on campus for people with disabilities. She reported that approximately 1,000 trips were made last year for persons with disabilities. She stated that this action is all paid from parking fees.

VC Jackson stated that one of the other segments of Parking & Transit Services is the special events services. She reported that buses are periodically rented for field trips. This is a self-supporting function of Transit Services and there are approximately 100,000 riders for these special events. She noted that about 450,000 trips are made a year by people using transit services in some way.

VC Jackson stated that the annual rate for parking on campus is \$252 - \$540 for general parking. She noted that the rate for downtown parking is \$600 – \$900 a year. Rates for reserved parking on campus are comparable to reserved parking rates downtown.

VC Jackson stated that a review of parking costs and revenues from 1999 shows that each year approximately 70 – 80% of the revenue comes from parking permits. She pointed out that in 2006 student support for the Transit system was \$389,598. She noted that lot and garage rentals, including football game parking was \$511,090 for 2006-07.

VC Jackson stated that the Parking & Transit Services budget is approximately \$7 million. She noted that the largest component of the expenses is bond payments. She stated that \$3 million a year goes to bond payments. These bond payments are to cover the costs of building the garages.

VC Jackson stated that her office reviewed the information on parking rates at our peer institutions provided by the Faculty Senate and added information about whether students pay a transit fee. She stated that at many of the peer institutions the parking was lower because the students pay a higher rate for transit services. She pointed out that at the University of Colorado-Boulder students pay \$53 a semester in transit fees. She noted that some campuses have contracted with their cities to partner transit services. She reported that Iowa State University has a very aggressive partnering program and receives federal subsidy for operating its transit service.

Bradford asked if all students get charged the transit fee. VC Jackson stated that every student gets charged this fee.

Bradford asked if UNL has looked into a partnering contract with StarTran. VC Jackson noted that StarTran is a reasonably small transportation system and bus services do not run late at night or penetrate the neighborhoods well. She reported that there have been some conversations with StarTran but nothing has materialized. She noted that the cost of running the buses between east and city campus is \$800,000 a year.

VC Jackson stated that there are two philosophies that can be taken in regards to parking. One is to provide parking for all faculty, staff, and students. This will require building parking garages to accommodate everyone. The other alternative is to provide parking for only a portion of the people who need it. She noted that during the time of the major increases in parking rates the campus created perimeter parking which was less expensive. She pointed out that these lots are not even full now because people have chosen to park closer to campus.

VC Jackson stated that another thing that will add to the challenge of parking is the completion of the Antelope Valley Project. She noted that once completed, parking in the neighborhood east of the city campus will be less user-friendly due to the need to cross the 6-lane Antelope Valley Parkway.

Bradford asked why UNO and UNMC have much lower parking rates. VC Jackson stated that UNO has a history of surface parking and have used the AkSarBen area for parking. She pointed out that they are now moving into building parking garages and their rates will start increasing. She stated that UNMC has purchased lots in the surrounding neighborhoods and used these as surface lots. She noted that they do not have a bus service either. Associate VC Phelps stated that UNMC has considerably fewer employees than UNL.

Alloway noted that VC Jackson referred to UNL as being a campus that likes to drive to work. He asked for the rationale for this statement. VC Jackson stated that there are not a lot of people carpooling to campus or who have expressed an interest in carpooling. She noted that people carpooling would get a reduced rate by splitting the cost of a parking permit. She stated that this attitude towards carpooling may change with the continuing increase in the cost of gas.

Bradford noted that the cost of gas is going to have an impact on the cost of the bus service. VC Jackson agreed and stated that the transit system will need to be looked at. She pointed out that when it gets colder outside the buses are used more often. She noted that the challenge is how to operate a system that can take advantage of the weather, staffing, etc.

Fech asked what the length of time is for the bonds. Associate VC Phelps stated that they are 20 year loans. VC Jackson stated that they monitor the bonds carefully and if there is the opportunity to refinance the loans to get a lower interest rate, UNL pursues that option.

Bolin asked if there have been discussions on improving the bike trail system in Lincoln. VC Jackson stated that the Antelope Valley Project has improvements for the system in it and the university has helped the city construction portions of some of the trails.

VC Jackson noted that parking is a real challenge that does not have an easy solution. She stated that it's a balancing act between how best to operate the parking and transit system yet try to meet people's needs.

Bradford asked about the campus subsidy issue. He noted that decisions regarding this are more than likely made at a higher administrative level. He stated that a faculty member pointed out to him that employees are not required to pay for the buildings in which they work so why are they paying for the building of the parking garages.

VC Jackson stated that the campus would need to decide what it wants to give up. She noted that Purdue University provides subsidies for its parking and there could be discussions on this here, but the question is whether this would be a priority. She pointed out that a critical connection that must be maintained is the east campus – city campus connection. She stated that the cost of this connection is currently \$800,000 to \$1 million dollars. She reminded the Committee that the whole campus has been through severe budget cuts and it has become more difficult to make any budget cuts.

Associate VC Phelps stated that the number of buses and routes have been cut down during slow times. Bradford asked what happens to the drivers during these times. Associate VC Phelps reported that some are semi retired and some of them are on call. He stated that with people taking vacations during the summer it is easier to juggle during the slow times.

Griffin noted that in conversations with ASUN in previous years the students stated that they are aware that at some institutions some students, such as freshmen, cannot bring a vehicle to campus. She asked if this has been considered as a possibility here to deal with the problem of space. VC Jackson pointed out that many of the students on campus now work and many work off campus and need their vehicles. Fech stated that this could hinder recruiting students.

Bradford asked if the VC is aware of the Parking Advisory Committee's investigation into differential rates. He stated that he does not think there should be differential rates within faculty ranks but for secretaries there should perhaps be because they earn much less. VC Jackson pointed out that there are some faculty members who don't make much either. She stated that they are trying to make adjustments based on salaries. The Parking Advisory Committee is looking at \$20,000 increments as the cut off point. She noted that the committee is looking at how many people earn money within the ranges.

Bradford stated that one of the problems with differential rates is how to ensure that someone who can get a permit at a lower rate but who doesn't drive, does not give it to someone who would normally get a permit at a higher rate. Associate VC Phelps stated

that this is one of the problems with the permit scale and that is why it is not used at too many institutions.

LaCost asked if there is any data on how many staff people are working four days a week instead of five. She noted that if more departments started doing that then it could make a difference in parking. VC Jackson stated that the usage of parking is monitored daily and lots are oversold to accommodate for numbers of expected parkers in each lot/garage on each day.

LaCost noted that there seems to be a greater number of people using disability permits. VC Jackson pointed out that the university does not control these permits. They are issued by the state and the university must honor them. LaCost asked if people with disability permits pay a parking fee. VC Jackson stated that they pay for a general parking permit.

Rapkin wondered if the enthusiasm for carpooling is geared towards getting a discount. Associate VC Phelps stated that the Parking Advisory Committee recommended that this be looked into. He noted that carpooling has not caught on at UNL.

VC Jackson asked that anyone with suggestions or questions please feel free to contact either herself, Associate VC Phelps or the Parking and Transit Services office.

2.2 Outdoor Classroom

Bradford noted that there seems to be a disagreement between academics and Landscape Services regarding the use of the outdoor landscape as a classroom and laboratory. VC Jackson stated that Landscape Services tries to be accommodating by planting certain plants but they took major budget cuts and are limited in what they can do. She stated that a suggestion has been made that faculty or others can take over maintenance of specific areas but the maintenance must be throughout the year. She noted that if this does happen signs are put up indicating who is responsible for maintaining the space. Fech asked if faculty members have chosen not to take advantage of this offer. VC Jackson stated that this is correct because of the time that is involved in the upkeep of the landscape.

Fech asked if the reason for Landscape Services not accommodating the requests of faculty members for specific plants is due to a lack of resources. VC Jackson stated that funds are very limited but that Landscape Services tries to accommodate faculty requests.

3.0 Dean Giesecke

3.1 Cuts to Serials

Dean Giesecke stated that she wanted to thank the Executive Committee for helping to get the Safe Assignment policy approved. She reported that the Libraries are getting good response from students on the training. She stated that Safe Assignment is being monitored carefully and she plans to give the Senate Executive Committee a report on it in the spring.

Flowers noted that some questions have come up about Safe Assignment. In particular there is a question of having access to the name of the student who wrote a paper that is in the database. The reason for this would be to determine if there is collaboration between students in a class. Dean Giesecke stated that the students are being told to cite their own work if they have submitted a similar paper in the past. She pointed out that students will not be given the names of the authors of papers in the local database. Instructors can see the name of the author of a paper in the local database.

Dean Giesecke stated that in the past six years there has not been an increase from the state in the budget for serials although the costs of these serials have gone up 7 – 9% each year. She stated that the university hired two consultants last year to review the University Libraries and the Law Libraries' budgets. The consultant noted the need for additional revenue sources for the Libraries. She pointed out that this year the increased cost in the serials is much greater than what is available.

Dean Giesecke reported that the Libraries restructured their entire budget and looked for any money that was available that could be used for the serials. She noted that the Libraries' reserves have been tapped for money and there is a proposal for a \$1 increase in credit hour fees for the library courses which would raise them to \$3. She stated that she has spoken to the ASUN Fee Advisory Committee about this and they support the increase. She pointed out that there hasn't been an increase in these fees in five years. Ledder stated that a \$1 increase will not increase funds very much. Dean Giesecke stated that the increase will amount to approximately \$500,000.

Dean Giesecke stated that the funds generated from credit hour fees are currently about \$1.1 million. She noted that a little bit of these funds have been carried over in the past as a cushion but not this year. She reported that seven positions in the Libraries were paid out of the credit hour funds. She pointed out that since this is considered soft money the benefits for these positions must be paid from this money as well. She stated that Academic Affairs informed her that if the positions can be moved onto state lines then the benefits would be covered. She stated that in the restructuring all salaries were moved to the state budget.

Dean Giesecke stated that in January and February liaison librarians will be meeting with the departments about the serials for their disciplines. She stated that the Libraries need the help of the faculty to get the cost of the serials in line.

Dean Giesecke stated that a spreadsheet is being developed which will provide departments with the call numbers for each of the serials. She is asking departments to go through the list and decide which serials to cut. She noted that the total cuts need to add up to a 20% cut. Flowers asked if departments will only get a list for their discipline. Dean Giesecke stated that for cross disciplines the Libraries will look to see which serials correspond with a particular discipline and that department will get that list.

Ledder stated that he is concerned because some research areas do not fall neatly within one discipline. He stated that he is afraid that the wrong serials could be cut. Dean

Giesecke stated that the Libraries will review all of the cuts and will make this list available to the faculty. If there is a serial that faculty members feel should not be cut then they can come and talk to the Libraries staff about it. She noted that the idea is to have the list of serials from departments by the end of February so that in March everything can be reviewed.

Dean Giesecke stated that she has informed the administration that these eliminations will be cutting to the core. Ledder noted that these will be painful cuts because the last time serials were eliminated there was some slack but that is not the case now.

Dean Giesecke stated that this situation is happening across the country. She pointed out that some serials have already been moved over to electronic format which saves some money.

Bradford asked if the Libraries were going to inform people about which publishers are inflating their prices significantly. Dean Giesecke stated that they are going to recommend some considerations of who should be cut. Flowers asked if shifting over to electronic format can be part of the decision. Dean Giesecke suggested that if anything can be moved to electronic format it should be done now. She stated that if departments need any particular information they should let the Libraries know and they will provide the information that is needed.

Ledder suggested that one way to make an impact on the publishers is for each department to cut its most expensive journal and then send a letter to the publisher saying why it is being cut.

Bradford asked if the Libraries are involved in encouraging research work to be moving into the public domain categories. He explained that this means moving journals on line so that they are available to anyone. Dean Giesecke stated that the Libraries have been involved in this. She noted that some professional societies have been good about keeping their prices under control.

Ledder stated that one problem for faculty members is that they are rewarded for getting published in high impact journals. Dean Giesecke pointed out that many high impact journals are now on line. Bolin noted that open access journals are very well indexed and have a lot of visibility which should help faculty members.

Dean Giesecke stated that another thing the Libraries are doing to reduce their cost is the involvement in a number of consortium agreements with other institutions. She noted that members in the consortium can get journals from one of the other members in a relatively quick time frame.

Dean Giesecke suggested that departments look carefully at serials that are available only in print. She pointed out that these do not get used very much these days. Ledder asked if there are still subject areas that are available only in print. Dean Giesecke stated that

there are very few. Most are in art or architecture because of the number of illustrations that are in the serial.

Ledder asked if the list provided to the departments will include information on whether the serial is available in print, electronic form, or both and what the costs are for these options. Dean Giesecke stated that most of the information should be provided.

Flowers asked if universities receive any price breaks if they just use electronic format for a serial. Dean Giesecke stated that it depends on the organization.

Bradford asked if the contracts for these serials provide access to only faculty, staff, and students or if the public look at them as well. Dean Giesecke stated that the public can look at the journals but they must do this on campus. She noted that all of the computer terminals in the Libraries except three have public access.

4.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

5.0 Approval of 10/31/07 Minutes

The minutes were approved as amended.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 UNL Representative to COIA

Agenda item postponed until next week.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Administrators Serving on Senate Committees

Bradford reported that he heard from a faculty member who questions why there should be administrators on committees when we are now a faculty senate and not an academic senate. He noted that he informed the professor that only some committees have administrators as members and some committees would not function without these administrators.

Rapkin pointed out that if the administrator has experience and knowledge on the campus they can be very helpful to a committee. LaCost noted that an administrator can be a stabilizing force on a committee. Griffin stated that the majority of the members on committees are faculty members and they can easily out vote an administrator if there were any disagreements. Ledder pointed out that there are students on some committees and he does not see any requirements that there cannot be an administrator on some committees.

7.2 Follow up on Meeting

Rapkin asked if the Committee was going to do anything further about parking. Bradford stated that the question is whether parking should subsidize the transit service. He agreed that the east-city campus route needs to be subsidized but where should this funding

come from. LaCost wondered how the decision was made to have the transit services be part of parking.

Prochaska Cue stated that money from another revenue source needs to be found. She pointed out that at some point parking on campus was free and was subsidized.

Bradford stated that the issue will be put on the agenda for next week. He noted that if nothing else, the Senate could pass a resolution for the university to pick up the tab for parking.

Bradford questioned who is implementing the Safe Assignment policy. Flowers stated that the university's legal counsel looked at the policy to ensure that it was legally correct. Ledder pointed out that it is very clear that a student's name has to be removed from a paper if it goes into the local database. Bolin noted that if a student's paper goes into the program and matches another student's paper it should come up as 100% plagiarized. Ledder stated that if there is a question of two students copying their work then the case should be turned over to Dr. Hecker, Director of Student Judicial Affairs. Flowers noted that Dr. Hecker may have access to the student's names on the local database.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, November 14 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Rick Alloway, Secretary.