

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Alloway, Bolin, Bradford, Fech, Flowers, Hachtmann, LaCost, Ledder, Lindquist, Moeller, Rapkin, Zimmers

Absent: Prochaska Cue

Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Location: Faculty Senate Office

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 3:04 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Voting on ACE Proposals

Bradford announced that the College of Journalism and Mass Communications has approved the ACE proposals. He reported that the Academic Planning Committee of the College of Business Administration has approved the proposals and is forwarding a recommendation to the faculty of the college to vote for the proposals.

Moeller noted that voting on the proposals by all of the colleges is scheduled to be completed by December 13th.

2.2 Donation from the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (NCEA)

Zimmers reported that the NCEA will be increasing their donation to the Faculty Senate to \$1100 this year.

3.0 Approval of 10/24/07 Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes as amended.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Guidelines for Research Faculty Ranks

Bradford pointed out that a copy of the Guidelines was included in the Senator's packet. He stated that he will let the Senate know at the November meeting that changes can still be made to the guidelines. He reported that SVCAA Couture sent over a printout of the number of research faculty members on campus by department. He noted that the total number of research professors is 114 and most of these are assistant professors.

4.2 Senate Representative to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)

Bradford reported that he had discussions with Professor Potuto, UNL's NCAA faculty representative, Professor Logan-Peters, UNL's representative to the COIA and Professor

Gaussoin, former member of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee concerning the COIA.

Bradford stated that the Senate needs to decide whether to continue membership with the COIA and if so, then procedures should be formalized for selecting a representative and establishing the length of term for the representative. He noted that both Potuto and Logan-Peters recommended that whoever is appointed as the representative should be knowledgeable about the issues and will be able to devote time to serving on the Coalition.

Bradford pointed out that the NCAA has faculty representatives but the COIA has representatives from the Faculty Senate of its member institutions. He noted that the COIA currently has 55 members. He reported that almost all of the universities from the Big 10 are members and about five from the Big 12 are members. He stated that the COIA lobbies on academic related athletics issues.

Lindquist suggested that UNL's Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (IAC) look into whether or not UNL should remain a member of the COIA. He stated that the Senate should have more information about the COIA before a decision is made to withdraw from it.

Ledder questioned whether the COIA takes action without the vote of its members. Alloway asked if the COIA is merely an advisory group or whether they directly affect change in NCAA regulations. Rapkin asked what kinds of issues they address. Bradford stated that this information can be found on their website at: <http://www.neuro.uoregon.edu/~tublitz/COIA/>.

Bradford noted that when UNL first joined the COIA principles were developed but the IAC decided that UNL should abstain from endorsing the principles. He pointed out that when UNL joined it was with the knowledge that UNL was already doing many things to resolve the problems listed in the COIA's principles. Griffin noted that UNL is different from many of the other member institutions in the COIA because athletics here is self-supporting and as a result some of the principles did not apply to us.

Bradford stated that if UNL is not going to be participating in the meetings then we should not belong to the organization. Moeller asked if we have participated in the meetings. Bradford stated that the last time the representative went to the meeting was in 2004 or 2005. Zimmers asked if the reason for not going to the meeting was due to a lack of funds. Bradford stated that Professor Logan-Peters did not receive a response back from the President of the Senate as to whether or not the trip would be covered by the Senate.

Ledder questioned what issues the COIA is interested in and what its position is on these issues. Rapkin asked what its relationship is with the NCAA. Bradford reported that one of the things the COIA is interested in is separating academic advising for athletes from athletic departments. He noted that he believed that this might be due to academic fraud

at some institutions. Moeller pointed out that this is not a problem here. She stated that she has worked with and trained the tutors who work with the athletes and she noted that UNL has a very high graduation rate for its athletes.

Bradford asked the Committee to look at the COIA website. He noted that the Committee will discuss the issue again at its November 14th meeting.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Use of Campus Grounds as Outdoor Classrooms

Fech stated that he was approached by Dean Waller of CASNR asking for help in creating a better teaching tool for some departments. He noted that some courses use the campus landscapes as outdoor living laboratories. To improve this outdoor laboratory requests have been made to Landscape Services to plant some specific plants. He was told that Landscape Services has been hesitant to do this. Fech pointed out that Landscape Services was hit hard with the budget cuts in 2003.

Lindquist noted that Agronomy & Horticulture has faculty and students who regularly use the East Campus grounds and Maxell Arboretum as a laboratory, but that conflicts have erupted between faculty and Landscape Services' goals. He pointed out that use of our university grounds as a teaching laboratory makes sense and that improved communication between faculty and Landscape Services could benefit both.

Bradford suggested that the Committee might want to raise the issue with the Chancellor to see if he will endorse it since it is an academic issue. Fech pointed out that it is not just an east campus issue. He noted that departments in the life sciences use the campus landscapes as well.

Fech reported the Friends of the Arboretum, which donates money and is an advocate for the university, is concerned with this issue as well. They feel that the arboretum should be vital to teaching.

Griffin pointed out that the Committee will be meeting with VC Jackson next week and could ask her about the issue since Landscapes Services is under her supervision. Bradford noted that this is an academic issue but it also hits the business side of things.

5.2 Library Serials Budget Cuts

Bradford reported that Dean Giesecke will be meeting with the Committee next week to discuss the budget cuts. He noted that the Libraries are looking to cut 20% of the serials. Bolin stated that the cut is due to the increased cost of the serials.

Ledder asked if departments will receive a list of the serials and be able to recommend which ones to cut. Bolin stated that this will be done.

Ledder noted that these cuts will be painful because the budget cuts done several years ago eliminated obscure journals. He stated that the remaining journals are ones that are relevant to the disciplines.

5.3 November Senate Meeting

Bradford stated that the main topic of business will be the voting on the ACE proposals. He reported that there will be a presentation on the Peace Corps.

5.4 Martin Luther King Freedom Breakfast

Griffin reported that the Senate office received an application to reserve seats at the annual MLK Breakfast that will be held on January 18th. She asked if the Senate wanted to buy tickets as it has done in the past. Bradford suggested that tickets be purchased.

5.5 Review of the Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC)

Lindquist noted that there was recently a review of the ARDC but the Academic Planning Committee (APC) was not involved. He pointed out that the APC typically monitors academic program reviews and questioned why it was not involved with this one.

Bolin stated that Professor Keown raised the same question with the APC. She reported that VC Owens and Dean Cunningham were sent an email asking why the APC was not involved and Dean Cunningham's response was that this was not an academic program review; rather it was an advisory review. She stated that this will be discussed at the next APC meeting.

Lindquist pointed out that, while the ARDC is not related to any undergraduate degree program, the facility is heavily used by IANR faculty and their graduate students because it is their field laboratory.

Rapkin asked how the ARDC was reviewed in the past. Lindquist stated that it has not been reviewed for quite some time and there is a lot of faculty concern about the review. He pointed out that many faculty members do not want to give up control over the parts of the facility whose management is supervised by faculty members within a unit (or the unit itself).

Bolin stated that VC Owens will probably be in attendance at the APC meeting on the 14th when the issue is discussed. She stated that she will report back to the Committee after the APC meeting.

5.6 IANR Guidebook for Search Advisory Committees

Lindquist reported that his department received a draft document on guidelines for search advisory committees in the Institute. He asked whether the Senate would have a role in reviewing these guidelines. Bradford pointed out that the guidelines cannot change anything that is already stipulated in the university guidelines. Rapkin noted that there is a general consensus that there is a real difference between east and city campus in how faculty searches are conducted.

Moeller asked if all of the faculty have had a chance to see the document. Lindquist stated that he assumes that all of the departments received it but he does not know whether the faculty members in the departments have had a chance to review it.

Fech pointed out that there is frustration by many faculty members that the search committee is now only symbolic. Bradford stated that how search committees function is typically a department or college issue. Rapkin noted that departments usually work between themselves and the Office of Equity, Access and Diversity Programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, November 7th 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.