

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Prochaska-Cue, Fech, Franti, Haughtmann, LaCost, Rapkin

Absent: Bradford, Jackson, Ledder, Lindquist, McCollough, Schubert, Zimmers

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2008

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.

SUMMER SESSION PAY:

Prochaska-Cue introduced the topic by pointing out that various faculty were concerned about reductions in compensation for teaching in summer sessions if minimal enrollment levels are not reached.

Professor Paul Savory, Director of Summer Sessions, stated that there are two categories of summer teaching: regular summer session courses taught on campus and courses taught through Extended Education and Outreach (EEO). Each type is paid differently from different sources. The former on-campus courses are the ones that have generated concerns.

Savory reported that UNL just completed the third year of the partial pay policy. Faculty members are paid 2.8 percent of their academic year salary for each student credit hour of the course they teach. For a three credit hour course that works out to 8.4 percent (with a ceiling of \$9000 per course), provided that at least 15 students register for 100-400 level course, 10 students for 400/800 courses, 8 students for 800 level courses, and 7 for 900 level courses.

Savory explained that if enrollment falls below these thresholds the faculty member's pay is reduced by 1/15 (in the 100-400 case) for each student short of 15. Departments have the option of supplementing the reduced pay in order to keep the course and make it worthwhile for the affected faculty member. In summer 2008, 43 courses were cancelled because of low enrollments and 42 were taught for partial pay.

Savory then explained how faculty members are paid for EEO courses in the summer: they receive \$82 for each credit hour per student. For example, for a three credit hour course with 10 students, the faculty member receives $3 \times 82 \times 10 = \2460 . EEO caps the courses at 40 students.

Overall, Savory reported that about 8400 students took some form of summer course, down 1 percent from 2007. Student credit hour production was down 2.7 percent, 3.7 percent for undergraduates and 1.4 percent for graduate students.

Prochaska-Cue asked if there is any way to know earlier if a course is not going to have enough students to avoid being cancelled.

Rapkin related that in the past two summers a 3-week pre-session political science course he has taught just barely snuck past the 15-student limit just before course began.

Savory replied that once the initial enrollment numbers are reported to chairs, there is no good way to anticipate which courses might make it. He pointed out that some chairs had dealt with the problem pro-actively by recruiting students for courses on the border line.

Rapkin said the Political Science department's undergraduate advisor had promoted the course in the department newsletter, and he believes this effort contributed to his course having enough students.

Rapkin then asked if there were any studies of how UNL summer teaching compensation compared with other institutions. Savory replied that there was some data resulting from reporting requirements that UNL participates in, but that there are no significant differences except at the top of the salary distribution (faculty making over \$100,000/year). Fech asked if Summer Sessions participated in "jump start" programs for freshman.

Savory replied that the NU Start program had the capacity to accommodate about 80 students, so there is room for growth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee retreat is next Wednesday, August 20 at 12:05 at the Embassy Suites.

LaCost reported that Nancy Meyer's budget had been cut and she is hard-pressed to maintain Faculty-Student engagement activities. Question: should the Faculty Senate Executive Committee provide some support?

Prochaska-Cue stated that she had been trying to recruit people to fill committees, but has not had much success, perhaps because people are not around in the summer. She will bring committee information to the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fech raised the issue of when in their introduction to UNL do new students first receive information about plagiarism. Apparently it is not handled as part of the new student enrollment process, and seems to be addressed in the introductory library course.

Knowledge about plagiarism and how to avoid it is not a necessary component of new student's entry to the UNL community. How can we remedy this oversight? Fech said he will delve into this issue and report back to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Prochaska-Cue reported that two people from outside the university have expressed that they want to speak to the Faculty Senate. One is a representative of a fraternity that has an admirable philanthropy program, and the other is Earl Scudder who is a candidate in the Board of Regents election. She realizes that having one candidate speak means that we would have to do the same for the other candidates.

Franti related that the new version of Internet Explorer make many UNL web pages appear to be blank; one has to scroll down to find the information below the blank portions. [The old version of Internet Explorer works, as does Firefox.] Why are these websites failing? This will likely be costly in September when there will be heavy internet traffic, including outside users, who will take away a bad impression of UNL. When will UNL computing address this problem? Franti will raise this issue with Meg Lauerman at University Telecommunications.

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Professor Rapkin, Secretary, Faculty Senate.