

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Ledder, Prochaska-Cue

Date: Wednesday, February 6, 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.

1.0 Call to Order

Bradford called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Distinguished Educational Service Award Committee

Bradford announced that he needs a volunteer to serve on the Distinguished Educational Service Award Committee. Bolin volunteered to serve.

2.2 Cancellation of Senate Meeting

Bradford stated that he did not think there would be a quorum at the Senate meeting because of the inclement weather and he did not want to have the extension faculty members trying to get in for the meeting. He noted that the meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday, February 12th. He reported receiving two email messages from senators who said they were happy that the meeting was cancelled. He stated that if anyone gets any complaints they should forward them to him and he will apologize.

Bradford reported that he will be sending comments to SVCAA Couture on the proposed emeritus professor policy immediately after the Senate meeting.

2.3 Deans and Directors Meeting

Bradford reported that he attended the Deans and Directors meeting where Chief Yardley spoke on a threat assessment team that is being created. The team, called BEST for Behavior Evaluation of Situation Team, will deal with any potential threats on campus. Bradford noted that there are no faculty members or students on the team although he does not think this is of particular concern given the responsibilities of the team. He pointed out that creating the team is a result of the tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech.

Fech stated that the team should still have a faculty member's perception. He noted that there was an incident reported just recently of a student observing a gun in another student's backpack.

Bradford reported that SVCAA Couture gave a presentation on strategic planning. He noted that the enrollment management data profile was discussed. He suggested that the committee might want to have someone demonstrate how the data profile works. He reported that the data profile evaluates credit hours and determines how much tuition is generated by each course.

Bradford stated that he spoke at the Dean and Directors meeting asking them to encourage faculty members to do service work. He noted that many of the top researchers on campus do not want to participate in faculty committee work. Moeller pointed out that senior faculty members might be persuading younger faculty members from serving on committees when they tell them to protect their free time. She stated that she encourages junior faculty members to get involved in one or two things because it provides them with the opportunity to meet people in other disciplines. Bradford pointed out that in this time of interdisciplinary work doing service work is a great way to make contact with other people across the campus.

Fech noted that he is currently serving on the Pepsi Endowment Committee and he finds it very interesting. He stated that most of the work is conducted by email but he finds it to be rewarding.

Moeller asked if the legislature is going to provide the university with the \$22 million to get a new student information system. Bradford noted that the Governor agreed to \$10 million provided that the university and state colleges do a single platform system.

Bradford reported that the Chancellor stated that the university will not be paying \$60 million for the state fair grounds and where the state fair grounds is relocated is a separate issue from the university. He noted that nothing new has developed on the proposed technology park. Fech asked if there was discussion concerning the cost of replacing the buildings and when the university would take over if this is approved. Bradford stated that probably many of the buildings will be razed other than the Devaney Sports Center.

4.0 Approval of 1/30/08 Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes as amended.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Sustainability Commission – Draft Syllabus

Bradford reported that he sent the Committee a draft of the syllabus for the Commission and he received comments back stating that it was fine. Moeller asked if there was a compromise with the name of the Commission. Alloway stated that he recently spoke with ASUN President Solheim who claimed that he and Bradford found a good middle ground on this issue and that he enjoyed working with Bradford and the Executive Committee.

Bradford stated that the draft will go to Associate to the Chancellor Susan Poser next. Bradford noted that the Chancellor wants a formal motion from both the Faculty Senate

and ASUN before he will move forward and form the Commission. Bradford stated that a motion can be presented to the Senate at the March 4th meeting.

Alloway asked what the membership breakdown of the Commission is. Bradford stated that the Chancellor will probably make the final decision on this but currently the recommendation is that the voting members will be four faculty members, three students, and two staff members. He noted that he plans on speaking with Associate to the Chancellor Poser regarding who the non-voting members should be.

5.2 Vacation/Sick Leave Issue

Bradford reported that he spoke with the faculty member who raised the issue regarding the difference in vacation and sick leave time for 12 month and 9 month faculty members. He noted that the concern is that 12 month faculty members are given the same flexibility concerning vacations and sick time as 9 month faculty and the 9 month faculty member felt that this was unfair.

Lindquist pointed out that 12 month faculty members are supposed to report their time off through a form filed with ESS. He noted that as far as he knows, most of these faculty members do report their time off.

Bradford stated that the faculty member did not think it was an issue worth pursuing.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Timing Consideration of Debate on Affirmative Active Amendment

Bradford stated that he thought the discussion on the proposed amendment could take place at the September Senate meeting. He noted that this way if a resolution is made in the Senate it would be voted on a month before the elections. He pointed out that it is highly unlikely that the proposed amendment will not be on the ballot. He stated that he thinks it would be more effective for the Senate to take a position on the ballot in the fall.

Bradford noted that there are some Committee members who thought we should discuss it this spring. He pointed out that the Regents and UNMC have passed resolutions opposing the proposed amendment. He wondered whether waiting until September will make us look like we are ducking the issue. Fech stated that there is some concern that if it is discussed in the spring our resolution will get lost among the other ones.

Zimmers asked if the petitions are already out on the proposed amendment. Bradford stated that they are and he is fairly certain that there will be enough signatures.

The Committee agreed that the debate should be held in the fall. LaCost stated that she thinks we should get the conversation going on now so we can go on record as opposing the amendment. Lindquist pointed out that it is possible that a Senator might raise the issue during one of the spring Senate meetings. Bradford stated that if this happens the Senate will deal with it then.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, February 13 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.