

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bradford, Fech, Jackson, LaCost, Lindquist, McCollough, Prochaska-Cue, Rapkin, Schubert, Zimmers

Absent: Franti, Hachtmann, Ledder

Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Location: 201 Canfield Administration Building

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

Prochaska-Cue called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Perlman

2.1 Advisory Board Report on Diversity

Prochaska Cue asked Chancellor Perlman what he thought of the diversity report. Chancellor Perlman stated that he had a staff retreat next week and the report will be on the agenda. There will be discussion on how to move forward with the diversity report and the recommendations made in it. He stated that he thought it was a good, focused report.

Prochaska Cue noted that the Committee saw a copy of the Powerpoint presentation but they have not actually seen the report. Chancellor Perlman stated that part of the discussion will be how or if the report should be distributed. He pointed out that things are a little tricky because the report came from paid consultants. He stated that he has a large binder filled with best practices from departments and he needs someone to go through it and develop a list that can be distributed to departments.

Jackson asked if there is sufficient framework within the report to move forward on a diversity plan. Chancellor Perlman thought the report was pretty good but he does not know what the Vice Chancellors are thinking on how we should proceed with diversity efforts. Prochaska-Cue stated that from what she has seen there was not much information on gender in the report.

Fech asked if the report was just for UNL or whether it involved UNK and UNO. Chancellor Perlman stated that the Advisory Board does two different kinds of reports. The Board has a general report which is distributed four times a year but we can also ask them to do reports on specific issues. He noted that we did send the Board the notebook of best practices. He stated that the diversity report is not tailored to us.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the report lists best practices from universities around the country but some of the descriptions are far beyond what we can do financially.

2.2 Sustainability Commission

Chancellor Perlman stated that he will be appointing members to the Commission and he will ask the Executive Committee for recommendations of possible faculty members. He stated that there are some issues already surrounding the Commission. He noted that he has been petitioned by some students to sign off on a commitment to environmental sustainability and Varner Hall is exploring what to do with sustainability. He stated that the Commission should be up and running by fall.

2.3 Upcoming Issues

Chancellor Perlman reported that there are a few things related to diversity at large going on. He stated that the university is currently working on the academic calendar for the next ten years and there are efforts underway to try and coordinate spring break with the Lincoln Public Schools. He stated that LPS is working hard to get the university to change the timing of spring break. He reported that there may be two or three years where the spring breaks are coordinated. He noted that Associate to the Chancellor Poser will be working on this effort again.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the Connerly petition is out there. McCollough stated that she heard that it is polling well. She asked if faculty members can speak against the petition. Chancellor Perlman stated that faculty members can do anything they want as long as they do it on their own private time and use their own personal equipment to do it.

Chancellor Perlman noted that there is the state fair petition. He stated that he is unsure at this time how to respond to it but he will probably be asked about it.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Regents will approve the budget on June 13th. He stated that he does not think there will be any surprises with it and that it will include a 4.4% faculty salary increase. He noted that the budget will include a tuition increase. He stated that the budget will show a shortfall for UNL of \$5 million, which is larger than we hoped, but that we will be okay. He noted that the environmental cleanup at Mead continues and the resources needed for it are increasing. He reported that there is a shortfall for the new student information system (SIS) budget. He noted that the legislature gave \$20 million for the whole project but \$20 million is needed just for a system at UNL and now it involves the state colleges as well.

Chancellor Perlman stated that so far the search for the new SIS is moving smoothly although it will take awhile to get a new system and to put it in place. He stated that one of the difficulties is to decide what is needed for each campus but what is also common among the campuses. He pointed out that so far the process has been good and people have had a lot of input into it. He noted that the new SIS is an expensive proposition but it impacts just about everything that faculty members do that relates to academics.

Bradford asked what was happening with the student email system and telecommunications. Chancellor Perlman stated that there was a meeting with Microsoft and things are moving along but not as fast as was hoped. He said that Microsoft is being very cooperative and working towards implementation. It is his understanding that the campus is looking for a couple of pilot groups of students to test the email system to see what issues need to be corrected. He reported that the hope is that by fall we will be able to have all entering students on the new email system. He pointed out that only about one or two thousand students can be migrated over at a time. He noted that transferring will probably be done according to class with alumni being done last.

Bradford asked why Microsoft and not Google. Chancellor Perlman stated that email addresses of current students were checked and the majority of the students were already using hotmail. Plus Microsoft will work better with their suite of programs such as Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. He pointed out that when most students graduate they will be working in a Microsoft environment.

Fech asked if the Chancellor had any insight into the rationale behind the state fair petition. He suggested that some people might not have understood the process. Chancellor Perlman stated that he thinks the people behind the petition were not happy with the decision that was made. He noted that the university will have to pay \$21 ½ million for the state fair grounds. He stated that the money will not come from tuition. \$15 million will be paid by the university and the rest will be raised by the foundation. He pointed out that the administration has already pretty much identified where the funds will come from. McCollough asked what will happen if Grand Island cannot come up with the money that is needed to build the state fair grounds there. Chancellor Perlman stated that if that were to happen the Lancaster Events Center could be another viable option.

Lindquist asked where the \$15 million is coming from. Chancellor Perlman stated that some money is from investment income and some is from indirect costs. Jackson asked if part of the money was coming from the sale of lands. Chancellor Perlman stated that the university land at 84th and Havelock Ave. is still an issue. He pointed out that as part of the transaction a pledge was made to provide land for a race track although how much land is needed is not clear. He stated that the university has pledged to work with the horsemen to find a way to move the track. He reported that a planning exercise is underway. He noted that the Lancaster Events Center is designed for horse shows and the administration is looking to see if there are a set of horse people who can work together to plan this transaction. He pointed out that no pricing has been determined yet so we have to wait to see what happens.

Bradford asked what the status is on the telecommunications system. Chancellor Perlman noted that the contract for the telecommunications system is coming up for renewal and with the numerous changes made during the past 11 years a new contract needs to be negotiated. He pointed out that the campus cannot opt for an exclusively cell phone system due to the emergency system that must be in place. Also a cell phone

system would not have a directory. He stated that the recommendation made in the report is to continue doing what the campus is doing now but at a reduced cost. Savings would be used to rewire the campus for potential incorporation of VOIP, but our wiring system currently can't handle that on a large basis.

Bradford asked how long the contract would be. Chancellor Perlman stated that it was recommended that the contract be for a shorter period of time than previous ones. He noted that we had a great contract but with all of the changes in telecommunications it became obsolete.

McCullough stated that she heard that Homeland Security is helping some campuses with funding for telecommunications. Chancellor Perlman stated that he thinks the university gets some money from them through the state.

Bradford asked if there has been any consideration to downsizing the phone system but retaining some limited amount of phones for emergency purposes; the rest go to cell phones. Chancellor Perlman stated that there have been some discussions on this but having a directory would still be a problem.

Schubert asked if anyone from the College of Engineering or Telecommunications were involved in the creation of the report. Chancellor Perlman stated that the report was done by an outside consultant. Schubert asked if there is any chance that someone from the campus can take a look at the report and make comments on it. Chancellor Perlman responded that this makes sense although he is not sure where we are in the process.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Meeting with Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Prochaska-Cue reported that she attended a meeting with Vice Chancellor Franco and some of his staff. She stated that they are definitely interested in the academic dishonesty committee although she likes to refer to it as the academic honesty committee. She reported that Matt Peterson, chair of ASUN's Academic Committee, will be a student member on the academic honesty committee.

4.0 Approval of 5/21/08 Minutes

Bradford moved and Lindquist seconded approval of the minutes as amended. Motion approved.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Academic Honesty Committee

Prochaska-Cue reported that Dean Hecker is still very interested in this committee. She stated that it needs to be reconstituted. Fech asked if there was any way to prevent the committee from derailing again. Prochaska-Cue suggested that a charge be given to the committee. She noted that those who previously worked on the committee felt that there needs to be a focus on education. Fech pointed out that a good time to endear students to academic honesty is with new student orientation.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Professor Zorn's Motion from April 22nd Senate Meeting

Prochaska-Cue reported that Professor Zorn sent a written version of the motion he made at the April 22nd meeting calling for the legislature to support that university's goal of attaining a diverse faculty rather than punishing the university by withholding funds. LaCost pointed out that if people want to change legislation they need to be working with state legislators. Fech noted that the written motion is not what was stated at the Senate meeting. Jackson pointed out that the new motion will need to be presented as a substitution.

6.2 Extension Education

The Committee discussed whether departments are being pressured to offer extension education courses. LaCost noted that every university that has strong engagement courses has put a lot of resources behind it. She pointed out that UNL has a limited number of technology people who can assist instructors with these courses. She stated that if the university wants to make headway in offering these courses they need to support it.

Bradford noted that this an academic issue that the Senate needs to be dealing with. LaCost stated that there is a lot of discussion about the loss of tenure faculty lines in major universities when they focus on extended education. She noted that high school students can substitute a course by taking an on line course and they will be coming to universities expecting to be able to do some of their coursework on line. She stated that some students might want to take online courses because they can avoid dealing with the cost and hassle of parking on campus. She stated that students do pay more for distance education courses but it is less than out-of-state tuition. She pointed out that this is an issue that is going to continue. Bradford stated that there will be a huge generational shift with new students. LaCost stated that engagement in the classroom is very different from engagement with on-line students. She pointed out that there are not enough hours in the day to be responsive to all of these students. Rapkin noted that there was a recent article about the different standards and practices that occur between day students and evening students.

Prochaska-Cue suggested that the Committee might want to meet with the Associate Vice Chancellor of Extended Education & Outreach about the issue. Lindquist suggested that the Committee discuss the issue with SVCAA Couture as well.

6.3 Summer Sessions Pay

Prochaska-Cue stated that another item that needs to be discussed with SVCAA Couture is summer session pay for instructors. She noted that instructors are being paid according to their enrollment for a summer sessions course although she was told that this can vary from college to college. Rapkin stated that he has seen a scale that indicates how much an instructor will get paid according to how many students are enrolled in the course. Fewer students means less pay. McCollough pointed out that reading courses are different in that it is a flat rate but the overall pay for these courses is less. She wondered whether instructors would get paid more if they went over the limit of students.

LaCost stated that there are very specific policies in place for summer school next year. She noted that it is considered harmful if we cancel a class and less harmful if we teach it at less money.

Fech noted that instructors are encouraged to recruit students for their summer session courses. Rapkin stated that his department sent out an email message to students majoring in political science advertising summer session courses.

The issue will be raised with SVCAA Couture when the Committee meets with her on July 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, July 2nd at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and David Rapkin, Secretary.