

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bradford, Fech, Franti, LaCost, Lindquist, McCollough, Prochaska-Cue, Rapkin

Absent: Hachtmann, Jackson, Ledder, Schubert, Zimmers

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2008

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

Prochaska-Cue called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2.0 Parking Advisory Committee (Milford Hanna, Judith Wolfe)

Prochaska-Cue noted that at the April 30th Executive Committee meeting parking and the increase in fees for the upcoming academic year was discussed. She pointed out that some people on campus are upset about the new increases and the Committee has some questions about how the Parking Advisory Committee (PAD) has been involved in providing input.

Hanna stated that the PAD looked at the budget for Parking and Transit Services. He noted that it takes a 50 cent increase per year just to cover inflationary costs. He pointed out that this increase is going to continue to occur irrespectively unless the campus decides it wants to have less parking available on campus. He reported that the additional increase of \$2.00 is to raise funds in anticipation of the new parking structures. He noted that in 2010 the next garage is scheduled to be built and the cost of building that garage will more than likely be higher due to inflation. He stated that one scenario would be to have only a 50 cent increase each year until construction of the garage commences in 2010 at which time there would be a substantial increase in parking fees. The alternative proposal is to start collecting funds now to offset a dramatic increase in 2010.

Hanna stated that there was a lot of discussion in the PAD about the increase in fees. He noted that the students were the ones most against it because most of them will not even be here in 2010. However, when it came to the vote there was no dissension. He pointed out that the PAD is just an advisory committee that makes recommendations to VC Jackson.

Hanna reported that the additional revenue collected from the increase in fees will be going into an interest bearing state account that will be administered by someone outside of the university. He pointed out that the PAD has been assured by the administration that this money can only be used for the building of the new garage in 2010.

Wolfe stated that the PAD voted to approve the increase so it could be proactive rather than reactive. She pointed out that if there were no increases there would be a huge spike in the parking fees in 2010. With a \$2 a year increase there will be well over a million dollars in the fund when construction starts on the new garage. She stated that the 50 cent increase had a lot to do with the price of gas for the buses.

Lindquist asked if Parking and Transit Services is reimbursed for parking spaces lost due to construction on campus. If so, does this money go into the secured account? He stated that this question needs to be answered. Hanna stated that when a new structure is being planned, costs to replace parking are included although he does not know whether this money goes into the secured account and who insures that this takes place. He stated that he is not sure whether the cost to replace the lost parking is based on surface lot costs or garage space costs. He noted that there isn't anywhere else to put surface parking lots on campus so the argument could be made that the recovery costs should be based on the cost for a garage parking space. Lindquist pointed out that replacement should be for garage parking since that is what we are paying for with our parking fees.

Franti noted that the university is getting 240 acres with the state fair grounds. Hanna stated that the PAD might have some discussion on this property. He reported that the intent is that there will be shuttle service from the 19th & Vine Street garage and there could possibly be service to the state fair grounds as well.

Prochaska-Cue asked if the \$2.50 a month increase in fees is likely to continue. Hanna stated that he wouldn't be surprised if that wasn't the proposal for each year.

Hanna stated that the public probably does not know how much university employees and students have to pay each year for parking. He stated that he would be happy to find out the answers about reimbursement costs and where the money goes and report back to the Committee.

McCullough asked if the goal is to get rid of surface parking lots and to keep the two tier system. Bradford stated that what concerns him is that there is cross subsidy going on. He pointed out that people paying for parking in surface lots are helping those who are paying for the garages. He noted that originally the parking garages were to be open to anyone with a university parking permit. Hanna stated that the procedure appears to be a first come, first serve basis. As long as surface parking is available a person could get that rate but when these spaces run out they would have to get the more expensive garage permit. He thinks the PAD having a discussion about why there is a two tiered system would be appropriate. Lindquist pointed out that where a person parks might not be based on preference but rather on proximity to where you work.

McCullough asked how over sold is surface parking. Hanna stated that he is not sure but he knows that it is heavily over sold for student parking because many of them do not remain on campus for an extended period of time. He noted that the oversell is based on surveys of occupancy conducted by Parking & Transit Services.

Prochaska-Cue pointed out that the Committee talked with VC Jackson about a graduated fee schedule but was told that this could not be done. She noted that there is a difference between student parking permit fees and faculty/staff parking permit fees. She wondered whether the same could be done between faculty and staff members since staff are being hit particularly hard by the increased fees.

Hanna stated that this has been discussed at length by the PAD. He noted the PAD has spent many hours with Dan Carpenter, Director of Parking & Transit Services, looking at a fee scale. He noted that there is no obvious easy answer and right now we have a lot of staff members who park on campus. He stated the PAD is aware that parking is too expensive, particularly for the part time employees.

Hanna reported that the PAD looked at how many faculty members and how many staff members buy permits. He stated that the first problem is identifying what amount would be considered a significant reduction for staff permits. The other problem is that, since there are more staff members than faculty members, faculty permits would have to increase significantly to offset the loss of income from the lower-priced staff permits. He pointed out that Parking & Transit Services is not a money generating operation and the fees are based on what is needed for the department to operate.

Prochaska-Cue stated that there were discussions about whether Parking & Transit Services could be more efficient. She noted that revenue is generated from football parking but it was pointed out in a meeting that handicap parking spaces in garages are free during football games. She asked why this is and whether it could be an income stream. Hanna stated that he does not know.

Rapkin noted that gas is at \$4 a gallon and asked whether the idea of carpooling incentives has been revisited. Hanna stated that there has not been a lot of discussion on this and how to encourage carpooling. He pointed out that there are some problems associated with carpooling because sharing a hang tag could be problematical. He noted that current carpooling policy does not cover family members. Wolfe noted that a carpooling pilot program was introduced six months ago and she believes it is still available. She stated that there is a link on the parking website to information about carpooling (<http://parking.unl.edu/facstaff/carpool.shtml>). Bradford asked why family members couldn't carpool. Hanna noted that this is one of the biggest issues since some staff and faculty members are paying two parking permit fees.

McCollough asked what the ultimate goal is for the campus, to have more parking garages. And will the prices ever stop increasing? Hanna stated that the price can never stop rising but it will hopefully rise at a slower rate when the demand for parking levels off. He reported that the long term picture calls for an east campus parking garage.

Lindquist stated that for the long term development plan for the campus it is great that there are replacement costs for the loss of parking but the Executive Committee wants to

know how much that cost is and where this replacement money is going. He stated that there needs to be more accountability with this money.

Bradford stated that one obvious solution is to construct underground parking when a new building is being constructed. Hanna stated that he is guessing that this would be more expensive than the parking garages.

LaCost stated that she is interested in knowing if the PAD has discussed getting additional revenue by charging people for parking to attend events at the Devaney Center or for a hockey game. Hanna pointed out that the state fair park has not been on the PAD's agenda. He noted that faculty and staff members take exception to having to pay for parking on football Saturday when they are paying for the building of the parking garages. He pointed out that many employees feel they should be able to use the lots that they pay for on game days and he doubts the PAD would support charging for parking during basketball games.

McCullough asked if the university subsidizes Startran. Hanna stated that we subsidize its shuttle routes between the campuses.

Hanna thanked the Committee and stated that these discussion points will be put on the PAD's agenda.

Lindquist suggested that the PAD speak to the full Senate in the fall. Bradford stated that he would like to see the press pick up the story of how the employees and students of UNL are paying for the building of the parking garages through the high parking fees.

3.0 Announcements

4.0 Approval of 5/7/08 Minutes

Jackson moved and Fech seconded approval of the minutes as amended. Motion approved.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 AFCON Policy Statement on Tenure

Prochaska-Cue reported that she received a final version of the AFCON policy statement on tenure. She noted that it was approved at their board meeting ten days ago. She reported that AFCON appreciated the Committee's comments and revised the document accordingly.

5.2 Academic Dishonesty

Prochaska-Cue reported that she received an email message from Ryan Hassebrook, ASUN, who noticed the Committee's discussion on academic dishonesty. He wanted to remind her of ASUN's involvement in the Safe Assignment policy. She stated she assured him that students will certainly be involved with the committee on academic dishonesty.

5.3 Meeting with AAUP

Prochaska-Cue stated that she will be inviting the representatives of the local AAUP to come speak with the Committee later this summer. She noted that in fairness to the NSEA, the Committee will meet with them as well.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Advisory Board Company Report on Best Practices in Recruiting Female and Minority Talent

Fech stated that the report presented several possible programs to attain diversity of faculty members but these will require financial resources. He stated that the question is what do we want to give up in order to support these programs because there is no new money to help cover the costs.

Bradford stated that he thought it was a bad idea to have an overriding diversity committee that can change a search committee's recruiting plan. LaCost noted that this is considered a high risk strategy because it could create some faculty discontent. She stated that she would like to know more about what the risks are.

LaCost stated that one of the highlights of the report is that UNL is at the mean and median of 6% for faculty diversity out of the 96 research universities looked at by the Advisory Board. She noted that some of the highest scores for the listed universities was 13% and the lowest was 1%. Bradford pointed out that this information is based on the percentage of African American, Hispanics, and Native Americans but it is not broken down for women.

Bradford noted that the report mentions the possible effects of affirmative action amendments but this is questionable. He stated that what the Advisory Board said about affirmative action was a little too convenient. Lindquist asked if diversity plans can do anything they want provided they follow federal law. Bradford stated no. Federal law requires a minority recruiting plan and timetable but does not require an employer to take minority status into account in hiring.

Franti stated that he thought it was a good idea to videotape presentations made by candidates so people who couldn't make the presentation can see it. Lindquist stated that there should be resources available for a search committee or the university to do things like this. He pointed out that there should be resources for promoting the university to potential candidates. Bradford noted that he thinks the best way to increase diversity is to begin early--go out in the elementary schools in low income areas to talk to students. McCollough stated that she has worked with trying to recruit minority students and there seems to be confusion in these efforts on campus.

Bradford stated that the report indicates that retention is not a serious problem at UNL. Lindquist pointed out that there is a lot of turnover. Rapkin noted that universities are all chasing the same limited pool of candidates.

Prochaska-Cue stated that she did not see much information relating to gender in the report. Instead the theme is on recruiting minority talent. Franti noted that it is a challenge for his department to hire minorities because there are so few in the field.

Rapkin speculated whether the proposed programs would spread responsibility down to the department levels or will they instead concentrate authority at a more centralized administration level.

Franti asked if international faculty members are considered as a minority. McCollough stated that they must be a citizen in order to count as a minority.

6.2 Student Engagement Group Meeting

LaCost reported that she met with Nancy Myer, Director of Organization Development and Tim Alvarez, Assistant VC for Student Affairs, to discuss putting together a workshop in September on how to engage students in class. She noted that tentatively the workshop is scheduled for September 11th but the first Senate meeting in the fall is on September 9th and she would like the Senators to help encourage faculty members to attend the workshop. She stated that she would be open to suggestions of when to have the workshop. The Committee suggested having it on September 18th.

McCollough asked if there were specific things that the administration wants to have faculty members engage the students in. LaCost stated that there is a National Student Engagement survey that is conducted. The survey asks college students questions regarding life on campus, interaction with faculty members, and how much time they spend on their coursework. She noted that Myers stated that there are some funds available for development of the workshop.

Bradford suggested that the Senate should be involved in promoting the workshop and encourage people to attend it. Griffin suggested that the invitation to attend the workshop come from the Senate. LaCost noted that Griffin has agreed to assist in the pre-registration for the workshop and to provide some preliminary information on it.

LaCost stated that she will be meeting with Myers and Alvarez again to do more planning for the workshop.

6.3 Board of Regents Meeting

Fech reported that the Regents had an on campus site visit to UNMC. He noted that Creighton University has established a Sustainability Commission. He stated that they have some good ideas about sustainability and this could possibly be used as a resource for UNL's Sustainability Commission. The Committee agreed to ask Chancellor Perlman about the status of this Commission.

Bradford noted that Professor Gaussoin will be attending the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics annual meeting and he should be invited to speak to the Committee about it.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, June 4th 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.