

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Konecky, Ledder

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 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

Prochaska-Cue called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Possible Meeting with President Milliken

Griffin reported that President Milliken's office called to inform us that he could not make any of the remaining Executive Committee meetings this semester to discuss the cancellation of Dr. Ayers' visit. She stated that President Milliken's office indicated that they would contact President Prochaska-Cue to see if a different time could be identified.

3.0 Approval of 11/5/08 Minutes

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

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Senate Resolution in Investigation of Dr. Ayers' Visit

Bradford stated that he contacted the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) organization to ask if they would handle an investigation of the cancellation of Dr. Ayers' visit. He noted that he communicated with the Director of Individual Rights Defense Program for FIRE and sent him a copy of the Senate resolution. Bradford said FIRE might be willing to do an investigation, but they didn't make a definite commitment. Bradford reported that FIRE sent a letter to President Milliken asking for an explanation for the cancellation of Dr. Ayers' visit.

Rapkin asked if we wanted to restrict ourselves to offering just one investigating agency in the resolution. Prochaska-Cue stated that she has not received a response back from the AAUP although she has sent an email message to the head of it.

Rapkin asked if there was information on the web about this organization. Bradford stated that there is

(<http://www.thefire.org>). Franti asked if they do any type of investigation. Bradford stated that the organization can intercede on behalf of faculty members. Franti asked if anyone at the university belonged to this organization. Bradford stated that he did and AFCON (Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska) includes some of its reports in the AFCON newsletter.

Prochaska-Cue noted that there is going to be a teach-in on Friday at the Cultural Center on academic freedom. She reported that this is a forum where people can make comments.

Bradford stated that no changes should be made to the resolution at this time. Lindquist suggested having some kind of alternative if the AAUP is not willing to conduct the investigation. Bradford stated the Committee might want to amend the resolution to allow the President to negotiate the investigating party.

Lindquist noted that the issue is not going to fade away. Rapkin pointed out that this method of preventing a controversial guest speaker from talking at the university has been confirmed as a successful method by the administration's decision to cancel Dr. Ayers' visit. Bradford stated that if something like this occurs again it will be a real problem for the university.

McCullough stated that she was surprised when even her neighbors were asking her what is going to be done about the cancellation.

Prochaska-Cue noted that she spoke with the Omaha World Herald about the incident and stressed to the reporter that the sharing of ideas and free debate are the premises for any university. Unfortunately, the Omaha World Herald did not include her statement in the recent article on the incident.

4.2 Faculty Salary Survey

The Committee continued working on developing a short survey on faculty salaries.

4.3 Office of Research Policy on Research Misconduct

Lindquist pointed out that a representative from the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee should be on the ad hoc committee that will be working on revising the policy. The Committee agreed. Members of the ad hoc committee will be: Professor Lindquist, Agronomy & Horticulture; Professor LaCost, Educational Administration; Associate Vice Chancellor Espy; Human Research Protection Program & Research Compliance Director Vasgird; and Associate to the Chancellor Poser; and a representative from the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Executive Committee Agenda for November 19th

The Committee identified agenda items for the November 19th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, November 19th at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield

Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and David Rapkin, Secretary.