

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Bradford, Franti, Hachtmann, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, McCollough, Rapkin, Schubert, Zimmers

**Absent:** Fech, Ledder, Prochaska-Cue

**Date:** Wednesday, November 19, 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.

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### 1.0 Call to Order

Bradford called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

### 2.0 Chancellor Perlman/SVCAA Couture/VC Owens

#### 2.1 Decision on Financing for Whittier, Nanotechnology, and Animal Science Buildings

Chancellor Perlman reported that UNL has signed a construction contract. Currently, the Board of Regents is considering increasing the authorized interest rate in order to facilitate financing. He stated that the nanotechnology and animal care facility are more “up in the air.”

#### 2.2 Overhead Money from Research Grants

Bradford posed the question of where does the overhead money from research grants go. Chancellor Perlman replied that there is a set policy regulating overhead monies. There is a small percentage that comes off the top, and another small part to cover possible utilities shortfalls. The rest is distributed in equal one-third portions to the Vice Chancellor for Research, deans and department chairs, and principal investigators, respectively. Chancellor Perlman further reported that he had no idea no specific information on how deans, chairs and principal investigators spend these monies.

#### 2.3 Wellness Program Credits

Chancellor Perlman reported that he had not seen or heard anything recently about this topic.

#### 2.4 Budget Outlook/Potential Cuts

Chancellor Perlman stated that we are certainly in a bad economic environment, but he has not heard any suggestions that UNL will face budget cuts if the economy does not turn around. He is guessing that we will get through the current budget fine, but that the next biennial is likely to be difficult.

## **2.5 Update on Cross-Listed Course Policy (SVCAA Couture)**

[SVCAA Couture was not present, but she had briefed Chancellor Perlman on the issue prior to this meeting.] Chancellor Perlman stated that it really does not matter what the policies are because we do not do make budget decisions on the basis of credit hour production. Presently the practice is to divide the credit hours for a given cross-listed course proportionally among the departments involved according too how many students register for the course from each department. But credit hours can also be allocated to the departments actually doing the teaching. So, the campus is able to report credit hours from cross-listed courses allocated across departments by either method, and the deans are able to get reports accordingly.

## **2.6 84<sup>th</sup> Street Development - Research Land & Equestrian Center (VC Owens)**

(VC Owens not present). Lindquist posed the question: How will the land that will be built on be replaced in compensation? Chancellor Perlman stated that there are special requirements for this type of research land and that he is well aware of its importance. If UNL builds on the eastern portion of the property, that is east of 84<sup>th</sup> St, then it would still be possible to carve out a strip that could be sold for commercial development. UNL could also sell land west of 84<sup>th</sup> Street, and buy land elsewhere at “farmland” prices. The net difference could also finance the equine research facility.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that UNL’s animal science programs have relatively few students compared to other animal science programs. This is because UNL lacksan equine program. There is a number of other reasons why this would likely be an exciting program, especially if we can do it with existing resources.

## **2.7 Action Being Taken on Email Threats**

Chancellor Perlman conveyed that he is not aware of anything that is being done. He did not know whether there were threats that could be prosecuted but he did know the courts have very strict limits on what threats can be prosecuted. The Threat Assessment team’s techniques do not depend on individual threats. The team looks at various aspects of each situation, not alone at the content of individual threats.

## **2.8 Upcoming Issues**

Chancellor Perlman stated that he had sent to President Prochaska-Cue materials relevant to the search for a Chief Information Officer (CIO). He would like a quick response from the Senate excom to his proposed changes. Specifically, Chancellor Perlman wants to have the CIO report directly to him as Chancellor. Second, he wants to change the title of the position to Chief Campus Information Officer. The new position will not be at the vice chancellor level; instead it will be at the director level. Third, Chancellor Perlman wants the job description to

emphasize that this is not just an administrative position that manages campus information services. The person in this new position will also be responsible for strategic planning.

### **3.0 Announcements**

Schubert announced that two bids had been received for the new beverage contract.

### **4.0 Approval of 11/12/08 Minutes**

The minutes of the 11/12 meeting were approved.

### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **5.1 Resolution on Investigation of Dr. Ayers' Visit**

There is no new information on this issue. All agreed that we will need to consult with President Prochaska-Cue to learn what she has found out about the prospect that the AAUP will come to UNL to investigate whether the disinvitation of William Ayers amounts to a breach of academic freedom. Lacost observed that Chancellor Perlman's concern that he had had to make a decision while being 13 time zones away made more sense when we consider that Dean Kostelnik was going to China just when Chancellor Perlman was returning. From this perspective the Chancellor's decision, had he waited would still have had to be made under suboptimal conditions without the presence of all major participants. Rapkin suggested that we propose to have the Faculty Senate President included on the Threat Assessment team. Konecky and others thought that it might not be appropriate or necessary for the Senate President to be an actual member, but all agreed that some sort of consultative role would be a desirable institutional response to the Ayers' episode and how it unfolded. All agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting

#### **5.2 Faculty Salary Survey**

Schubert opened consideration of this topic with the observation that the survey instrument was way too complicated, and that he and most other engineers likely would not complete it. There ensued a spirited debate touching on many aspects of the survey, including whether we are attempting to gauge the intensity of faculty feelings on the salary issue, or; find out how (dis)satisfied faculty are with their salaries, or; determine faculty support for different principles (merit or equal percentage increases)

### **6.0 New Business**

No new business was considered.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> in the City Campus Union. The minutes are respectfully submitted by David Rapkin, Secretary.