

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Eccarius, Fech, Franti, Hachtmann, Konecky, Lindquist, McCollough, Prochaska-Cue, Rapkin, Zimmers

Absent: Bradford, LaCost, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Location: 201 Canfield Administration

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 Chancellor Perlman, SVCAA Couture, and Vice Chancellor Owens

2.1 Fall Enrollment

Chancellor Perlman stated that if you compare the deposit numbers this year with the numbers from last year you will see that we are down about 250 students which is about the same amount of increase in enrollment that we had last year. He reported that new students have until May 1st to make a deposit and it is possible that due to the economy, people are waiting until then to make their deposits. He pointed out that Admissions is seeing more students wanting to stay up in Omaha. He stated that he appreciates how hard the deans and faculty members have worked to be proactive in helping with recruiting. He noted that the administration has some other ideas on how to be proactive but he is expecting that there might be some decline in enrollment this year.

Prochaska-Cue stated that she has heard that we are losing the bottom third of the top half of Omaha students. Chancellor Perlman agreed and stated that these are the students that are not on scholarships or financial aid.

Konecky asked if there is the expectation that there might be an increase in transfer students who might be returning home because of economic issues. Chancellor Perlman stated that he has not heard any figures about transfer students which led him to believe that the number of these students is not significant. He pointed out that often when students go to a four-year university they feel connected to it and they usually want to stay with their college of choice.

2.2 Possible Senate Motion on Faculty Salary Increases

Prochaska-Cue noted that the Forecasting Board comes out with its report on April 24th. Chancellor Perlman stated that the budget will actually go to the floor of the legislature the week before the report is made public. [He learned subsequently that the budget may come out the Monday after the Forecasting Board's report.]

Prochaska-Cue reported that she received an email suggesting that the Senate should pass a motion regarding no faculty salary increases. She stated that the Executive Committee will discuss this suggestion.

2.3 Update on Review of Life Sciences

Vice Chancellor Owens reported that he was unable to attend the campus visit of the review team due to illness, but he heard that the review was good, fair, and that the reviewers were well qualified and very interested in what we have done here. He noted that a request has been made to ensure that we get a life sciences curriculum together that can be agreed on by all of the deans.

Lindquist pointed out that there was a newspaper article that appeared on the day the life sciences review team arrived. Chancellor Perlman stated that the article demonstrates that some people have strong feelings about this matter. Lindquist stated that the concern of some faculty members with the life sciences review is the impression that these few people are the only ones anyone is listening to. Perlman observed that he could not control what the press does or who they talk to.

2.4 Status of English Proficiency Requirements

SVCAA Couture stated that the process is still moving along. She reported that there was a workshop in March about English proficiency requirements and there was great faculty and staff turnout for it. She stated that the campus is still working on what the appropriate cuts scores should be for the TOEFL exam, and what would determine whether students' English is good enough to allow them be admitted on a conditional basis and take English as a Second Language (ESL) courses for credit. She reported that the Department of English is working on developing the ESL courses which can be offered for credit.

2.5 Status of Proposal to Adopt Best Practices to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Faculty

SVCAA Couture noted that when she met with the Executive Committee in February she discussed how the proposal has been modified based on the Committee's suggestions. She reported that the deans are having a quarterly retreat on Tuesday and there will be discussions on the timeline for implementing strategies for achieving best practices. She noted that in the next strategic planning cycle, deans will be asked to produce a report on how the strategies have been adopted and implemented in their colleges.

2.6 Issues on the Horizon

SVCAA Couture reported that at the deans' retreat there will also be discussion about how colleges are to benchmark their progress in achieving college goals. She stated that some sample benchmarks have been submitted by each of the deans to help them measure over time their progress in achieving strategic priorities.

SVCAA Couture stated that quality indicators are going to be a topic of discussion. She stated that the administration has finally reached a format for reporting the quality

indicators that is much more readable and says more about how we are doing. She stated that some charts used in the quality indicators might be selected for discussion about how we might positively affect some of the indicators and use them to reach some of our goals. She reported that the UNL administration also wants to look at the indicators as they relate to the Board of Regents strategic framework.

VC Owens stated that there will be an IANR faculty forum to discuss the budget. He reported that there will be discussion on general principles. He noted that the forum will be held on east campus and will be electronically distributed to other parts of the state.

Chancellor Perlman reported that this weekend is Husker Spirit days in addition to the spring football game. He stated that the Alumni Association is running a two-day event in which many departments and colleges are participating. He stated that he will be giving a state of the union address, mainly for alumni, but faculty and others are welcome to attend.

Chancellor Perlman reported that this year is his five year review. He noted that President Milliken is having reviews of the Chancellors conducted on a five year rotation. He stated that the process is utilizing a consultant from California. He noted that he was interviewed by the consultant and there will be 20 – 25 interviews conducted with other people. The consultant has also done a focus group with 10 – 12 faculty members. He pointed out that external constituents will be included as well.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the consultant will be using a very structured interview process. He noted that he did not want to be in the position of picking which faculty members should be participating in the interviews. He agreed with President Milliken that if there is an elected college committee that could participate in the interviews the chair of that committee should be interviewed and if there is not an elected committee, one of the elected members of the Senate representing that unit.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that this reviewing process will be a precedent for the future in how the Chancellors are reviewed.

Innovation Campus

Chancellor Perlman stated that a motion will be made at the Board of Regents meeting in April to approve the firms that have been selected to provide the master plan and business strategy for Innovation Campus. He stated that he is pleased with the talent that the firms have assembled to work on the project. He noted that the firms will be announced publicly on Friday. He stated that the firm selected to do the master plan has had a lot of experience in planning research parks associated with universities.

Chancellor Perlman stated that this is a fast process because the plans must be done by December 1st. He stated that as a result of the short timeframe not everyone will have a chance to interact as much as he would have liked. He noted that one question is what role the faculty should play in this process as we move towards a master plan and strategy for Innovation Campus. He noted that the firms will be coming back in a week and a half

to talk with the Mayor, 2015 Visioning Group, and Vice Chancellor Paul. He stated that he thinks the firms will want to talk with active research faculty members when they are in the process of gathering data. He noted that once the firms have tentative plans and have more of a strategy of what the campus will look like, there ought to be significant faculty input. He stated that there will probably be some open forums at that time.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he will be forming a steering committee for the project. He noted that the chair of the Academic Planning Committee (APC) will be on the steering committee. He stated that at some point there will be more direct involvement of the faculty, especially on the research side. He stated that if people feel that we are being too restrictive changes can be made but we do need to move quickly on the project.

Chancellor Perlman reported that there is interest within the Board of Regents to see whether the workload of our campuses compares to those of our peers. He stated that Varner Hall is exploring use of the Delaware Study as a potential tool in assessing comparative workload. He noted that you can easily find information on the Delaware Study by doing a search on the internet.

2.7 Senate Motion on Budget Reduction Process

Lindquist noted that not all of the links on the Chancellor's website referring to the budget reduction procedures and documents work. He asked where we are in the budget cutting process and whether the APC has been consulted about budget cutting proposals as stipulated in Phase II part 5 of the procedures. Chancellor Perlman stated that he will look into the links on the website. He stated that we are at the stage where the deans have reported to the vice chancellors and there is some talking, but he does not want to go any further with the process until we know what is going to happen with the budget.

Lindquist asked if this phase of the procedures, where the APC and then the Executive committee of the Faculty Senate, the UNOPA and UAAD Presidents, and ASUN representatives are consulted, would not happen until June. Chancellor Perlman stated that it cannot happen before June because the Board of Regents does not meet until June 12th. He pointed out that the APC will not be able to hold meetings until September when everyone is back on campus.

Lindquist asked if the intention is to allow time for the APC, the Senate Executive Committee and these other groups to review the budget reduction proposals before public notification is made. He noted that this would allow the two committees some time to react to those proposals. Chancellor Perlman stated that he needs to review the procedures to be sure, but this sounds like good advice.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he has always felt that it was best if he owns these cuts, in other words that the responsibility for making the cuts rests on his shoulders, not on the faculty. He stated that if the APC decides to negotiate the procedures, then things could change. Lindquist stated that he personally agrees with the Chancellor taking full responsibility for the cuts, but a primary point of concern is that faculty members feel that they are not being allowed any input into the cuts.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he will comply with the current procedures. He stated that the process used in 1991 was very different; the campus owned the responsibility of making budget cuts. He stated that the discussions were long and heated and unproductive and they paralyzed the campus. Everyone involved at that time felt that the current procedures were a better way to proceed. He noted that there are limits to the current procedures and that they are not perfect. He reported that the biggest restraint to the procedures is not being able to discuss what the options are in terms of budget cuts. He stated that it is very difficult to participate in a debate about the budget without telling the APC what the other options are if things are to be cut. He pointed out that it is dangerous to reveal what might be cut because this can lead to problems for that unit or program. He noted that departments that were tentatively identified as being cut in previous budget cuts are still having some problems in moving forward. He stated that he has never heard of a situation where one party can withdraw their support from a rule or procedures and resurrect old procedures.

Lindquist noted that one of the good things about this motion is that it will encourage faculty to look carefully at the procedures.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Lincoln Journal Star Article and Interview

Prochaska-Cue reported that she spoke with the reporter from the Lincoln Journal Star for 45 minutes yet only two comments she made were used on faculty salaries. She stated that the main point that she was trying to get across is that most faculty members have not received the average salary raise that has been distributed in the past few years. She stated that she is thinking of writing a letter to the editor of the Lincoln Journal Star to clarify the situation with faculty salary increases. She noted that the table that was developed by Past President Bradford last year showed that actual raises were more in the 1 – 2% range. McCollough noted that the Journal Star's article makes it seem that all faculty members are getting \$80,000 a year, but this is not the case.

3.2 AAUP Meeting

Prochaska-Cue reported that there will be another AAUP information meeting on Friday, April 17th.

4.0 Approval of 4/1/09 Minutes

Konecky moved and Eccarius seconded approval of the minutes as amended. Motion approved.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Interview with James Hoffman, Candidate for Dean of CBA

The committee interviewed the first of three candidates for the Dean of CBA.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, April 22nd at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office.

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