

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bolin, Fech, Flowers, Franti, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, Prochaska-Cue, Rapkin, Shea, Stock

Absent: McCollough, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2009

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

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

2.0 Announcements

Rapkin reported that the subcommittee looking into the disinvitation of Dr. Ayers has completed its report and Professor Bryant, chair of the subcommittee, will be making a presentation to the Faculty Senate on September 1st. Prochaska-Cue noted that the latest edition of the AFCON newsletter includes a well-written piece by Professor Ball about AFCON and Dr. Ayers. She reported that Professor Moshman has completed a book on academic freedom.

3.0 Minutes of 8/19/09

No objections were made to the minutes.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Executive Committee Goals for 2009-2010

The Committee reviewed and made final changes to the 2009-2010 goals. The goals will be distributed electronically to the Senate.

4.2 Research Advisory Board

Griffin reported that she spoke with Tausha Ward Armbruster, Executive Assistant in the Office of Research, about the Board and learned that it is a much larger group than the Research Council. The Board acts as an advisory group to the Office of Research and provides input to VC Paul on how faculty can be helped with research efforts. The Board also provides advice on different research events. Members of the Board are selected by VC Paul. Griffin stated that she was informed that no minutes are taken at the meetings.

Shea stated that it sounds like the Research Council's role is limited while the Research Advisory Board's role is broader. He pointed out that he is not objecting to the idea of the Board but little is known about it.

Fech asked if it would be desirable for the Faculty Senate to have a member on the Advisory Board. Shea stated that it would be good because the Faculty Senate representative could provide some input and could also keep the Senate informed of what is going on. He asked if there was any information on the web about the Board. Griffin reported that she was unable to find any information on-line about the Board. Shea questioned how faculty members could provide input to the Board if they do not know who is on it. He stated that the Executive Committee should request that a Faculty Senate representative be appointed to the Board.

Flowers stated that he thinks the Board may be have been formed to facilitate interdisciplinary research on campus. Fech stated that he will contact VC Paul to request that a Faculty Senate representative be appointed to the Board.

4.3 Meeting with Meg Lauerman, Director of University Communications

Fech reported that he and Stock will be meeting with Meg Lauerman next week to discuss how the Senate and the Office of Communications can coordinate efforts to communicate the work of the faculty to the public.

4.4 Stem Cell Research Question

Fech reported that he has not found any further information from UNMC or UNO regarding any resolution on stem cell research. He noted that he will probably find out more on Friday when he and the other Faculty Senate Presidents meet President Milliken for lunch.

4.5 Graduation Information from Big 12 Schools

Fech reported that he asked the Faculty Presidents of the Big 12 schools about the attendance of faculty at graduation ceremonies. The response he received is that Baylor and Texas A&M faculty are heavily invested in the graduation ceremony. He noted that very large schools, such as the University of Texas, have graduation ceremonies for each college and the faculty were more involved with the ceremony.

4.6 Garcetti vs. Ceballos

Fech reported that he asked Professor Bradford to provide input regarding the Garcetti vs. Ceballos case that dealt with a public official's speech during employment being protected by the First Amendment. Fech noted that Professor Bradford provided some information on the case.

4.7 Election to Committee on Committees

Fech announced that an election needs to be held in the Senate for a representative to the Committee on Committees. Since no one has volunteered to serve from the Senate, the Committee identified potential candidates. Griffin will check with them to see if they are willing to run for election.

5.0 New Business

5.1 September 2nd Executive Committee Meeting

The Committee discussed agenda items for its September 2nd meeting with Chancellor Perlman, SVC Couture, and VC Owens.

5.2 Adding a Retirement Fund Option

Fech reported that he recently received an email message from a faculty member asking if the University would consider an option of allowing an employee to put some of her/his retirement contribution into a Roth IRA. He stated that this was mentioned to Greg Clayton, Director, Benefits & Risk Management, who stated that the university looked into this option but decided not to go with it.

The Committee agreed that the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee should look into this issue.

5.3 Lunch Meeting with President Milliken

Fech reported that he and the other Faculty Senate Presidents will be meeting with President Milliken on Friday. The Committee discussed possible topics of discussion for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and David Rapkin, Secretary.