

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Bolin, Flowers, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 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 2:35 p.m.

2.0 Susan Fritz, Co-Chair with David Wilson of the International Programs Advisory Council (IPAC)

IPAC is currently formulating objectives and benchmarks as part of a broader process of developing a strategic vision for UNL's international programming. Toward this end, IPAC is seeking feedback from different stakeholder groups, including the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, by August 28. In particular IPAC seeks the exec committee's views on four questions (see green sheet and other materials distributed at the meeting):

1. Which benchmarks should receive the highest priority?
2. Where should responsibility for the benchmarks be assigned?
3. What issues do we need to consider in order to ensure success?
4. Should any of the benchmark figures (targets) be adjusted?

Prochaska-Cue pointed out that the objectives and benchmarks were too ambitious. Others opined that they were too numerous and therefore lacked the sort of focus necessary for strategic purposes. Rapkin commented that there were very few explicit references to funding and other kinds of internal

and external support, and that the document must therefore be making heroic, but implicit, assumptions about funding. Prochaska-Cue asked if faculty will be rewarded for participating in IPAC activities? Fritz answered in the affirmative. Rapkin also pointed out, as a matter of spin with substantive implications, that the document seemed to be framed almost entirely in terms of “international” programs, but that this term – which formally denotes relations among territorial states – is less and less descriptive. Where possible, IPAC should construe its activities in terms of “transnational” and global(ized) processes.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Fech reported on his trip to a national AAUP meeting at Macalester College in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He circulated some materials to the committee via surface mail, so we should be receiving them shortly. One topic raised at the meeting was the US Supreme Court’s ruling in the Garcetti case. The implication of this case, in Fech’s view, is that we probably have less academic freedom than we think we do. Fech wondered how UNL compares to other institutions, including its peers, in terms of academic freedom. Fech also reported on the trend toward greater use of the term “contingent” faculty to describe the various types of nontenured faculty increasingly employed in American universities.

Fech announced that largely due to the efforts of Kathy Prochaska-Cue, the new RIF committee is up and running. Its first meeting is scheduled for September 2.

Fech asked for help in deciding what kind of advice to give to the new senators.

Fech asked if the executive committee had further suggestions for what should be included in the committee’s report on its summer activities. All present thought it looked OK, though some minor points were added.

4.0 Minutes of 7/22/09

The minutes of the July 22 meeting were not approved, as Pat Shea raised some questions concerning the language describing executive committee participation in administrative performance reviews and passage 5.3

concerning the Research Advisory Council. Approval of the minutes is pending clarification of these matters.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Research Council Members

Fech was given a list of areas and names of nominees drawn from these areas by the Committee on Committees. He seeks the executive committee's advice on choosing from among these candidates.

5.2 NU Online Worldwide

We will invite Kristin Grosskopf to return to follow up on questions raised at our recent meeting with her and Paul Savory.

6.0 New Business

The question of the executive committee's goals for the '09-10 AY was deferred until our retreat. If you have some ideas in the meantime, send them to John Fech.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35.