

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Bolin, Stock

Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2009

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.

1.0 Call to Order

Fech called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Perlman and Vice Chancellor Owens

2.1 Budget Update

Chancellor Perlman stated that he does not know anything different yet about the budget. He noted that the university's budget increase has been pushed back to 1.5% and the state budget has gone through the first reading without any changes in the legislature. He stated that the K-12 issue is going to pass. He pointed out that there is still the uncertainty of tuition and salary increases which will need to be decided on by the Board of Regents.

Fech asked if the Chancellor had any idea when the second reading of the budget will take place. Chancellor Perlman stated that it will have to be within the next week or so because the legislature has to give the budget back to the Governor by the end of May. He pointed out that it is unknown what the Governor will do with the budget.

2.2 Fall Enrollment Update

Chancellor Perlman reported that the fall enrollment is better than when he last reported and the gap has narrowed between last year's figure and this year's figure for incoming freshmen. He pointed out that the increased numbers is the result of a lot of good work by the faculty, deans, and admissions office. He stated that he does not think we are done yet with admissions and the hope is that we will get another 100 or 150 students signed up this summer. He noted that some international students sign up late although we will still have less new students than last year.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the ratio between residents and non-resident students is where there has been the biggest change. He stated that the biggest gap is with non-resident students which will have an impact because these students pay higher tuition rates.

Chancellor Perlman reported that he attended the Omaha World Herald's Academic All State Team event this past weekend which honors top high school scholars from the eastern Nebraska, western Iowa, Omaha, and greater Nebraska areas. He noted that UNL is getting quite a few of these students but what was interesting to note is that many of the students plan on going into mathematics or engineering. He pointed out that we will not know how many students will be enrolled in our Omaha engineering program because they apply through UNO.

Fech stated that he was asked a question by one of our constituent groups if anything was being done to recruit the students who are in the lower third of the upper half students. He pointed out that these are good students but they do not qualify for scholarships. Chancellor Perlman stated that he is not aware of anything different being done.

2.3 Update on Searches for Dean of Law and Dean of CBA

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Law College Dean search was over but not successful. He stated that a new search will begin again in September. He noted that the search committee might look at some targeted candidates over the summer but this will be up to the Law faculty to decide. Franti asked why the search was unsuccessful. Chancellor Perlman stated that a match between the candidates and the College of Law couldn't be found.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the CBA Dean search is still in process. He stated that one of the candidates will be returning for a second interview partly due to the fact that he was unable to interview the person when he was on campus.

2.4 Global Water Institute

VC Owens reported that a two day conference, The Future of Water for Food, was recently held which brought experts in from across the country and around the world to discuss the proposed initiative suggested by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Robert Daughtery Foundation. He noted that Jeff Raikes of the Gates Foundation was the keynote speaker. He stated that there was a lot of discussion at the conference on transformational plants. He stated that there were many positive comments about UNL's expertise on water and food production. He stated that a paper will be written that will examine further the possibility of the ideas generated at the conference.

VC Owens stated that worldwide \$84 million will be put into this effort. Franti asked if an announcement was made regarding the \$84 million grant. McCollough asked if UNL was going to receive the grant. VC Owens noted that UNL is the only institute talking about creating a Global Water Institute. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that no commitments have been made from anyone yet for this project.

2.5 Meeting with Associate to the Chancellor Poser When the Chancellor Needs to Cancel

Fech noted that the Chancellor is the main pipeline of information for the Executive Committee and that the Committee truly appreciates visiting with the Chancellor as often as it can. He stated that he hopes that the Committee can meet with the Chancellor more

often this coming academic year. He noted in the past that the Chancellor had indicated that the Committee could possibly meet with the Associate to the Chancellor if the Chancellor cannot attend a meeting. He asked if this would be possible to do with Associate to the Chancellor Poser.

Chancellor Perlman stated that most of the information he receives is from the Vice Chancellors but if there are specific issues that Associate to the Chancellor Poser can address, the Executive Committee can meet with her. In general, however, the Chancellor felt that meeting with the Vice Chancellors is the more appropriate course when he is unavailable. Fech stated that the point is to meet with the Chancellor regularly and not to have a substitute as a common practice.

Chancellor Perlman noted that this has been a particularly busy year for him with traveling although this may not change because some things warrant him traveling more. He stated that he will do his best to meet with the Committee. He pointed out that there are others ways the Committee can meet with him besides personal appearances. He stated that he tries to answer all his email messages or suggested that the Committee send him concerns so he can at least send comments if he cannot attend a meeting.

Shea suggested that, if possible, a conference call can be placed with the Chancellor if he is out of town. Chancellor Perlman stated that would be fine if his schedule would permit it.

2.6 Issues on the Horizon

Lindquist asked the Chancellor if he had any thoughts regarding the life sciences review report. Chancellor Perlman stated that he thinks it is a helpful document in terms of some areas in which people think we can build expertise and be successful in terms of visibility. He noted that the document is helpful in terms of articulating the importance of the molecular sciences and overall thrust of our efforts. He stated that he thought it was a balanced report.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he thinks the team identified that there is still some misunderstanding and suspicion between the city campus and east campus units in the life sciences. He noted that the review team was not able to see a reason for the suspicion. He pointed out that they are looking at the situation from an outside perspective. He stated that there is great talent and strong ambition on both of the campuses.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the Global Water Institute conference demonstrated so clearly how the life sciences are so critical to agriculture, but the issues facing food production world wide can't be solved by just the units in agriculture. Geosciences and computer sciences are needed and human behavior, which will involve some of the social sciences, will have to change as well in order for the people of the world to be fed. In order to work collectively old standing barriers among some disciplines will need to be broken down. He stated that he believes there is a lot of cooperation in our efforts in the life sciences.

VC Owens noted that the report stated that our animal research facility is in poor shape which makes us less competitive with other institutions. He pointed out that raising mice used in research costs us 30% more because of our poor facilities. He stated that this will need to be solved if we are going to move forward in the life sciences.

Chancellor Perlman noted that there is an open forum coming up with faculty about the life sciences review report. He stated that he plans to attend the forum. There will also be a small group of faculty members that will be interacted with in a more concentrated way about the report. He stated that he thinks we will get a lot of good information on the report and once that happens we can begin to figure out what we are going to do about the life sciences.

Fech stated that he was encouraged to see that some faculty members of the Executive Committee and the Academic Planning Committee went to the recent forum on Innovation Campus. He noted that the woman leading the discussion from one of the hired firms was very interested in what the faculty had to say. Chancellor Perlman stated that this is one of the reasons why this firm was hired, they were such good listeners. Fech noted that Innovation Campus is going to take a lot of money to create. Chancellor Perlman agreed.

Fech stated that he was impressed with the firm's vision and how Innovation Campus can be integrated with city and east campus. He noted that some people seemed to feel that Innovation Campus would not be a part of the existing campus. He stated that he hopes that people on campus will have the opportunity to get involved in some of the discussions and forums that will be held on Innovation Campus.

Franti asked if architectural plans were being developed. Chancellor Perlman stated that one of the firms is developing the master plan for the property, the building sites and infrastructure. The other firm deals with the business component and looks at different ways the development can be financed and how the university might structure leases with private sector companies. He noted that both the master plan and business plan have to be submitted by December 1.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that we are still dealing with the awkwardness of the budget time frame. He stated that there will be little time between the Board of Regents' meeting on June 12th and the start of the fiscal year on July 1st to gather all of the information that will be needed to make decisions. He stated that he thinks we can manage the budget without significant interruptions for the first year of the biennium but he thinks this will not be the first year that we are going to face a bad economy.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that it is going to take a long time for the economy to recover and he believes that there are other forces that are going to make life challenging for higher education across the country. He reported that Washington State University is facing a 31% cut in their budget. He noted that states facing really hard economic times will have to rethink how higher education is going to function and where it is going.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the basic general structure can remain the same with small budget cuts but if 30% of a university's budget is cut, things will have to be done much differently. He stated that it will be crucial for us to stay ahead of the curve so we can come out stronger and better in the end. He stated that he doesn't have ideas about this right now but he thinks we will all have to think outside of the box. He predicts that the university will look very different five years from now.

Chancellor Perlman stated that from a faculty point of view, workloads may be different. He pointed out that this does not mean everyone's workload would increase rather there might be room for more differentiated work loads. He stated that the days of instructors being able to automatically teach unique courses that they have an interest in will probably disappear. He noted that the best way for these changes to be made is from the ground up.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that there is no where to go to find great ideas of how to transform universities because this is the first time universities had to face such extreme budget cuts. He noted that Stanford University's income from endowments is down by \$300 million. Stanford conducted a study and found that even under good economic circumstances it would take until 2040 for their foundation to recover from the current economic crisis.

Franti stated that a critical point is how we change the university on our own rather than decisions being made by outside forces. He questioned how things will change so that faculty input really occurs. He noted that the culture of decision making needs to change as well because currently nobody wants to make decisions and always wants to leave it up to the top administrator. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that to some extent this is inevitable because he is the only one accountable to all of the constituents. He does not think there is a lack of faculty input, but the faculty does not always see the consequences of their input.

McCullough stated that she went to the Delaware Study website but was unable to access the data so it was difficult to see how we compared to other institutions. Chancellor Perlman stated that he is not worried about comparisons. He stated that he wants to figure out how to do it better than other institutions.

Schubert asked if there will be a minimum student attendance limit imposed for a class to be given. Chancellor Perlman stated that he will definitely have to look at that.

McCullough asked if community college enrollments have increased significantly. Chancellor Perlman stated that he is sure the enrollments are up at these colleges. Fech asked about the possibility of capturing transfer students who received an associate degree but haven't been able to get a job. Chancellor Perlman stated that we already have a significant percent of transfer students. He pointed out that the ACE program will make us more attractive to these kinds of students.

3.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

4.0 Minutes of 4/29/09

Members of the Committee and guests sent revisions in for the minutes.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Interviews with Candidates for Administrative Positions

Lindquist stated that the Committee needs to have a conversation about what questions they want to discuss with administrative candidates. He noted that it is difficult to conduct these interviews when only one or two people attend the interview session. Fech suggested that the Committee might want to develop a standard set of questions. Lindquist suggested that things for discussion might want to center around faculty governance issues.

Fech stated that it would be helpful to have some questions or a guideline when meeting with the candidates. He pointed out that the Executive Committee usually doesn't get a lot of notice when a candidate is coming in for interviews. Schubert suggested having an assigned group of people to meet with the candidates.

Fech stated that the Committee will work on preparing a guideline to be used for interviewing people for administrative positions. He asked members of the Committee to each bring some questions or discussion topics to the next meeting. Flowers pointed out that some questions can be general but specific questions will be needed as well. Konecky suggested that the committee begin working on creating a guideline when the Committee first hears about a search. Flowers recommended that the Committee have a starting piece to work with and then fine tune it for specific candidates.

Prochaska-Cue noted that it would be helpful to see the actual position announcement. Flowers stated that it would also be helpful to see a copy of the letters that are sent seeking candidates.

Franti moved that a subcommittee be formed of three or four people to draft questions for interviewing candidates for administrative positions. Prochaska-Cue seconded the motion. Motion approved 5 in favor, 3 opposed. Flowers, Rapkin, and Prochaska-cue volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Summer Session Schedule

Griffin distributed a copy of the summer session schedule.

6.2 Departments with No Representatives on the Senate

Fech asked what should be done to try and get all Senate seats filled. Lindquist suggested contacting the department heads to help for their assistance. Shea pointed out that we want to make sure the representative is elected by the faculty in a department, not appointed by the chair or head.

Lindquist stated that he thinks it's a problem getting a signature from the person who is being nominated. Griffin pointed out that the signature indicates that the faculty member is willing to run for election to the Senate.

Franti stated that the Committee really should be putting its energy into doing things for the faculty. He stated that if the Senate started doing things that really have impacts for the Senate then more faculty members will get involved. Shea noted that many faculty members feel that the Senate is a waste of their time. Prochaska-Cue stated that not many people understand that the Senate is an advisory committee. She asked what kind of action the faculty would like to see and what would have an impact.

McCullough stated that she runs into a lot of ignorance about the Senate. People don't realize what the Senate is doing. She pointed out that the more that people are involved, the more they knew about what is going on around campus. She noted that people in her department are amazed at the information she is bringing back from being on the Senate and the Executive Committee.

Flowers stated that in his department it helps to keep people involved by letting them know when there are committee openings and informing them of what the Senate is doing. Shea pointed out that he does not think that enough senators are actively communicating with their colleagues.

Prochaska-Cue suggested that Fech try getting on the agenda for when the department chairs and unit heads all meet. This way he could address the chairs as well.

The Committee discussed the role of the Senate and duties of the Senators. Griffin noted that several years ago the Executive Committee put a short list of responsibilities together for the Senators. She stated that she could pull that list for the Committee to review and possibly present it to the Senate at the September meeting.

6.3 Email Message from Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Extended Education and Outreach

Fech reported that Interim Associate VC Savory sent an email message responding to the April 29th minutes about the University of Nebraska Online Worldwide office. He noted that Savory clarified what is being done under the University of Nebraska Online Worldwide office in the email. Fech asked if the Committee wanted to invite Savory or Arnold Batemen, who is now in central administration working on this program. LaCost stated that she will send the Committee the information she received about the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, May 13th 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.