

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Fech, Flowers, Franti, LaCost, Lindquist, Prochaska-Cue, Rapkin, Schubert, Stock

Absent: Bolin, Konecky, McCollough, Shea

Date: September 9, 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 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 VC Owens Retiring

Fech noted that VC Owens will be stepping down as Vice President and Chancellor of IANR in June 2010. Fech reported that VC Owens will be returning to the faculty as a member of the Entomology department.

2.2 Administrative Five Review of SVC Couture

Fech stated that the five year administrative review of SVC Couture will be conducted this fall. He reported that both he and Professor Shea have been contacted for interviews. He noted that he is not sure whether just he and Shea will be interviewed or whether the entire Executive Committee will be interviewed as well.

2.3 Health Care Reimbursement Account

Fech noted that he received an email message from Professor Hope, UNL's faculty representative to the University Wide Benefits Committee, asking if she should raise the issue of people not having enough time to file claims at the end of the year when using the Health Care Reimbursement Account. Fech reported that he informed Professor Hope that she should raise the issue again. He noted that the Senate Presidents at UNO and UNMC also feel that this is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Rapkin stated that travel reimbursement policies now require a meal over \$5 to have a receipt. He noted that this is difficult when faculty members attend a conference and go out to dinner in a large group. LaCost pointed out that this has been required in her college for several years and noted that the receipt must be itemized.

2.4 New Senators

Fech reported that several more Senate seats have been filled. This leaves only eight seats open. He noted that he has been working with department heads to try and get these

seats filled and he plans on working with the faculty members in the remaining eight units to see if these seats can be filled.

2.5 Violence Prevention Workshop

Fech reported that flyers are now available on the workshop. He pointed out that the Senate is one of the sponsors of the workshop and suggested that a copy of the flyers be distributed to the Senators for them to post on their department bulletin boards. He noted that people interested in attending one of the workshops need to register online. This can be done by going to <http://go.unl.edu/j64>

2.6 Trade of 17th & R Street Parking Lot with Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

Fech reported that the Board of Regents approved the trade of the remaining parking lot on the southwest corner of 17th and R Street with the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house. Lindquist pointed out that the university is also going to give \$193,000 to the fraternity to build a new house on the land. He stated that the Committee should express concern over this. He asked where money will come from to replace these lost parking spaces. Griffin stated that the Chancellor stated in the September 2nd meeting that parking spaces will be put into the lot that will become available when the fraternity and existing multi cultural center are removed, but these spaces will not be available for faculty and staff members. The idea is to use these spaces for visitors.

LaCost noted that parking was lost with the construction of the new physical sciences building. She pointed out that over recent years a considerable amount of parking for faculty and staff members have been lost on campus.

Fech asked the Committee what form of action it wants to take on the issue. Prochaska-Cue suggested Fech contact UNOPA and UAAD to see if they have the same concerns. Griffin suggested that ASUN be contacted as well.

Lindquist stated that parking spaces should not be lost without replacing these spaces with the same kind of parking. He questioned where the replacement money is for these lost spaces. He stated that he wants to know where the replacement money is going and what it is being used for.

Prochaska-Cue noted that the issue of building the parking garages has been raised before. She questioned why faculty, staff, and students should have to pay for the construction of these buildings when these are long standing buildings that will be in place long after those paying for it will be around. Griffin pointed out that when the idea of the parking garages was first presented to the faculty and staff it was with the understanding that an Area A permit holder would be able to use the garages without additional cost, however this has changed. A parking permit for the garage is now \$612 a year and \$552 a year for surface area A lots.

Schubert stated that the question needs to be raised why the parking rates continue to rise while no improvements are being made.

Fech stated that he will contact UNOPA, UAAD, and ASUN to see what they think. He pointed out that prices have increased dramatically, and yet there is less parking and at a greater distance for many permit holders. He noted that the increase in parking fees is particularly difficult for those at the lower end of the pay scale.

3.0 Minutes of 9/2/09

No concerns were raised about the minutes of September 2, 2009.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Conflict of Interest Policy Revisions

Fech noted that he asked Professor Bradford, Law, to look at the proposed revisions. He reported that Professor Bradford did not have the opportunity to review the document carefully but did not see any problems with it.

LaCost noted that the proposed revisions diffuse the document making it broader and more open to interpretation. Fech agreed and questioned why President Milliken wanted to have the changes approved so quickly. LaCost stated that she thinks the changes are of some concern. Flowers pointed out that it will be unknown how well the new policy works until a case of conflict comes up. He noted that the policy might need to be fine tuned at a later date.

Fech noted that there is a statement in the proposed policy encouraging faculty members to do consulting work. He stated that he will send a letter providing feedback to the Chancellor on the revisions.

4.2 Update on UNL's Policy on Disability

Fech noted that he first became aware of what happens to a university employee if they go on disability from Professor Elder, UNO Faculty Senate President. Several business professors at UNO checked into what would happen if an employee went on disability. The major concern is that these people would be placed in the retiree pool for health insurance, a move that would dramatically increase their cost of health insurance. In the report written by the UNO professors it was noted that the net income would amount to approximately \$500 per month after health insurance has been paid.

Fech stated that he sent the report to Greg Clayton, Director, Benefits & Risk Management at UNL, and asked if the same thing would happen to a UNL employee. Fech reported that Clayton responded that the disabled employee could purchase COBRA for about \$400 a month or more (depending on whether it is coverage for a single person or a family). The COBRA only lasts for a period of time, but the employee can ask for an extension and eventually go on Medicare. Fech stated that he has asked Professor Hope look into the disability policy as well as the health reimbursement issue.

Flowers noted that many people were encouraged to get long term disability and were under the impression that they would be getting more out of the plan but it now has been discovered that it is really not that helpful. He stated that one option might be for people

to seek long term disability insurance outside of the university. He pointed out that a person might have to pay a bit more but could get considerably more out of the plan.

Fech stated that people might have made a different decision if they were aware of what would happen to their health insurance if they went on disability. He noted that the change to the plan to put disabled workers into the retiree pool was made by former University President Smith.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Report on Meeting with Meg Lauerman and Andy Schadwinkel, University Communications

Fech stated that one of the goals of the Senate this year is to increase awareness of what the faculty does and how it impacts the people of Nebraska. He noted that the Executive Committee thought he should contact the University Communications Office to see if they could assist in getting this kind of information out to the public.

Fech reported that he and Griffin (Professor Stock was ill and could not make the meeting) met with Meg Lauerman and Andy Schadwinkel of University Communications. He noted that they were enthusiastic about meeting and collaborating with the Senate. He stated that they are always looking for stories to tell and would appreciate the help.

Fech stated that one idea is to have each senator work with her/his department to identify success stories. He stated that many venues are available for publicizing these stories: NU Values, In the Know, Planet Red to name a few. He pointed out that professors should be aware that not all stories would be used.

Fech reported that Schadwinkel came up with the idea of Connect the Dots: showing, in steps, how research affects the public. He stated that an example is the research work that was done in Food Science & Technology on food borne illnesses and how this information was later passed on to restaurant owners.

Lindquist stated that many departments already do self identification of the work of the faculty. Fech wondered if this information is communicated to the University Communications office. Rapkin noted that the deans often ask for this information. Stock stated that faculty members in his department regularly are asked for this kind of information.

LaCost pointed out that the stories being published focus heavily on grant money and how much comes in from the grant. She pointed out that the work being done in other disciplines is just as critical but may not generate as much funding so therefore there is no report on them. She stated that the success stories need to be broadened beyond just those getting grants. Fech noted that UCARE projects were discussed as one source of untold stories and it would be a great recruiting piece as well.

Franti asked if University Communications was seeking a whole story written for them or just information about who they can talk to along with a brief description of the work that is being done. Fech stated that University Communications is just looking for the information. They will do the actual writing of the piece.

Stock stated that there is little coverage given to the UCARE presentations that are made in the spring. He suggested that more can be done with this. He noted that he organized the first Research Fair back in 2000 and at the time there was information from a variety of disciplines. He pointed out that it now seems to be handled differently and his impression is that the Research Fair now heavily represents the hard sciences. Schubert noted that there are aspects of the Research Fair that could be improved. Stock reported that the Fair is widely attended with many people from the public sector coming to see it and this could be a possible venue for disseminating information.

Schubert asked where the stories of the faculty would be presented, on a website. Fech stated that it could be on the UNL website. He stated that University Communications has been producing new and fresh 30 and 60 second video pieces in which the stories could be told. He stated that University Communications is now heavily involved in social networking sites as well.

Fech stated that he thinks working with University Communications would be a good thing to do. He pointed out that there are a lot of success stories that may not receive big grants but still have positive impacts on the people of Nebraska. Schubert stated that it is good for the Senate to be showing what faculty members are involved in rather than it just being driven by administration.

Schubert asked what the goal is to doing this. Fech stated that the goal is to increase the public awareness of what work the faculty members do and how it benefits the state.

Schubert stated that many success stories are done but it's harder to see the actual work of the faculty, how they teach students, the amount of time it takes to prepare for a lecture, the time needed to connect with the students, time outside the classroom advising students. He noted that many people think that being a professor is a sweet deal but they do not realize the amount of time that goes into the profession.

Franti suggested that information be obtained from our former students who can attest to their education here and how it helped to get a great job. He pointed out that many firms hire a lot of our students.

Fech stated that the next step is to take it to the Senate for input. He stated that the senators could get information from their colleagues on their research work. Stock noted that some departments have their own newsletter and this kind of information is usually in the newsletter. Franti suggested that the Executive Committee check to see if departments produce a newsletter.

Fech stated that the key to this effort is to work with University Communications to decide which story has the greatest merit.

Stock asked if the pitch to the Senate would be for the senators to gather the needed information. Flowers pointed out that the department Executive Committees might be a good place to get this kind of information.

Franti suggested having small ballots at the Senate meeting that senators could fill out with information that comes to the top of their heads on research that is being conducted in their departments. He stated that a reminder could be made at each Senate meeting. He suggested that the Committee keep a list of who we have heard from. He stated that the ballots could simply state what department the faculty member is in, what is the topic of the work they are doing, and who should be contacted to get more information. People could also provide information on whether they have a newsletter in their department and who is the editor. He stated that the ballots could be available at each Senate meeting.

Fech stated that a suggestion box could be made available at the Senate meeting. Lindquist noted that the Committee should see how many stories University Communications actually uses.

Fech stated that the Committee will discuss details of how to accomplish gathering the information at the next meeting.

5.2 ASUN Issues

Fech reported that he recently met with Justin Solomon, ASUN representative to the Senate. Fech stated that he was briefed about issues of concern for the ASUN. They are:

- a. ACE program success. Work is being done with the Residence Assistants and the Greek system to provide them with information on the ACE program. He noted that Dean Kean and Professor Mitchell are creating a team of go to people who will have accurate information on the program.
- b. Prepare a list of new courses to develop once the budget problems are over. Suggestions include international courses on China and a professional writing course.
- c. Explore a reading day during the 15th week policy.
- d. Concern with students that are off campus for a semester (study abroad) who still have to pay fees for services they cannot use.
- e. Concern with the cost of textbooks: cost and the requirement of unnecessary textbooks that wind up not being used in class.
- f. Concern with the lack of participation by faculty members in using the textbook adoption form. He noted that only 60% of the faculty complete and return this form.

Lindquist noted that some students might find it useful to keep certain books in their major. Rapkin pointed out that books can be updated frequently which results in higher prices and quicker obsolescence. Also, it is difficult to permit students to use other than

the latest, updated edition for his class as this conflicts with bookstore procedures and the interests of the textbook publishers.

Fech stated that there are now 14 companies on line that rent textbooks for a semester. Stock stated that for many literature courses students can find copies of books on line much cheaper than through the bookstore.

Lindquist stated that faculty members need to be aware of not requiring books that students will not need for the class. Schubert pointed out that regulation of the books seems to be mostly handled by the bookstore.

5.3 Email Vote of Senators on Committee on Committee Members

Griffin reported that there are three open seats on the Committee on Committees that need to be filled. Two of these positions need to be from the Senate and the other is the Senate President's designee. She stated that three senators have agreed to run for election. She noted that the Senate can conduct a vote electronically. She pointed out that it would be helpful to get the Committee on Committees together soon so it can begin its work and having a vote via email would allow this to happen. Stock moved that a vote by acclamation be sent to the Senate for approval. Rapkin seconded the motion. Motion approved.

5.4 Report on Board of Regents Meeting

Fech stated that an extensive presentation on Innovation Campus was presented by the consultants hired to work on the project. He noted that the three primary types of industries being sought for the Campus are those that relate to food, fuel, and water.

Fech stated that the proposed plan is to tear down some buildings, others, such as the 4H building will be kept and renovated. He noted that the arsenal building will also be kept. He stated that the plan is to try and screen in the building that is called the ice box by constructing other buildings around it. LaCost noted that the city was thinking of putting an ice rink down by the Haymarket but she did not know what the status is on it and she recalls that the Stars ice hockey team would not be allowed to use it.

Schubert asked why just areas dealing with food, fuel and water are being considered for the Campus. He asked whose idea this was. Fech stated that he thinks it is envisioned that these are the industries most likely to partner with the campus. Schubert asked about renewable energy and pointed out that medical-related firms should also be included. Franti stated that biomedical firms should be there as well.

Schubert stated that the engineering faculty will ask where their part is in this Campus. He noted that many of the engineering faculty members have brought in large grants to the university.

Fech reported that it is believed that the number of employees working on Innovation Campus from private companies will be two compared to one from the University.

Schubert noted that most of the money being put up for the Campus is coming from the university and very little money is coming from outside. Lindquist suggested that this be raised when the meetings about the Campus are held this week. Fech stated that he thinks this issue will be discussed by the Board at upcoming meetings.

Fech stated that it is envisioned that the Campus will also have residential housing for some of the scientists who might be coming to work on a temporary basis. He reported that other amenities are to create a green, sustainable environment that is a fun place to work, study, learn, and play. He reported that the university is trying to work a lot of internships for students with the businesses.

LaCost asked if there was concern with the integration of Innovation Campus with the east and city campus. Fech stated that the floodplain was discussed and what land can be built on and the entrances to the campus. He noted that one of the hurdles is the lack of a connection between Innovation Campus and east campus.

Fech stated that other discussions were on the H1N1 preparations and fall enrollment figures which have increased for all four campuses. Prochaska-Cue reported that she was informed by the Health Center that they would only be giving the H1N1 vaccine only to students, not to faculty and staff.

5.5 Deans and Directors Meeting

Fech reported that he attended the deans and directors meeting in the morning. He stated that SVC Couture gave an update on Academic Affairs initiatives such as the Advance workshops, the initiative to adopt best practices and the new study abroad program being headed by Associate VC Wilson. Lindquist asked if this is related to the IPAC. Fech stated that this was not made clear in the meeting.

Fech stated that an update on the new student information system was provided. He stated that admissions is getting 100 hits a day with the system and registration will be going live in 2010 in March.

Fech stated that a report was given on the endowed funds in the Foundation. He noted that the report is that the endowment funds are considerably lower because of the economy and each college has a new committee with a goal for increasing fundraising. He reported that they were told that scholarships will probably drop by 10%, but professorships will remain the same. He stated that the deans were informed that they may need to rebase the scholarships given in their college by either reducing the amount or awarding fewer scholarships.

Fech stated that Dean Kean and Meg Lauerman were discussing the undergraduate bulletin being put on line. He noted that they both want to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss this issue.

LaCost asked if there was any discussion on mid-year cuts. She stated that she has heard that the deans are expecting some cuts. Fech stated that nothing was mentioned at the meeting.

5.6 Peer Financial Education Program

Prochaska-Cue reported that 82 applications were received for the director's position. She stated that she hopes a website and a blog can be started soon with the students. She stated that the program now has an office space in the union and the hope is that a director will be hired within the next month. Fech asked if there will be clerical support. Prochaska-Cue stated that there will be indirect support through VC Franco's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, September 16th 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.