

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Anaya, Fech, Flowers, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, McCollough, Nickerson, Shea, Stock

Absent: Berg, Franti, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Location: Faculty Senate office

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

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Meeting with Interim SVCAA Weissinger Cancelled

Lindquist reported that Interim SVCAA Weissinger had to cancel her meeting with the Executive Committee due to a conflict which recently arose. He stated that he would send Interim SVCAA Weissinger an email asking for information on some items that were on today's agenda. He noted that the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet with the Chancellor and Interim SVCAA on September 22.

2.2 Agricultural Research Dean Search Committee

Lindquist announced that he was asked to serve on the Agricultural Research Division's Dean search advisory committee. He noted that the search committee is currently being formed and the goal is to bring candidates in for interviews sometime in November.

2.3 Conflict of Interest Committee

Lindquist reported that the Conflict of Interest Committee met several times during the summer. He noted that a group of the members was doing research work reviewing other institutions' conflict of interest policy. After this group compiled the information they were going to write a rough draft. He stated that the Conflict of Interest Committee will resume meeting to review the rough draft on September 23.

2.4 Lunch with President Milliken

Lindquist reported that the Presidents of the Faculty Senates at UNL, UNK, UNO, and UNMC will be meeting with President Milliken on October 29. He stated that one item he would like to address with the President is domestic partner benefits. He noted that he will be asking for further talking points as the date of the lunch approaches.

Lindquist stated that he has been invited by Pat Tetreault, Assistant Director of CLGBTA Programs/Services, to meet with the committee representatives of CLGBTA to discuss domestic partner benefits. The Executive Committee noted that it had previously

discussed presenting a resolution to the Senate in support of domestic partner benefits. Lindquist stated that there will be further discussions about this and it is his intent to send a letter to the other Senate Presidents asking them to bring a similar resolution to their Faculty Senate.

LaCost suggested having a possible discussion about NU Online Worldwide with President Milliken.

The Executive Committee recommended that Lindquist invite President Milliken to a Committee meeting.

3.0 Minutes of 7/28/10

Griffin noted that some minor revisions were made by the Chancellor and some Executive Committee Members. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Security Awareness Memo

Lindquist noted that there are two security awareness documents: classroom emergency preparedness and response information and faculty guidance for incident response. He stated that University Police would like faculty members to include the classroom emergency preparedness and response information with their syllabus. He asked the Executive Committee how it wants to act on the request and whether Assistant Chief Fred Gardy should be invited to a Senate meeting to discuss the Police's request.

Flowers asked if the idea is to have the response information document included in the syllabus of every course. Lindquist stated that he thought this was correct. McCollough suggested that the document should be posted by each classroom.

Lindquist stated that he believes that the Police want the Senate to approve a resolution stating that all faculty members must include the classroom emergency preparedness and response information with each course syllabus. Flowers suggested that faculty members provide a link to the document in Blackboard.

Konecky asked whether the Police are seeking the Senate's support of the policy or the concept of the documents. She stated that further clarification needs to be provided by the Police.

McCollough asked if these documents would make a faculty member liable if anything happened to a student during an emergency situation. Konecky stated no, and pointed out that the document merely states that students with disabilities will have the assistance they may require during an incident. She stated that in a recent security meeting of the University Libraries the Police stated that Libraries personnel were to notify appropriate personnel to help any disabled people.

Lindquist stated that he will contact the Police to ask for clarification on what they want the Senate to do with the policies. He noted that we might consider inviting Assistant Chief Gardy to a meeting to present the security documents.

Shea questioned whether the documents are intended for all faculty, and, if so, wondered why the documents were not sent to each faculty member. Fech agreed and stated that he did not want Senators to have to be responsible for disseminating the information.

4.2 Draft Letter to Faculty Senates of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC)

The Executive Committee worked on revising the letter introducing ourselves to the Faculty Governing bodies at the universities that comprise the CIC.

4.3 Senate Goals

The Executive Committee worked on further revisions of the 2010-2011 Senate Goals.

4.4 Committee on Committees

Griffin reported that she has not had any luck in getting any of the faculty members that were identified by the Executive Committee to serve on the Committee on Committees (CoC). She noted that there are five openings for the CoC and recommended that a general email message be sent to all faculty members asking for volunteers to serve. The Executive Committee agreed that the email should be sent.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Nebraska Union Board Member Needed

Lindquist reported that he received an email message from Charlie Francis, Director of the Nebraska Union, stating that a faculty representative is needed to serve on the Nebraska Union Board and the Executive Committee needs to identify someone who would be willing to serve.

Fech stated that the Union Board is a good committee and rather fascinating since the unions are involved in so many things. He noted that the committee is mostly advisory to the Director of the Union. Anaya stated that the Board approves events that take place in the Union and identifies where the Union wants to go in the future.

Lindquist noted that the faculty representative needs to be from East Campus. He stated that the term for the representative would be for two years and the Board meets every other Thursday at 5:00 pm. The Executive Committee worked on identifying people who might be willing to serve on the Board.

5.2 Report on AAUP Summer Conference (LaCost)

LaCost reported that she attended several of the five sessions offered at the AAUP Summer Conference. One of the sessions was on understanding and strengthening faculty handbooks. She suggested that the Executive Committee might be interested in comparing AAUP's recommended handbook with UNL's handbook. Griffin pointed out that there is really no longer a true faculty handbook at UNL. The information that was

in the old handbook was put on the web but the information is scattered around on the various web pages rather than centralized.

McCollough asked what is considered the weakest points of a handbook. LaCost stated that the AAUP does not make any explicit statements of what should be taken out. She thought it would be good to look at the AAUP's recommendations though. She noted that the AAUP feels that a faculty handbook should be a faculty advocacy tool.

Nickerson asked if creating a new faculty handbook would be an alternative to what the university has already prepared. Konecky stated that the Senate website could be used to create a virtual handbook. She pointed out that this would not challenge anything the administration has already done on the web and the information would be available to the faculty.

LaCost reported that she also attended a session about maintaining an advocacy chapter of the AAUP on campus. She noted that this has been a problem here at UNL and she does not know if a chapter even exists any longer at UNL. She stated that the Senate needs to make a charge if it wants to have an AAUP chapter at UNL. Nickerson noted that faculty advocacy capitulates what a chapter would do. He pointed out that he has seen an erosion of faculty advocacy here at UNL over the years.

Lindquist asked if there were recommendation on how to improve faculty advocacy in general. LaCost stated that at other institutions, the local AAUP chapter has held various activities for faculty members to attend. She noted that the climate seems to have changed here because she is having more people speak to her about their dissatisfaction with their work environment and what the Senate can do to try and improve it.

LaCost reported that the number of participants in this year's summer conference doubled from last year. She stated that she spoke to many participants who voiced a lot of discontent about the workplace. She noted that it was reported at the conference that 75% of faculty hires are now contingency hires.

5.3 Meeting with CIO Askren

Executive Committee members stated that they are receiving many complaints from faculty members about the My Red computer program. Another issue raised was that courses are being monitored by Extension Education & Outreach through Blackboard. The Executive Committee agreed to schedule a meeting with CIO Askren to discuss concerns about computing on campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Pat Shea, Secretary.