

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Bolin

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010

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 3:03 p.m.

2.0 Vice Chancellor Owens

2.1 Life Sciences Update

Fech stated that there has been a lot of concern that the initiative did not get a lot of faculty input. VC Owens stated that he thinks things have been moving reasonably well, and he believes a report from the core facilities committee has been written and will be made public soon.

VC Owens stated that there is a committee of faculty members who will be serving on the curriculum steering committee. He noted that this committee is being headed by Dean Manderscheid and Dean Waller. He stated that he does not think this committee has met yet. He noted that the members on this committee are good faculty members who have a strong background in teaching.

Shea stated that he and others have not seen any announcements about who is on the committee or any mention of a report coming out. He questioned who is sending this information out. VC Owens stated that he received a message, but it is possible that the information has not been made public yet. He stated that he will contact Dean Waller about this.

Shea stated that he is glad to hear that a report will be out soon from the core facilities committee. He asked if anyone knows who is on the steering committee. VC Owens noted that VC Paul named the members of the core facilities committee. Shea pointed out that there are faculty members who want to know who are on these important committees and what the committees are doing. VC Owens stated that he will convey this message to Dean Manderscheid as well.

Fech stated that he will contact VC Paul to get information on the core facilities committee.

2.2 Update on New Initiatives

VC Owens reported that there are no new initiatives currently in IANR.

2.3 Potential budget Reduction Scenarios for IANR

VC Owens stated that the basic concept to deal with the cut is to have a major reorganization of a service unit in IANR but the specifics have not been decided or finalized yet. He stated that CIT will be merged with Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication which will help provide a more robust degree for agricultural journalism. He stated that he expects that an announcement will be made about this sometime soon.

Lindquist asked if VC Owens knows what the dollar figure is yet for IANR's portion of the budget cuts. VC Owens stated that he does not have the exact figure yet but based on the legislative special session he thinks the cuts will be about \$1.3 million.

Fech pointed out that there will be another budget cut to deal with after this one. VC Owens stated that this is correct and all academic units will be wrestling with it. He stated that no specifics are available yet but the APC will be discussing strategies.

McCullough asked if there has been any discussion about moving Agricultural Leadership with the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. VC Owens stated that there has been no discussion about this, but the programs will stay closely connected. He pointed out that the Ph.D. program in Agricultural Leadership could be very helpful to the Journalism College.

Shea noted that the Director of Cooperative Extension Division position is being cut. He asked if this is a permanent cut. VC Owens stated that it is a permanent cut and it has already been done. He noted that Keith Niemann, who has been in this position, is retiring and won't be replaced. He stated that Keith is a very good person and it is difficult to lose him.

VC Owens stated that he dreads having to make budget cuts but it is something that cannot be avoided. He stated that future legislative sessions are particularly worrisome. He noted that Nebraska is one of two states that is using stimulus money to offset K-12 education, but this is one time funding that will eventually disappear.

McCullough asked if the state has some obligations to IANR because of it being a land grant institution. VC Owens stated that it is part of the regular state funding that the university receives and there is no line item amount specifically for IANR. He pointed out that extension has offices in every county and he can't imagine any major cuts to extension.

Fech asked when information will be made public about the merger. VC Owens stated that it will probably be in mid February and pointed out that the APC will have budget hearings on it. He stated that he is aware of the anxiety it is creating and wishes it did not have to happen, but it was the less bad choice among a bunch of bad choices.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 UNL Research Fair

Fech reported that the annual UNL Research Fair will be held April 6 – 8.

3.2 Letter on Conflict of Interest Policy

Lindquist reported that he has been asked by the Chancellor to serve on a committee to develop a Conflict of Interest Policy for UNL. Fech noted that a change in the Conflict of Interest Policy in the NU Board of Regents Bylaws is on the agenda for the Board of Regents meeting on January 22nd.

Fech pointed out that another item on the Regents' agenda has to do with self-governing groups on campus and approval of their operating procedures and rules. Griffin stated that on a quick scan of this item it appears that the self-governing groups can approve minor changes to their procedures without having to get approval from the Board as long as the changes are done at a public meeting, but the Board retains the authority to have final approval. Shea stated that this item needs to be checked out carefully because it could have significant implications.

4.0 Minutes of 1/13/10

No problems were found with the minutes.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 BRRRC Initial Draft Document

Fech stated that he read the initial draft document and found six areas of proposed changes to the budget reduction procedures. They are: definition of consultation; dates and timelines for involving procedures; adequate definition of academic program; alternatives; evaluation of choices; adoption by APC, Senate, and ASUN.

Prochaska-Cue reported that the other members of the BRRRC have received approval from the groups they represent on the changes proposed by the committee. She pointed out that any further changes will have to go back to APC, ASUN, and the Senate.

Shea stated that he would still like to discuss some of the original proposed changes at the next meeting.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Interview of Bill Hardgrave, Candidate for Dean of CBA

The Committee interviewed Bill Hardgrave candidate for Dean of CBA.

6.2 Consultation Panel for Faculty Members Concerned with Budget Cuts

Fech stated that he was approached by Professor Keown, APC member, asking if the Senate would like to participate in a panel for faculty members who might be cut. He stated that the idea is to have a resource group that could inform faculty members of options that might be available. He stated that ideally the members of this panel would

have had experience dealing with people who have been cut. He noted that the idea is to inform people before they feel pressured to sign papers terminating their employment.

McCollough stated that this sounds like a good idea. Rapkin suggested that EAP and Human Resources be included.

Shea wondered what options a person might have in this position. He pointed out that there could be some legal aspects that require involvement by a lawyer. Rapkin noted that the panel could do more harm than good if people were given the impression that the group had exhaustively covered all relevant issues when in fact it hadn't. Surely there are legal issues in which faculty are not well versed. Prochaska-Cue pointed out that this is also an issue for the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee.

Shea stated that he is unclear about the role of the panel and what the value would be to an individual.

Prochaska-Cue suggested consulting with Professor Peterson and Professor Wunder about the idea since they had been Senate Presidents during the 2003 budget cuts.

The Committee suggested contacting the EAP to see what kind of assistance they provide to people who are being terminated.

6.3 Academic Planning Committee Open Forum

Fech reported that the APC is considering holding an open forum to provide people with information relating to the budget cutting process. He pointed out that many people do not fully understand the process and this would be open to everyone on campus.

McCollough noted that her department is not aware of the amount of the upcoming cuts and wants to know how much is being talked about. Fech stated that actual figures have not been released yet.

Prochaska-Cue stated that she is not sure how the Chancellor can roll out the cuts in a staggered fashion as indicated by Associate to the Chancellor Poser at the January Faculty Senate meeting. She pointed out that one of the frustrations of the APC during budget cuts is that they are not given the whole picture regarding cuts and possible alternatives.

Fech noted that the forum would require little involvement from the Senate. Shea stated that it wouldn't hurt to have such a forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, January 27th 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.