

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**Absent:** Bolin, Franti

**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 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.

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### 1.0 Call to Order

Fech called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

### 2.0 Chancellor Perlman

#### 2.1 Senate Representative to the Threat Assessment Review Committee

Fech reported that Professor Scalora and Chief Yardley, members of the Threat Assessment Team (TAT), recently spoke to the Faculty Senate. He noted that a request was made to the Team to include a faculty member on the review committee, but there appears to be reluctance to do so.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the Team is an expert group that advises people on threats and he would not want to add anyone to that group that doesn't have the expertise and would hinder their operation. He stated that there might be instances when it would be useful to have some Senate observers when training is being done for emergency planning.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he will visit with Professor Scalora and Chief Yardley to see if there is an intermediate position where a Senate representative can be involved, perhaps in an "observer" role.

#### 2.2 Budget

Chancellor Perlman stated that a draft of the general budget framework has been given to the APC. He noted that the framework will drive the budget reductions and has been reviewed by a number of people. He estimated that at the end of the biennium the system wide reduction will be approximately \$15.3 million and typically half of that amount belongs to UNL.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he is considering rolling out the budget cuts as they are identified. He noted that some cuts might be identified early and the idea is to get these cuts into the process so the APC can act on them.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the idea is to have deans and directors identify potential budget cuts by March 1, although he pointed out that the sooner the potential cuts are identified, the less the colleges will have to carry in cash flow. He stated that deans and directors are being encouraged to strategically position their colleges now to provide some flexibility in the future.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the APC is currently meeting and he hopes that they will come to a recommendation so he can make an announcement to the campus on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **2.3 Life Sciences Committees**

Fech noted that the Executive Committee just received some information on the life sciences instrumentation committee (core facilities committee). He noted that there is a lot of interest in the life sciences program and people are wondering just how all of the pieces will fit together with it.

Chancellor Perlman reported that he will be meeting with the life sciences executive committee soon. He noted that units are making some hiring decisions and promoting some ideas which are being sent to the life sciences executive committee for its reaction. He stated that some good information has been received regarding how faculty involvement and the units can work together.

Shea asked if the members of the life sciences executive committee have been announced yet. He pointed out that he does not know anyone who has seen such an announcement. Chancellor Perlman stated that he will check to make sure that an announcement is sent out about this.

### **2.4 Upcoming Issues**

Chancellor Perlman reported that there is interest in moving the Dean of Graduate Studies reporting line from the Vice Chancellor of Research to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He stated that he agrees with this and asked the Executive Committee for its input. He noted that previously the Vice Chancellor of Research also held the office of Dean of Graduate Studies but the two positions were separated as the workload of the Vice Chancellor of Research increased.

Shea stated that the decision is very logical and makes sense. The Committee agreed.

### **Innovation Campus**

Chancellor Perlman reported that things are moving slower than he would like but hard work is being done to outline what exactly needs to be accomplished in the proper sequence. He stated that there is a cluster of issues that needs to be addressed and a number of questions are coming forward. He stated that a faculty advisory committee will need to be established.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the Haymarket arena project will go to the Board of Regents on February 12. He stated that he believes some terms will need to be negotiated on this project before the Board approves it.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Board of Regents will be visiting the campus on February 12. He noted that the Board visits the campus every other year. He stated that plans are being made on how to best maximize the Regents' time here and to show them the campus. He stated that current plans are to show the Board the animal research facility on east campus which is in desperate need of renovations. He pointed out that the current facility is hindering research. He reported that the chemistry labs in Hamilton Hall are also in dire need of repair. He stated that he also wants the Board to see the renovations occurring in the Whittier Building which will provide us with extra space that is greatly needed. He stated that the Board will also receive reports on three research centers: rural education, transportation, and energy center.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that he will be traveling heavily during the next two months but will try to meet with either President Fech or the Executive Committee as his schedule permits.

### **3.0 Announcements**

#### **3.1 Academic Freedom Lecture**

Fech reported that he met with Professor Moshman to discuss possible guest speakers for a lecture on academic freedom. He stated that a possible scenario is having a guest speaker to make a general address. There would also be a panel for a response and a time period for questions. He was considering having the lecture in mid-April, if possible. He noted that he would like to do something to honor the ad hoc committee on academic freedom for all of the work that they did on the Ayers' report.

#### **3.2 Lunch with President Milliken**

Fech reported that he and the other Senate Presidents have been invited to have lunch with the President in February.

### **4.0 Minutes of 1/20/10**

No major changes were made to the draft minutes.

### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **5.1 NU Online Worldwide Masters Program**

Rapkin reported that his department just recently discovered that NU Online Worldwide is offering a masters degree in political science. He pointed out that no one in his department was ever consulted about it. He stated that none of the professors listed for this degree are from UNL. He reported that the chair of his department, Professor Theiss-Morse, contacted Dr. Bateman about this degree and was informed that the Board of Regents approved it.

Prochaska-Cue pointed out that central administration creating degree programs seems like a major ethical issue. Flowers suggested that every department should check the

Online Worldwide website (<http://onlineworldwide.nebraska.edu>) to see if degrees are being awarded in their discipline. He pointed out that this situation reminded him of controversies that arose in the 1970's when graduate degree programs proposed by other campuses were incorporated into the Graduate College with little or no consultation with existing similar programs at UNL.

LaCost stated that the problem is that the degree is from the University of Nebraska, not the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She pointed out that having a program operating without a department having a clue about it, is quite frightening. Rapkin noted that this blurs the lines for legitimate degrees. LaCost stated that there was a recent article in the Chronicle concerning scams of on-line degrees.

Rapkin noted that there is also the question of resources. LaCost stated that the choice of where to take these courses resides with the participant and there is a problem because the campuses charge different tuition rates.

Konecky wondered what resources the online students would have access to. She pointed out that UNMC students cannot get into UNL's databases and manuscripts. She noted that this is not necessarily UNL's stipulation but the company who owns the database. Shea stated that a student of the university should be able to have access to all of the universities resources.

McCollough wondered whether the requirements for the master's degree from Online Worldwide is the same as the requirements at UNL. Rapkin stated that he did not know. He noted that the course titles are different.

Fech asked if the Online Worldwide program is creating a fifth campus. Lindquist questioned whether they are advertising a program that is available at UNO or UNK.

## **5.2 Conflict of Interest Policy Committee**

Lindquist noted that the Regents' Conflict of Interest Policy has recently been discussed by the Board. He stated that UNL is now being required to create its own policy and he has been asked to serve on the committee that will create the policy. Shea noted that this policy needs to be looked at carefully. He stated that he has some concerns with the Regents' policy. He pointed out that if the policy is not specific it could lead to things that may not be the intent of the policy. Lindquist noted that the big changes are with conflict of interest and commitment, and what the faculty's rights are with working with outside contractual agreements. He stated that this policy will be very important with Innovation Campus on the horizon. Lindquist stated that the only faculty members on this committee are himself and Professor Farritor from Mechanical Engineering and Professor Mendola from Philosophy.

## **5.3 BRRRC Document**

The Committee discussed possible further revisions to the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions.

**6.0 New Business**

**6.1 Interview of Gary Kebbel for Dean of Journalism & Mass Communications**

The Committee met and interviewed Gary Kebbel.

**6.2 Increasing Faculty Attendance at Graduation**

Agenda item postponed due to lack of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, February 3 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.