

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Fech, Flowers, Franti, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, Rapkin, Shea, Stock

**Absent:** Bolin, McCollough, Prochaska-Cue, Schubert

**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010

**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.

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### **1.0 Call to Order**

Fech called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **2.0 Announcements**

#### **2.1 No Meeting During Spring Break**

Fech reminded the Committee that there will not be a meeting next week due to spring break.

#### **2.2 Associate Vice Chancellor Position in Academic Affairs**

Fech reported that he asked for clarification about the job announcement of the Associate Vice Chancellor position in Academic Affairs since the Chancellor had just announced that a similar position was being cut in that office. Fech stated that Interim VC Weissinger informed him that Associate VC Jacobson was returning to the faculty of Modern Languages & Literature and it was this position that is being replaced. The Associate Vice Chancellor position that is being cut was formerly held by Ron Roeber who is now working with CIO Askren in Information Services.

#### **2.3 Budget Cuts**

Fech noted that the Chancellor announced the budget cuts for the campus yesterday. Franti pointed out that the cuts only amount to \$3.2 million and more cuts will need to be made. LaCost noted that the Chancellor had stated in his announcement that faculty cuts might be coming up. Fech stated that \$9 million in cuts is needed for the biennium. He pointed out that if salary increases are not given, about \$4 million would be saved. Franti pointed out that the Board of Regents might decide not to give increases or could say that this decision will be up to the campuses.

### **3.0 Minutes of 3/3/10**

No major changes to the minutes were made.

### **4.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **4.1 Research Misconduct Policy**

Lindquist reported that the ad hoc committee looked at the document Emeriti Professor McShane presented at the February Senate meeting. He stated that the committee made

most of the changes to the document as suggested and created a document explaining why changes were or were not made. He noted that the word “will” has been replaced by the word “shall” in most of the document.

Lindquist noted that a copy of the letter from Associate General Counsel Turan Odabasi explaining why the changes suggested in Professor Chouinard’s motion, made at the February Senate meeting, are not acceptable. The letter will be sent out along with the newly revised research misconduct policy.

Shea pointed out that the ad hoc committee reviewed the suggested changes made by Emeritus Professor McShane, reviewed Professor Chouinard’s motion, and had legal counsel review the document. The next step was to bring it to the Executive Committee. He pointed out that the Senate needs to have the documents in time to review before the April 6<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting.

The Committee approved sending the revised document along with the additional materials to the Senate.

#### **4.2 BRRRC Document**

Griffin reported that she just received changes to the document from Prochaska-Cue. She stated that she will make the changes and get the document out to the Committee for the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. She noted that Prochaska-Cue specifically asked that the item be discussed at the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting when she will be back in town.

#### **4.3 Senate Elections**

The Committee worked on trying to find people who would be willing to run for election to the Senate Executive committee.

#### **4.4 ARRC Special Hearing Case**

Fech reported that the letter from the Committee responding to the Chancellor’s decision on the special hearing case has been sent.

#### **4.5 Online Worldwide**

Stock reported that there is still significant concern on campus regarding Online Worldwide, particularly how programs and courses will be tied back to the specific department that is providing the course. He noted that he has informed people that the Executive Committee has had amiable discussions with the administration regarding the program. Rapkin pointed out that issues that had not been anticipated seem to be rising with the program. LaCost noted that the steering committee has been meeting for approximately two years and is having a hard time making progress with the program. She pointed out that the faculty needs to keep the Chancellor apprised of any concerns that we have with the program.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Report on Meeting with Keith Dietze, Director of University-wide Benefits, and David Lechner, Vice President, about Health Care Benefits**

Fech reported that he and the other Faculty Senate Presidents met with Dietze and Lechner to discuss health benefit issues. He stated that all parties agreed that there needs to be improved communications between the campuses and central administration regarding health care benefits. He noted that President Elder from UNO mentioned that there are no built-in networks for campus representatives to the University-wide Benefits Committee to distribute information to the campuses.

Fech noted that health care benefits is a complex issue and that it is difficult to understand it if you do not have knowledge in this area. He reported that Chancellor Perlman had indicated that the campus used to have long-term appointments to the University-wide Benefits Committee that were trained in health care benefits. He noted that the Chancellor suggested having long-term, trained members again.

Fech stated that reports of the University-wide Benefits Committee meetings are that they are poorly organized and there is a lack of dissemination of information. He reported that Lechner stated that the local Human Resources people on campus need to do more outreach.

Franti noted that the University-wide Benefits Committee seems to be a powerless committee and concerns of the faculty are being deflected by administrators who are merely saying that we are not receiving adequate information. He pointed out that the administrators are not seeing what the faculty wants and the University-wide committee needs to change, but this will not happen unless the Chancellors push for it.

Fech stated that he asked for information on how much money is left over in the health reimbursement accounts but was told that by Dietze and Lechner that they did not have this figure. He stated that Lechner and Dietze stated that there is a net gain of about \$40,000 a year with the program.

Fech reported that he did inquire about a health savings account. He pointed out that with a health savings account an individual would not have regular health insurance and they would have to manage their health savings account themselves. He noted that if this was available people could opt for it, but this would make the overall pool for health insurance smaller thereby increasing everyone's rate.

Fech stated that the idea was raised of getting a health educator to meet and talk with departments to explain some of the things that were discussed but he was told that this was not likely.

Lindquist asked if any actions are going to be taken as a result of the meeting. Fech noted that better campus communications are needed and wondered how many people would show up for meetings about health care benefits. He suggested that we invite Assistant Vice Chancellor Bruce Currin and Greg Clayton, Director, Benefits & Risk Management, to come and speak to the Senate. Franti asked what the meetings would be about. Fech stated that Lechner was concerned with having uniformity and consistency of messages distributed.

Fech reported that he inquired about extending the time for filing claims for the health reimbursement account from 12 months to 14 ½ months. He reported that the administrators were against this because the length of time would create confusion of acceptable dates for claims. Franti pointed out that people are aware of what they are signing up for and that participating in the health reimbursement account is completely voluntary. He stated that people need to keep aware of their standing with the account if they participate in the program. LaCost pointed out that the government allows a broader array to set up a plan and this is all that is being asked for, to allow some flexibility with the filing of claims.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at pm 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Faculty senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and David Rapkin, Secretary.