

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Bolin, Franti, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 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.

1.0 Call to Order

Fech called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Professor Bender, Chair of Academic Planning Committee

2.1 Proposed Revisions to the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reductions/Reallocations

Fech noted that he and Professor Bender formed an ad hoc committee last year to review and possibly revise the budget reduction procedures. He reported that the ad hoc committee had representatives from the faculty, staff, and students. He stated that a motion to revise the procedures, based on the recommendations of the ad hoc committee and from the Senate Executive Committee, was made at the March 2 Senate meeting and will hopefully be voted on at the April 6 meeting.

Fech pointed out that one of the revisions calls for both UNOPA and UAAD to have a representative added to the APC during Phases I, II, and III of the budget cutting procedures, but he realizes that some faculty members have concerns with this addition to the procedures. Professor Bender reported that there are divided opinions on the APC about this addition. He stated that most members of the APC have no objections to UNOPA and UAAD participating in the procedures, but some APC members prefer that they do not have voting privileges. He stated that the concern is with administrators and staff members voting on retaining tenured or tenure track faculty members. He pointed out that there are other members on the APC who feel that the UAAD and UNOPA representatives should have voting rights because tenured faculty members vote on the jobs of staff and administrators. He stated that he hopes that the APC members would not be so divided and would realize that this is an educational institution, if we don't have faculty members than we don't have an institution. He noted that he was unable to attend the APC meeting when this issue was discussed so he does not feel he can report in depth about it. He pointed out that the no motion was made at that meeting and there was no quorum so the APC does not have an official stance on the issue.

Fech stated that it is his understanding that UNOPA and UAAD have a representative participating in the current budget reduction procedures. Professor Bender stated that this

is correct and that they are there only for the budget reductions. He noted that the Chancellor stated that it would be fine if APC wanted to include UNOPA and UAAD in the discussions. He pointed out that they will not have any voting rights during this spring's budget hearings.

Fech stated that the two major revisions to the procedures are: 1) including representatives of UNOPA and UAAD in the budget cutting process, and 2) clarification of the word "consultation" in the document. He noted that there are several instances where the Executive Committee is requesting that the Faculty Senate President or designee is included in some of the budget meetings. He stated that we will have to see if the Chancellor approves the proposed changes. If the motion passes at the April 6 Senate meeting, the procedures would then need to be approved by ASUN, APC, the Chancellor, and finally to the Board of Regents.

Prochaska-Cue asked Professor Bender for clarification about the voting members of the APC. Professor Bender stated that the voting members are the six elected faculty members, the appointee of the faculty senate, the graduate studies representative, the two deans, the two vice chancellors, and the two students. Prochaska-Cue noted that the voting divides up as eight faculty members, four administrators, and two students. Fech stated that adding two more voting members to the budget cutting process could change things on the APC.

Prochaska-Cue pointed out that allowing participation by the UAAD and UNOPA representatives would give voice to a group of employees that is not represented during the budget cutting process. She noted that students, faculty, and administrators all have representation on the APC, but not the staff. She stated that, according to information provided by Nancy Myers, Director of Organization Development, there are approximately 5900 UNL regular employees. Of this 1,363 are tenured, tenure track or equivalent rank faculty members; 1,829 are managerial/professional employees; 1,874 office service employees; and 194 administrators (including athletic administrators). She pointed out that adding a UNOPA member and a UAAD member would give representation to approximately 3700 employees.

Griffin asked how administrators typically vote on the APC. Professor Bender stated that there are not a lot of split votes and administrators usually vote along the line of the faculty. He stated that one possibility is to enlarge the APC to include more faculty members. He noted that the APC is now appointing several ad hoc committees to deal with the various tasks of the APC and typically there are more things to do than there are faculty members to do them making it difficult to get all of the needed work done. He pointed out that the workload in normal times might be enough to justify getting more faculty members on the committee which would also ensure that the faculty members retain the majority of the votes. Shea stated that he thinks people would be in favor of adding more members to the APC and wondered about the process for getting this approved.

Professor Bender stated that he thinks it is possible to get approval for adding more people. He noted that a new subcommittee has just been created to deal with certificate programs because so many of them deserve special attention. He stated that there are no formal plans yet, but discussions with Interim SVCAA Weissinger have been taking place about soliciting and evaluating ideas from across the campus on how to make the enterprise operate more efficiently. He pointed out that having more faculty members would help distribute the work load among the APC committee members.

Shea stated that he liked the idea of adding two more faculty members to the APC and wondered if an amendment could be added to the motion on the procedures to do this. Griffin pointed out that it would be better to have a separate motion to add members to the APC. She noted that the faculty members on the APC represent the four major disciplines on campus: arts and humanities, physical sciences, biological sciences, and business and social sciences and the APC should determine what disciplines the two additional members would represent. Rapkin pointed out that a justification for increasing membership on the APC will need to be developed.

Shea suggested checking on the history of the APC and when it was created. He wondered how many faculty members were on campus then compared to now. He guessed that there are many more faculty members now which would be a justification for increasing the number of faculty members on the APC.

Lindquist asked if 9-month faculty members on the APC meet during the summer. Professor Bender stated that the APC does not have regular meetings during the summer, but there are procedures in place to call a meeting and it is possible to get a quorum during the summer. He noted that at last summer's budget hearings there was full participation from the members.

Shea asked if there are more APC meetings scheduled before the end of the semester. Professor Bender stated that there are two more meetings and then the hearings. He stated that he will ask that adding more faculty members be put on the next agenda.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Retirement Reception for Vice Chancellor Owens

Fech announced that there will be a retirement reception for Vice Chancellor Owens on April 13 from 4 – 6 p.m.

3.2 Ethics Brown Bag Luncheon

Fech reported that the next ethics brown bag luncheon will be held on April 15th. The topic of discussion will be the ethics of data selection. He noted that the last luncheon was on plagiarism and discussion centered on how to handle your work being plagiarized and what mechanisms are in place at UNL to deal with plagiarism.

4.0 Minutes of 3/24/10

The Committee briefly discussed revisions to the minutes.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Research Misconduct Policy

The Committee discussed the order of business in dealing with the motions and amendments relating to the research misconduct policy.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Search Committee for the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

The Committee discussed the proposed members for the SVCAA search committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, April 7, 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 David Rapkin, Secretary.