

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Schubert

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 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 3:01 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

3.0 Minutes of 2/24/10

No major changes to the minutes were made.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 ARRC Case

The Committee discussed the outcomes of an AFT-A case. Due to confidentiality restrictions, the discussion was off the record.

4.2 Research Misconduct Policy

Lindquist reported that the Executive Committee might be able to look at the most recent version of the policy if he doesn't get any further changes from the ad hoc committee by Monday. Shea stated that he believes the latest version addresses the needs and concerns of the faculty and is a much better document than the earlier versions and the current policy. He pointed out that the faculty should understand that there are some things in the document that must be there due to federal regulations.

Shea stated that he believes this joint effort of the faculty and administration coming together to work on an important policy has been positive.

4.3 BRRRC Document

Prochaska-Cue reported that she sent the ad hoc committee a copy of the proposed changes to the procedures and she is waiting to hear back from all of the members. She stated that the Senate will probably need to approve the document before it is sent to ASUN for approval. She noted that Griffin will be cleaning up the document and adding page numbers over the spring break.

5.0 New Business

No new business was discussed.

6.0 Chancellor Perlman/Interim SVCAA Weissinger

6.1 Budget Reductions

Chancellor Perlman reported that an email will be sent out inviting members of the Senate Executive Committee, APC, UNOPA, UAAD, Deans and Directors, and ASUN to a briefing on the proposed budget reductions on Tuesday, March 9th at noon. He stated that he will brief everyone on what is happening with respect to the budget reductions. He noted that none of the cuts are to core academic programs and no faculty cuts will be implicated. He stated that there might be some controversy on one of the cuts.

Fech reported that he spoke with Nancy Myers, Director of Organization Development, who stated that Human Resources is ready to assist those who will lose their jobs with the cuts. Once the affected staff members are notified, Human Resources will come in right away to talk to them.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that these cuts will only get the campus to about \$3 ½ million of the needed \$5.2 million. Flowers asked if the announcement on Tuesday addresses only the \$3 ½ million. Chancellor Perlman stated that this is correct.

Interim SVCAA Weissinger reported that she has been sorting through the deans' budget reduction recommendations and has been working closely with them to try and do the least possible damage with the reductions. She noted that while her experience with the Academic Planning Committee is limited, she and the APC seem to be on the same page on looking at new approaches to take with the reductions and focusing on revenue and how we can do things more efficiently. She pointed out that there is not a lot left to cut and the campus needs to get creative in order to deal with the reductions

6.2 Update on Conflict of Interest Policy

Fech asked if the Board of Regents will act on the university-wide policy. Chancellor Perlman stated that it is on the agenda but he is not sure whether the Board will act on the policy. He pointed out that essentially what the university-wide policy does is delegate the campuses to develop their own conflict of interest policy, which might be appropriate given the differentials of the campuses. He stated that VC Paul is taking the lead on the UNL effort because most of the policy relates to research, but a small committee is looking at the framework of the policy. He noted that there is a current policy so the committee will not have to start from scratch but Associate to the Chancellor Poser reviewed the document and reported that there is a substantial list of things that must be addressed.

Fech asked if the timing of revising the policy is associated with Innovation Campus. Chancellor Perlman noted that the university needs to stay on top of the policy. He stated that there are some obligations to create an institutional conflict of interest policy. He stated that policies will need to be created if the university takes any equity interest in a

company that is part of Innovation Campus. He pointed out that he does not anticipate any radical changes to the policy that is already in place.

6.3 Update on Discussion with Arnold Bateman About Online Worldwide

Fech reported that many faculty members have concerns with Online Worldwide and recently the Executive Committee met to discuss these concerns with Arnold Bateman, Director of Online Worldwide. He noted that some of the concerns are whether adjuncts would be hired to teach the courses, whether courses would be watered down, and the difference in tuition rates between the campuses. He acknowledged that there is a lot of advantage to single branding but noted that the campuses have different focuses.

Fech stated that the Committee had a discussion with Interim SVCAA Weissinger and her concerns are about faculty retaining control over the curriculum. He stated that the departments and colleges want to continue to control the curriculum.

Chancellor Perlman stated that as long as there is identifiable differentiation in the programs we should be okay. He pointed out that the opportunities for increasing revenue are greater with Online Worldwide. He noted that studies have indicated that those people getting their education online do not worry much about where their degree comes from. He noted that there could be some risks with the program.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the tricky part with the program has to deal with resident students taking some online courses. He stated that he is not anxious to cede credit hours from our on-campus students. He noted that 70% of our online courses are for our own students.

McCullough stated that the major concern that she is hearing about from other faculty members is the governance issue. She asked if Online Worldwide will be as integrated as the survey model indicated in last year's report. Chancellor Perlman stated that there is some integration, but it is his understanding that students can search for a specific course and can choose which campus to take the course from. He stated that this will be helpful to our campus.

Chancellor Perlman stated that work is being done to get the differential tuition rates fixed between the campuses. He noted that it will probably take another year before it is fixed. He pointed out that PeopleSoft cannot handle large numbers of differential rates.

McCullough asked if approval for a new online course still has to go through department and college approval before going to the Online Worldwide steering committee. Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that approval at the department and college level will still be needed. She stated that this should not change with online courses, but there may be some additional approval to get on the Online Worldwide system and if so, a curriculum governance structure, perhaps similar to the Graduate College, will need to be created.

6.4 PeopleSoft

Konecky asked if PeopleSoft is ready to go. Chancellor Perlman reported that he just received a message from VC Franco about the new student information system. He stated that the system is hitting the benchmarks for UNL and students will be registering for fall classes with it. The next big test will be March 29th when students start registering. He stated that there are still some problems with the billing interface of the program because People Soft did not come with a consolidated billing system.

Chancellor Perlman stressed that the campus needs to understand that initially there may be some aspects of PeopleSoft that do not work as well as the current system, but PeopleSoft has the capacity to eventually be a better system. He stated that there may be some things that cannot be done with PeopleSoft that can currently be done but there will also be some new things. He reminded the Committee that the campus did not have any choice but to get a new system. He stated that he thinks it is the right system and that problems will be resolved in the end.

Chancellor Perlman noted that outside consultants suggested that it would be exceedingly difficult for the campus to implement a new system within the budget and timeframe that we had to work with. He stated that many people put extraordinary efforts into getting the system up and running.

Flowers reported that staff members in his department have attended some of the workshops and have reported that PeopleSoft does not allow graduate seminars with unlisted course numbers. Students will need to have an identification number and the help of a staff member to enroll in these courses.

Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that most of what is visible with the new system will make faculty happy. She pointed out that we have an exceptional group of people on campus that have experience with the system and they will be here to assist people. She noted that there are approximately 20 people on campus that have worked on this project for the last year and a half and have built it from the inside out. They understand the system and can help people with it.

Chancellor Perlman noted that there are two options if the system doesn't do what you want: the system can either be tweaked or you can change how you do things. Either way there is some cost involved. He pointed out that the more modifications that are made to the system, the more costly it will be and given the budget situation this could be difficult. He noted that if there really is a need to tweak the system than we should do it but we need to continue to have a conversation about any changes to the system.

6.5 Haymarket Arena

Fech stated that he has received an email message asking if the Senate would formally support the arena. He asked if the Senate could make a motion to support it. Chancellor Perlman stated that he thinks the Senate could take a position on the arena but he recommended that Fech consult with General Counsel Pederson about this.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the cost of building the arena should be covered by the citywide tax increase on bar and restaurant tabs, hotels, and car rentals as well as revenue from the arena. Annual sales tax generated by the arena will go back to the city to pay off the bond. He pointed out that a property tax increase would only be used if needed. He noted that in no time in the history of Lincoln has a bond had to fall back on increases in property taxes. He stated that when South Pointe was built it helped to lower property taxes because the tax base grew. He noted that the same thing could possibly happen with the arena. He pointed out that having an arena could make Lincoln a more attractive place to live and increasing the tax base helps to reduce property taxes because there are more people to contribute to taxes. He reported that 70% of the sales tax generated from the hotels will go to the project and \$32 million in private money will be raised.

6.6 Associate to the Chancellor Position

Chancellor Perlman stated that he does have some people in mind who would do well in the position but he is trying to decide what to do with it. He stated that he needs to decide what skill set would help maximize his office and contribute to the university. He noted that he is not inclined to offer the position up as a budget cut. Interim SVCAA Weissinger reported that she has heard from people who interact with the Chancellor's office that they are against the idea of not having a competent person in the position.

Fech noted that Associate to the Chancellor Poser has been very helpful in some of the campus committees.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that he has to travel more and that this will continue for awhile so he needs to have someone in the position who can speak for him when he is not available. He stated that he believes he does not have to conduct a search for the position but he values getting feedback from the campus. He stated that he will let the Committee know what he is thinking and he appreciates the importance of the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, March 10 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.