

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Berg, Fech, Franti, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, Nickerson, Shea, Stock

Absent: Anaya, Flowers, McCollough, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Location: 201 Canfield Administration

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

Lindquist called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Email Message to President Milliken

Lindquist reported that Franti sent a message to President Milliken thanking him for meeting with us and noting that the Faculty Senate hopes to engage faculty members in discussions on a faculty driven vision for the university. He noted that President Milliken responded stating that he enjoyed the discussion and pointed out that we need to have these kinds of discussions about the future of the university.

2.2 Lunch with President Milliken

Lindquist reported that he and the other Faculty Senate Presidents will be having lunch with President Milliken on Friday, October 29. He stated that anyone who has specific issues they want him to discuss with the President should let him know.

3.0 Minutes of 10/20/10

The minutes of the 10/20/10 Executive Committee meeting were approved with revisions.

4.0 Interim SVCAA Weissinger

4.1 Update on Searches – Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of College of Engineering

Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that the search for the SVCAA is moving along and it is hoped that there will be on campus interviews later this semester.

Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that the search for the dean of the College of Engineering is moving along. She reported that advertisements for the position were recently released. She noted that the same consultant is being used for this search and the search for a new SVCAA.

4.2 Faculty Senate and APC Joint Effort to Have Campus-wide Discussions on a Faculty Driven Vision for the Campus

Lindquist stated that the idea to work with the APC to have a joint effort in holding campus-wide discussions on a faculty driven vision for the campus was spurred by discussions the Executive Committee and Senate had with the Chancellor, Interim SVCAA, and VC Green. He noted that changes are coming to the university and the Executive Committee felt that we should have faculty members involved in the thinking of what the vision of the campus should look like. He stated that since academic planning is in the realm of the APC's responsibilities, the Executive Committee thought it would be a good idea to work with the APC on these campus discussions. He reported that the Executive Committee met with Professors Bender and Minter from the APC two weeks ago proposing the idea to them and asking them to take it back to the APC for consideration.

Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that intuitively working with the APC seems the right way to go. She noted that APC has a much bigger role in reviewing and shaping proposals in the academic structure and it would be good to work with the APC.

Lindquist stated that some of the upcoming budget cuts could be a driving force for upcoming changes in how classes are taught and also the structure of the campus. Interim SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that the number of people considering the voluntary separation incentive program could also be a driving force. She stated that the opening of a number of positions could influence our thinking of the university and its future. She stated that the faculty needs to ask what challenges these openings can present. She pointed out that we will be losing a tremendous amount of expertise, experience, and capacity when these faculty members retire.

LaCost pointed out that there are a lot of external forces pushing the traditional picture of university life and we need to identify people who can participate in the vision of the campus. She suggested including those people who will be retiring because of their expertise and experience and noted that these people might feel more freely to discuss their ideas. Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that one of the key issues is how to structure the fora so people get engaged in the discussion. She pointed out that this needs to be done in a way that is maximally inviting, convenient, and intriguing.

Nickerson asked if we are going to be able to replace the faculty members that will be retiring. Franti noted that each college will have to manage its budget the best way it sees fit given that we are more than likely to be facing more budget cuts. Interim SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that there is no cash flow left to help offset budget cuts. She stated that the only answer to the long term future of the university is to look hard at the structure of the university. She stated that we might need to do things smarter and innovations in instructional deliveries might help with budget cuts. She pointed out that there is very little money left in the business and finance and student affairs sectors. She noted that the university is going to have to be careful in cutting programs because these cuts can result in the loss of revenue from tuition dollars.

Lindquist stated that cutting programs eliminates that program, whereas using open lines vacated by people accepting the VSI program can be used to reallocate funds. Shea pointed out that we might need to have a multi-pronged or mixed approach with how these lines are used. He noted that in practicality we won't be able to keep all of the open lines but we might be able to put some of them in reserve and have a plan to phase them back in over a period of time. He noted that this could actually save some money in the long term. Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that more than likely, not all of the lines that become open will be filled. She pointed out that there also is considerable savings from benefits from each of these lines and that these are real dollars.

Franti noted that other universities have dealt with large budget cuts and having a number of faculty members retire at the same time. He asked if these universities are being contacted to see how they have handled the situation. Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that it is difficult to find information on how other universities have dealt with their budget issues, but now some institutions are being contacted directly to obtain some of the information and she recommended that faculty members speak with colleagues at institutions that have already dealt with large budget cuts.

Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that she thinks it would be ideal to include some APC members in the planning of these campus wide discussions, but she can envision the Faculty Senate working on this on its own as well.

4.3 Status of One Time Teaching Funds

Interim SVCAA Weissinger reported that some competing proposals have come through the colleges and vice chancellors but the administration has not heard from President Milliken about how much money will be available. She noted that the Chancellor sees this money as reinvestment in the students.

Lindquist asked if the funds are targeted for distance education courses. Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that the chancellor does not know how the proposals will be prioritized. She stated that these funds are in excess of the projected budget and President Milliken allocates the dollars across the campuses, but the campuses have to make proposals on what they would do with the funds.

Nickerson asked if these are just one time funds. Interim SVCAA Weissinger reported that they are just one time funds.

4.4 Issues on the Horizon

Interim SVCAA Weissinger stated that she thinks we need to do something significant to recognize the faculty members who will be retiring through the voluntary separation program. Franti asked if all of these faculty members will be retiring at the same time. Interim SVCAA Weissinger reported that there will be two different times based on whether the faculty members are on 9 month or 12 month appointments. She suggested that there might be a series of events for these retiring faculty members such as the Faculty Senate having an event, the Vice Chancellors sponsoring an event, and the

colleges and departments having events. Lindquist agreed and stated that the Executive Committee would be happy to participate in working on these plans.

Nickerson stated that it is important to do something for these people. He pointed out that he has witnessed a number of faculty members who left the university embittered and we want to avoid this happening again.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Faculty Senate and APC Joint Effort to Have Campus-wide Discussions on a Faculty Driven Vision for the Campus

Lindquist reported that he spoke with APC chair Professor Brand about the idea of having a joint effort of the APC and the Faculty Senate to engage the faculty on discussions about a faculty driven vision of the future. He noted that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is interested in putting together a committee that would work on how to have these conversations on campus. He pointed out that how these discussion meetings are presented will determine how successful they are. He reported that the APC chair informed him that the Executive Committee will need to make a formal presentation to the APC on plans to engage the faculty in discussions.

Lindquist asked if anyone wanted to work on planning the campus discussions. Nickerson stated that he did not see how a small group can accomplish getting campus-wide input on the subject. He stated that a framework needs to be developed. Lindquist stated that an alternative would be to have a larger group like the Executive Committee work on this. Shea suggested that if this approach is taken, time would need to be scheduled into the meetings to work on the project.

Lindquist asked if there could be a small group of support people who would make sure that the efforts to have the campus discussions proceeds. Shea volunteered to help with this because he believes that this is something that needs to get done and the timing of it is important.

Lindquist asked if there are people willing to meet with the APC to discuss the idea of working together to have discussions on a faculty driven vision for the university. LaCost pointed out that the Chancellor essentially gave the Executive Committee a charge to move forward on this subject. She noted that the interest of the Executive Committee in working with the APC is to determine what would be the best way to have interactions with the faculty to have the needed discussions.

Nickerson suggested having a faculty forum but starting with some questions for the faculty. Lindquist noted that a group could form some questions, perhaps five, that could be asked in order to begin the conversations. LaCost stated that she can see having a series of small coffee conversations and asking senators to come to the meetings with a colleague or two. Lindquist suggested that departments who hold regular meetings could hold conversations.

Berg stated that a survey could be conducted to ask the faculty what issues they are interested in being addressed. He pointed out that some faculty members might want to talk about different issues and conducting a survey could give the Executive Committee direction on a tentative agenda or issues for discussion. He stated that this would enable the Executive Committee to ascertain what issues are really driving forward.

Franti pointed out that the only large group of faculty members that meet on a regular basis is the Faculty Senate. He suggested that other faculty members be invited to the Senate meetings to speak on what is happening in their units and what vision they have for the university. He stated that he thinks this should be an effort of the Senate.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Faculty Needed for Special Fees Committee

Griffin noted that three faculty members are needed to serve on the Special Fees Committee. She suggested that an email message be sent to Senators asking if anyone is interested in serving on this committee. The Executive Committee agreed to an email message being sent out.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, November 3, at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Pat Shea, Secretary.