

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Flowers, Franti, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, McCollough, Nickerson, Schubert, Shea, Stock

Absent: Anaya, Berg, Fech

Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Location: Faculty Senate Office

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 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Graduate Student Association – Laura Lynch, Emile Salame, Sylvia Jons

Lindquist stated that the Executive Committee wanted to meet with the Graduate Student Association to see how the two groups can interact and perhaps work together on issues that affect both groups.

Lynch distributed a fact sheet on the GSA and a copy of their draft strategic plan. She noted that the GSA is structured like ASUN except that the GSA has representatives from every department on campus whereas ASUN only has representatives from each college. She noted that the GSA also has five at-large positions for each of the campuses. She pointed out that the GSA has a diverse representation in order to be aware of what is happening with graduate students across the campus.

Lynch stated that the GSA has been around for five or six years. Since officially starting, the GSA has had varying degrees of accomplishments and has worked on issues effecting graduate students on campus. She noted that one recent success has resulted in an extension of the deadline date for graduate assistants to pay their student fees. She noted that graduate assistants now have until mid-October to pay their fees. This is helpful since graduate students do not receive their first paycheck until the end of month. She stated that the GSA is working to get this policy extended to graduate fellowships.

Lynch reported that the GSA is working on quality of life issues for graduate students. This would include family and medical leaves for graduate students. She noted that graduate students can only have a .49 full time equivalency which does not meet the national requirements for eligibility of parental leave. She pointed out that graduate students are not allowed to have other jobs yet many have families they need to support. She stated that the GSA is working on a mechanism that would allow graduate students to take parental leave. She noted that if this policy should be approved, a graduate student who was granted parental leave would need to work with the chair of his/her

advisory committee. She stated that the Office of Graduate Studies is working on formulating this policy and it is currently under review by the university's General Counsel.

Lynch reported that another issue being worked on that might be beneficial to faculty members is supporting open access. She noted that the Faculty Senate approved a resolution last spring supporting UNL's Digital Commons and the GSA passed a resolution in 2008 about supporting open access. She stated that the GSA wants to encourage faculty members and graduate students to consider publishing in open access journals. She reported that the GSA has joined a national organization that supports rights to release and has been pushing ASUN to pass a similar resolution which they did two weeks ago. She stated that October 18 – 24 is National Open Access week and universities across the country will be doing things to get the word out about open access.

Lynch reported that the GSA and the University Libraries is partnering up to conduct an advertising campaign designed to inform people about open access and UNL's digital commons. She stated that there will also be a competition for students. The student who creates an email message to professors best explaining the digital commons and how easy it is to use will win a \$50 gift card to the computer/phone shop.

Shea asked what the goal is of GSA in regards to open access. Lynch stated that the GSA wants students to be aware of open access and she hopes they will get excited about it.

Nickerson asked what the GSA means by open access, that people do not have to subscribe to a journal in order to get access to it. He pointed out that it can sometimes cost authors up to \$5,000 in order to have articles published in journals that have open access.

Nickerson asked what would happen if the journal that has open access doesn't exist after a few years. Konecky pointed out that once an article is published it will remain published and will be assessable via the databases that are maintained by libraries. She noted that institutional repositories are indexed by Google and people can find the articles with Google Scholar. She pointed out that having an article in a digital repository increases the visibility and accessibility for the article and the author.

Nickerson stated that a lot of significance for an article decreases if a journal disappears. Konecky stated that many open access journals are ranked journals. She pointed out that subscription to some of the journals can cost \$5,000 or more a year. She noted that as subscription costs increase, more and more libraries are unable to subscribe to these journals and subscription prices are increasing by as much as 10-40% a year from some publishers. The institutional repositories are important for making the author's articles widely available to scholars world-wide regardless of journal access.

Nickerson stated that he thinks there may have been a graduate student association 15 or 20 years ago. Lynch reported that some departments have their own graduate student groups that belong to a national organization in their discipline.

Lindquist asked if the GSA was a member of a national organization for graduate students. Lynch stated that it's a member of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students Association.

Salame stated that the GSA is working on trying to get funding for graduate students to go to conferences. He noted that most departments provide some funding but there are still some departments that will not. He stated that graduate students need to count on faculty support for this funding and to find ways that will allow a graduate student to experience at least one conference outside of Nebraska.

Lindquist asked if the GSA was asking for departments to support graduate student travel. Salame stated that some departments are stating that they don't have the funds available when graduate students submit requests for travel money.

Salame stated that another issue for graduate students is child care. He noted that it is GSA's understanding that the faculty had input on the child care facility. He pointed out that many graduate students need child care service for only a few hours a day, not full-time care but the child care facility does not provide this option. He wondered if the faculty might be able to help get this option for the graduate students.

Griffin reported that the initial idea was to provide some drop-off child care service but when an outside company took over the child care facility the option was found not to be economically feasible. Schubert pointed out that there are many private child care providers in town that are available for drop off care. He pointed out that in order for the campus child care service to work it has to have full time care.

Nickerson asked if it would help if there was half day service rather than full day. Lynch stated that half day service would be more affordable for graduate students. Nickerson noted that there is a huge disparity among departments in how much they get paid. He stated that he did not think the child care facility would be able to provide child care on an hourly basis but perhaps it could provide half day service.

Lindquist suggested that the GSA continue talking to the child care service providers to explore what they might consider as a feasible option. He stated that the GSA should develop a proposal on this and send it to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. He stated that the Executive Committee will discuss it and may recommend changes. He pointed out that some of the requests might be difficult to meet. Schubert suggested including estimates of what the demand would be from graduate students for the half day child care service. Shea stated that it is his understanding that the demand for child care exceeds the number of open spots at the facility.

LaCost pointed out that one problem with the drop off child care is that the ratio of adults to children could be impacted which could potentially violate state law. She stated that half day child care would allow for better planning for needed staff.

Jons suggested that the GSA could set up a schedule that the child care facility might be willing to try for graduate students. She noted that the more reliable you make the process the more likely it might be adopted. Konecky pointed out that from an economic view point a person would have to commit to pay for the service whether or not they use it all of the time.

Jons stated that one of her responsibilities is to try and increase graduate student representation on campus committees. She noted that it is difficult to determine all of the committees on campus because there is no database identifying them. She pointed out that some committees have graduate student representatives while others have just ASUN representatives.

Nickerson asked if graduate students serve routinely on search committees. Lynch states that they do in Mathematics but she does not know if it is a campus-wide practice. Nickerson stated that his department feels that serving on search committees is training for graduate students since many of them will be on search committees later in their career. Lindquist stated that graduate students should talk to their departments about having a graduate student on a search committee. He pointed out that some departments might just not think about including a graduate student. Shea noted that some departments might feel that graduate students are not interested in serving.

Jons stated that she has a list of committees but is not sure if all of the committees need graduate student representation. Shea suggested contacting the chairs of the committees if the GSA feels they should have representation on the committee. He stated that the Executive Committee can help to some degree with this. He pointed out that a committee syllabus would need to be changed to include a graduate student representative if it currently does not state this. Shea suggested the GSA should review the syllabus for each of the committees to determine where graduate students should be included.

Lindquist asked if the GSA works with ASUN to appoint graduate students to committees. Jons noted that some committees only have ASUN representatives. Lindquist ask if GSA has a relationship with ASUN in deciding who the graduate student representative should be on committees, and if not, the GSA should work on this.

Shea pointed out that it is important for graduate students to show up for meetings if they are going to be included in the membership of a committee. He stated that there have been numerous occasions when students want to be on committees but then never show up for the meetings.

Schubert asked what the goal is of the GSA. He asked if the GSA is seeking to be a separate association from ASUN. Lynch stated that they are separate organizations but they work together on many issues. She noted that ASUN might sometimes pass over some issues because it doesn't affect all students whereas the GSA specifically addresses issues relating to graduate students. Schubert suggested that it might be appropriate for the GSA to be a separate organization. Jons stated that some other universities have recognized separate organizations for undergraduate and graduate students. Griffin stated

that the GSA should seek formal recognition from the administration and the Board of Regents. She recalled the GSA tried to do this when it was first getting started but was unsuccessful.

Lindquist suggested that the GSA look at the Regents Bylaws to see what it states about student government and ASUN. He noted that there might need to be a change in the language of the Bylaws to recognize the GSA and they could request that this be put on a Board of Regents' agenda. Nickerson asked if the graduate students would then get a representative on the Board of Regents similar to the undergraduate students having representation.

Lindquist stated that he thinks the Faculty Senate would support the GSA's recognition and suggested that there be a GSA representative to the Faculty Senate. Lindquist stated that faculty members recognize the importance of graduate students in the role of the university. He stated that he does not think that committees would object to having graduate student representation. He noted that the Executive Committee would be happy to speak to them again on this issue.

Shea stated that the GSA should meet at least once a year with the Executive Committee and more frequently if any issues arise.

Lindquist suggested that the GSA review the minutes of the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee because there may be issues arising that might affect graduate students. He stated that if there are any issues in particular that the GSA wants to address, they should ask to speak to the Executive Committee.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Revisions to Budget Reduction Procedures

Lindquist reported that approval of the revisions to the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocation and Reductions is on the APC's agenda today.

3.2 Lake Presentation on Academic Dishonesty

Lindquist stated that he sent an email message to Dean Hecker about the error made with the Lake presentation on academic dishonesty. He noted that there was confusion about where the presentation was being given which resulted in Flowers and others being unable to attend the presentation. He stated that Dean Hecker responded apologizing for the mix up and copied Andre Fortune, Director of the Multicultural Center where the event was supposed to be held.

3.3 Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)

Lindquist noted that the Faculty Senate voted approximately a year ago to discontinue being a member of the COIA. He stated that he received information that this year's annual COIA meeting will be held at one of the Big Ten universities. He wondered whether UNL should have a presence at the meeting. He stated that he will send a message to the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee to ask if we should consider sending a representative.

3.4 Research Misconduct Policy

Lindquist reported that the Research Misconduct Policy is in the General Counsel office where it is being finalized for its presentation to the Board of Regents. He stated that he spoke with Associate VC Espy about it and learned that the policy will be on the Board of Regents' consent agenda in the near future.

4.0 Approval of 9/29/10 Minutes

Revisions were made to the minutes of 9/29/10. The minutes were approved.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Changes to APC Syllabus

Lindquist stated that he revised the motion, based on the Executive Committee's recommendations last week. He noted that the motion will be presented to the Faculty Senate, hopefully at the next meeting, to increase the faculty membership on the APC by two.

Nickerson asked if the idea is to have the motion approved and in place by next spring when elections to the APC will be held. Shea stated that as soon as the Senate approves the addition the Senate should bring the proposal to the Chancellor for his approval.

Lindquist noted that Professor Brand, Chair of the APC, and Professor Bender, the Faculty Senate designee to the APC, will be meeting with the Executive Committee next week to discuss the motion.

5.2 +1 Draft Resolution

The Executive Committee discussed and revised the draft resolution. Konecky suggested giving the draft to Greg Clayton, Director of Risks & Benefits, to see what he thinks of the resolution.

5.3 Faculty Driven Vision of the University

Lindquist noted that at Tuesday's Faculty Senate meeting VC Green stated that there will be a lot of changes to the university and the vision of the future needs to come from the faculty.

LaCost reported that she has had faculty members asking if a group is going to be formed to discuss this topic in depth. She asked whether the Senate wants to put together talking sessions to brainstorm this subject or whether there will be clear cut agenda items focusing on the issue during a Senate meeting.

Nickerson stated that he introduced the subject to the Biological Sciences department but he didn't receive much of a response. He pointed out that the 2000 Life Sciences Task Force stated that there shouldn't be two separate administrations at UNL and that the campus should be looking at the academic benefits that would be gained by only having one administration. Lindquist pointed out that this is in part a political discussion and one way of dealing with this could be to bring all of the life science faculty and courses to

east campus. He stated that doing this could change the name of the Institute and broaden it to include disciplines beyond agriculture. Flowers stated that doing this could really cause a major split in some departments who have areas in both the life sciences and social sciences. He noted that in turn this could jeopardize federal funding.

Shea stated that the real drivers behind the future administration of the life sciences at UNL are economic and political. He noted that there is a real economic benefit to IANR and the university could lose some support if the Institute was to change too much.

Lindquist stated that some things are already changing on campus. He noted that the recent administrative hires are people who want to do more collaborative work. He noted that the Chancellor indicated that we need to grow as a university while also being more efficient. He stated that the question is how we grow our research budget but shrink the teaching budget.

Nickerson stated that professors of practice might be used more for teaching. He stated that the Senate should keep an eye on how many professors of practice are hired to replace those faculty members who voluntarily agree to separate from the university. Schubert pointed out that it would be more beneficial to hire potential new faculty members who could bring in a lot of money in grants. Lindquist noted that many young faculty members will not stay if they are not going to receive tenure.

Franti stated that one way to address the situation is to have graduate research assistants assist as TA's for classes, where this is not being done already. This is being considered in his department to ease the load on teaching faculty to free them for proposal writing, managing large classes, etc.

McCullough stated that she thinks it would be good to have discussions with faculty members on this topic.

Nickerson wondered whether developing a faculty driven vision of the campus is something that the APC ought to be doing. The Executive Committee agreed to discuss the topic with the APC members next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, October 13, 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.