

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Anaya, Berg, Fech, Flowers, Franti, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, McCollough, Schubert, Shea, Stock

Absent: Nickerson

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 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

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

2.0 2.0 CIO Askren

Lindquist stated that the Executive Committee wants to get an update about plans and efforts that are occurring with computing technologies on campus. He noted that CIO Askren reported at the Deans and Directors meeting about things that are occurring with Information Services that will save money.

CIO Askren said that he was glad to be back to talk to the Executive Committee. He reported that getting MyRed to work with Peoplesoft has been taking a lot of time but it is being worked on daily. He pointed out that one of the problems is that there are not enough effective training options for learning how to use the system. He stated that two focus groups will be formed to help resolve this problem. One focus group will be students and the other will be faculty/staff. He stated that it is hoped that the focus groups will show where the problems are for people using the program.

CIO Askren stated that now that the majority of the work has been done on the student information system, efforts can take place add functionality that was in the prior system such as allowing a parent to get access to their financial account in order to pay tuition and other fees. He noted that one overall goal of his work through the Information Services department is to have a single sign-on which would allow people to access the different available programs through one interface. He pointed out that he is uncomfortable with having so many different sign-on portals as it is not a good user experience.

CIO Askren noted that this initial semester is a tough one for the MyRed program because there are bugs that need to be worked out. He stated that hopefully by the spring semester it will be a much better experience for users.

Flowers stated that one theme that seems to be a common problem is that more features get added on to programs, but exactly where the features are put into the system is overlooked. He stated that having multiple portals can be confusing and switching between portals can cause inconsistencies which leads to frustration for the user.

CIO Askren stated that studies have shown that people use programs and websites by either navigation or by search. He pointed out that you can't have systems that do not have a search function and a navigation function, so the current search problems within the MyRed portal are being addressed.

Shea stated that he is trying to understand the process. He noted that likely most issues that we are facing have come up at other academic institutions that have used the same programs. He asked why we haven't benefited from those other institutions' experiences. CIO Askren stated that this is a very good point. He noted that he has enormous respect for the people who have been working very hard on PeopleSoft and pointed out that there are many talented IT people on campus, but as a general assessment IT staff at UNL often try to resolve problems on their own rather than seeking help or suggestions from other institutions who have used the same programs. He stated that at many other institutions there is a much more collaborative approach to dealing with computing problems. He noted that some of the universities in the CIC use the same programs we do, and he looks forward to us collaborating with people at these institutions in solving common challenges.

For instance someone might have a better student portal version of MyRed which is a vendor solution from Oracle/Peoplesoft. In that case we could implement another version with local modifications, or at least model some of our local enhancements based on what other universities have had success with. He pointed out that these kinds of cultural changes take time.

CIO Askren stated that another thing he is working on is developing some queries and reports to learn how money for information technology is being spent at UNL. He stated that UNL is spending over \$40 million in information technology but there is no consolidated report on where the money is spent and he believes this is essential to have in order to ensure that IT resources are being focused on the most important services and infrastructure.

CIO Askren stated that he spoke with the deans and directors about creating a small task force group focused on identifying IT efficiencies and cost savings that is faculty driven, and that will look into ways we can be more proficient with purchasing equipment and software while improving computing services. As an example he noted that the campus has not typically had focused negotiations with the top twenty vendors on campus to see how we can bring costs down for information technology. He pointed out that collaboration here is really important. He stated that he does not plan to propose centralization, but he does not want everyone fending for themselves when it comes to purchasing computing equipment and software.

CIO Askren stated that problems with information technology can be solved in numerous ways and all of these ways might work but we need to seek for common solutions. He stated that doing this can drive costs down by at least 5%. CIO Askren noted that it is his job to make the Information Services department an effective provider of core services for the campus.

CIO Askren reported that UNL was generally last in terms of security services offered when compared to the other Big12 schools at a security summit meeting last spring. Schubert asked how this is measured. CIO Askren gave one key example that last year we did not have an intrusion detection system but we do now. He stated that the detection system identified over 700,000 attacks on just the first day of use, and is now routinely blocking over a million attacks per week. He reported that the vast majority of these are automated attacks that are trying to steal data or compromise machines.

Schubert pointed out that this amount is normal for any windows machine. He asked if any damage was done in the past. CIO Askren reported that some data was stolen from a faculty member's computer last fall. He noted that the leak didn't come from any of our big systems on campus.

Schubert stated that this seems to be a separate incident and asked how it relates to the UNL system. CIO Askren pointed out that if you have a giant number of computers on a system that didn't have basic protection, you have a problem. He stated that a layered security model is the only way to practically improve security in an environment like ours. He stated that computer patches are now checked weekly on all computers visible off campus. He stated that the solution is not perfect, but he believes we have significantly improved our network security since last year. He reported that we are now in the middle of the pack of the Research I institutions in regards to security and working each week to make additional improvements. Last year at this time we had one IT security staff member, and now we have six due to internal reallocations.

Schubert asked what is being scanned on people's computers by IT. CIO Askren stated that the scans look at what hackers are looking at. He noted that no one is checking to see who is going where on the internet. He stated that IS is using tools to scan computers with a visible IP address to see if they have been patched, but IS is not looking at any data that is on the computers unless authorized system administrators or managers within the campus departments ask for that assistance.

Schubert asked why faculty members have to pay for wireless access but students do not. CIO Askren stated that students pay for access through the student technology fees. He noted that his personal feelings are that we should stop charging for wireless service. He stated that charging for wireless service is not commonly done. He pointed out that wireless service is getting much better to the point that some people would stop paying for a wall jack network line if wireless was "free." He noted that the problem with this is that the cost of paying for the network jacks covers the salaries for some information technology people, and the money for supporting these people needs to come from

somewhere. He stated that the current chargeback approach is unpopular, and that he is working to come up with a better model to propose this academic year.

CIO Askren stated that he is thinking of proposing a new model of information technology to the campus because what we have currently in place is not adequate. He pointed out that people need less cost barriers, not more to implement technology that can improve efficiency. However, nothing is going to make all of the issues and challenges go away immediately, but things can and are being improved.

Flowers noted that the faculty has complained about some computing functions in the past that have involved system-wide solutions, and he asked if the changes to some of these computing functions will impede the transformation that CIO Askren is envisioning. CIO Askren stated that there has been discussion on the campus about efficiency measures and the CIO's from all four campuses will be giving a report to Central Administration. He stated that he has been a major proponent in making transformative changes and that some of these will leverage our partners at other NU campuses as well as CSN.

CIO Askren stated that one of the things he is trying to do is to get approval to migrate our faculty and staff off of Lotus Notes and on to a cloud email solution. He stated that he is very uncomfortable with LotusNotes and we are close to being the last R1 university to be using it. He stated that he thinks a great university needs great technology. He reported that he and Chancellor Perlman forwarded a proposal to President Milliken last fall to migrate off of LotusNotes and to go to the internet cloud for email service. He stated that the proposal was not accepted but that President Milliken formed a faculty/staff group to look at the issues which was chaired by UNL faculty member John Ballard. Faculty member Roger Kirby was also part of that task force. That group has recommended that a cloud solution could provide significant savings, and a proposal to make that migration is being developed.

CIO Askren noted that email systems are in a much more open era now, and that we need to avoid vendor lock in with whatever solution we select as we don't want to be stuck in any solution for 10 to 15 years when technology is continuing to change and improve each year.

CIO Askren stated that another improvement can be found in purchasing of equipment. He stated that there are ways to drive equipment costs down by using more standardized options in many cases. Having 100% of the campus buying whatever they want whenever they want is too expensive. An 80/20 model where we consolidate the majority of hardware and software purchases on core commodity services can bring down acquisition and support costs while still leaving flexibility for strategic advantage within the colleges, schools, and other campus organizations.

CIO Askren stated that one of the major concerns on campuses nationally is minimizing any peer2peer non-authorized downloading of music and movies. He reported that user awareness campaigns are continuing, and that we are in compliance with the new Higher

Education Opportunity Act. UNL also implemented the program SafeConnect this fall for all dorm residents and student wireless network registration. This program alerts students when their computers are being used for peer2peer sharing.

Schubert asked what happens if a machine is found to be at high risk for compromise. CIO Askren stated that the person using the machine is notified though email. He reported that IS has network registration records and can usually identify a person through an IP address. However, if the risk is more alarming, more immediate measures will be taken. He stated that the number of people who are contacted on campus about high risk vulnerabilities is down from 7% to 4% with some false positives reporting.

Flowers asked what happens if someone thinks the message they received about the invasion is a scam. He asked how IS knows if the email message warning gets through to the person. CIO Askren stated that if a phishing email goes out with the UNL logo it would be very troubling and that this has happened at other campuses. He stated that the IS staff notify people of the vulnerabilities of these messages and asks anyone to contact IS so the problem can be fixed. IS messages regarding security vulnerabilities do not ask users to provide IDs or passwords. Instead a local campus phone number and staff contact name is provided if additional assistance is needed.

CIO Askren pointed out that there are some areas that don't have any IT support. He stated that the biggest problem is letting people know that IS can do something about this problem even if the individual does not have any IT support. He stated that some staff members have probably ignored the messages rather than addressing the concerns, but progress is being made. He stated that scanning and intrusion detection is helpful.

CIO Askren reported that the Chancellor put a directive in 2006 out that no will use social security numbers unless legally required, but this has not been followed consistently. He noted that some places have a business process that requires the use of a social security number but these need to be analyzed and treated as a high priority so that the SSNs and other sensitive data can be removed. He stated that the IS goal is to work on technical security but the best thing to do to minimize the risk of a personal identity breach is to not even have this kind of data on a computer in the first place.

CIO Askren stated that he has spent a year on IS to have it more service based and progress is being made but there is still room for more. Askren stated that he appreciated the questions, and encourages anyone with ideas, questions, or concerns to please contact him either through email or phone. He stated that he welcomes feedback.

3.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

4.0 Minutes of 9/8/10

Some corrections were made to the minutes.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Committee on Committees

Griffin reported that several faculty members volunteered to serve on the Committee on Committees. The Executive Committee selected faculty members to serve on the Committee on Committees.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Report on Board of Regents Meeting

Lindquist noted that most people know that one of the major items discussed by the Board of Regents is the voluntary separation incentive program for UNL. He stated that there was no controversy about this issue and President Milliken stated that the Chancellors at the other campuses would be looking at it.

Fech asked if there was any discussion on extending the offer to non tenured track faculty members or staff members. Lindquist reported that this will not happen because state law prohibits people getting paid for work they have not done. He noted that what happens is that the university essentially buys back a professor's tenure.

LaCost stated that she was asked to tell senators that those taking the offer should talk to Greg Clayton, UNL Director of Benefits & Risk Management, about strategies to ease out without being hit with a lot of taxes.

Lindquist noted that the Chancellor stated at the Deans and Directors meeting that he misspoke at the Faculty Senate meeting about this. He stated that if a person is terminated in July the law states that is when your payment will be distributed. LaCost pointed out that people might want to tax shelter more of their revenue now.

McCullough stated that she thought it was interesting that there has been a provision in the Regents Bylaws that allow people to negotiate for a retirement package. Shea stated that it might be worth looking into for some people to negotiate a retirement package that is unique to them.

Lindquist stated that Roger Breed, the Commissioner of Higher Education, reported that he wants to collaborate more with the university because all new jobs in the state require higher education. He stated that the idea is to improve the rate of Nebraska students who go on to college.

Lindquist stated that there is a lot of uncertainty with the budget because it will depend on what happens with the economy. He stated that first indications will be known when the forecasting board reports in October.

Lindquist stated that another agenda item for the Board of Regents was a proposal to approve a temporary program allowing a change in definition of full-time equivalency for the purpose of health care coverage. He stated that this would allow the campuses to reduce someone's full time equivalency but still give them benefits as if they were a full

time employee. He noted that currently a person's coverage is pro rata to full time equivalency. He pointed out that any savings would be in salary, not in benefits.

Shea noted that the administration is laying the ground work for possibly making budget cuts. He pointed out that this could be attractive for some people.

Franti asked if this applied to faculty members on nine month or twelve month appointments. Lindquist stated that it would apply to all full time employees.

Lindquist reported that the Master Lease between the Board of Regents and the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation was approved.

Schubert asked if Innovation Campus was being put on hold at all because of the economy. Lindquist stated that it is moving forward. He noted that there is some issue regarding the Industrial Arts building and federal funding. If handled incorrectly, federal funding for this site could be lost.

6.2 Voluntary Separation Incentive Program

Shea reported that a number of faculty members have asked if the Chancellor discussed the incentive program with the Executive Committee. Fech stated that the issue was raised with the Chancellor at the July 28 meeting but the Chancellor simply stated that the administration was reviewing how other universities handled a retirement buy out.

Shea asked if this is an issue that the administration should have discussed with the Executive Committee. He questioned why there was so much secrecy. Franti pointed out that it could have affected people's decision to retire if they knew that some kind of buyout plan was being crafted.

6.3 Honorary Degrees Committee

Griffin reported that Professor O'Hanlon needs to be replaced on the Honorary Degrees Committee because he is now serving as Interim Dean of the College of Engineering. The Executive Committee suggested faculty members to serve on the Honorary Degrees Committee.

6.4 Agenda Items for Meeting with Chancellor Perlman and Interim SVCAA Weissinger

The Executive Committee suggested the following items for the September 22 agenda:

- Faculty Handbook
- Patent applications and patent reviews by UN alumni.
- Increasing Efficiencies – How?
- One time funds mentioned at the Faculty Senate meeting
- Promotion and tenure recommendations – formal appeal process
- Update on CIC
- WiFi cost
- Update on search for SVCAA

- Update on search for Dean of Engineering College

6.5 Commendation for Professor Mandigo

The Executive Committee discussed ways to commend Professor Mandigo for his many years of service as Head Marshal at UNL.

6.6 Upcoming Issues

Lindquist asked if Vice Chancellor Jackson should be invited to a Senate meeting. He noted that issues were raised at the IANR luncheon about travel documentation and additional administrative duties. Griffin suggested that an email message be sent to the Senators asking for agenda items they would like to discuss with VC Jackson.

It was suggested that Greg Clayton, Director of Benefits & Risk Management, be invited to speak to the Senate regarding retirement plans and the new health care reform and how it will affect us.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Patrick Shea, Secretary.