

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Anaya, Fech, Flowers, Franti, Konecky, LaCost, Lindquist, Nickerson, Shea, Stock

**Absent:** Berg, McCollough, Schubert

**Date:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011

**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.

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### 1.0 Call to Order

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

### 2.0 Chancellor Perlman

#### 2.1 Status of SVCAA Search

Chancellor Perlman reported that Dr. Weissinger has accepted the offer to become SVCAA. He noted that the Board of Regents will need to approve the hire on March 11 so she will not officially be in place until March 15.

#### 2.2 Announcement on Innovation Campus

Chancellor Perlman reported that the NICDC has signed an agreement with Nebraska Nova, an entity managed by Woodbury Corporation based out of Utah, to serve as the developer of Phase 1 of Innovation Campus. He noted that Nova will develop the infrastructure for Innovation Campus which will allow the construction of buildings planned in the first phase of the Campus. He stated that the agreement with Nova is non-exclusive which allows the university or other tenants to build their own facilities during Phase 1 provided they pay a share of the infrastructure. He stated that the Woodbury Corp. has done this before at Utah State.

Chancellor Perlman stated that if the state provides the \$25 million as previously mentioned by the legislature, reconstruction of the 4-H building can be done immediately without tenants being lined up. He stated that with this agreement things will move forward quickly on Innovation Campus.

Chancellor Perlman stated that Woodbury Corporation is the firm working on the Haymarket Arena. He pointed out that Nebraska Nova is their managing partner here in Lincoln. He stated that the university has been negotiating the contract for three months now and he feels very good about it. He noted that the university will get 10% income rental from tenants even if a building is not entirely rented out.

Chancellor Perlman reported that he recently met with the Innovation Campus Faculty Advisory Committee. He noted that members of the ICFAC are: Stephen Baenzler,

Andrew Benson, Mary Uhl-Ben, Shane Farritor, Sally MacKenzie, Stephen Reichenbach, and Will Thomas. He stated that the members of the committee communicated to him that there might be significant misimpressions about where we are with respect to Innovation Campus on the part of the faculty. He indicated to the Committee that one of their roles is to help the administration understand if there are any barriers or restraints in regards to faculty involvement with private sector companies. He stated that another role of the Committee is to make certain that the academic values are not jeopardized as the project moves forward. He stated that he wants to encourage faculty members to look for innovative ways to get companies interested in Innovation Campus.

Lindquist asked if there have been any resolutions with the Industrial Arts Building. Chancellor Perlman stated that there is a bit of a dilemma with the building. He reported that if federal funding for infrastructure is going to be used on the building it would require going through a very lengthy process. He noted that nothing could be done until we get a federal sponsor and USDA is not willing to push the process until there is more certainty about their building.

### **2.3 Proposal to Eliminate the Unified Engineering Ph.D. Program**

Lindquist stated that he recently received an email from some faculty members in the College of Engineering who were concerned about a proposal to eliminate the unified Ph.D. program in Engineering. He noted that in the last several days, numerous conversations seem to have alleviated those concerns, but suggested that sometimes when a faculty group brings a proposal for change to the administration, it does not necessarily mean that all faculty are fully informed of and on board with the idea. Appropriate avenues of faculty input and involvement must be maintained.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he does not know the substance of the proposal but he does know the substance of the debate. He pointed out that there will never be unanimous agreement when a change is being proposed. He stated that he looked into the reasoning for having the Senate involved in this debate at this stage of the process and he noted that he does not think it is the Senate's role because it is not an issue that crosses across the colleges. He stated that the issue will need to go to the APC for approval and the APC will determine whether the proposal should go forward and whether faculty voices were heard.

### **2.4 Celebration for Retiring Professors**

Lindquist noted that Interim SVCAA Weissinger had previously indicated interest in working with the Senate to have some kind of celebration for the retiring professors. Chancellor Perlman stated that he is willing to have this celebration.

Nickerson asked if the names of the professors retiring will be made public at some point. Chancellor Perlman stated that there will not be a press announcement about who is retiring. He pointed out that there is never a press announcement when a professor retires.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the celebration needs to be coordinated with Interim SVCAA Weissinger and VC Green.

## **2.5 Planning Process for the Replacement/Reallocation of Retiring Positions**

Lindquist asked what the process will be for replacing positions to help cover teaching needs due to the loss of retiring faculty members and for reallocating positions to areas of priority. Chancellor Perlman stated that he did not think there will be a separate process. He reported that he has asked the question whether Academic Affairs should follow the Institute's policy of returning funding for open lines to the Vice Chancellor's office. He noted that Interim SVCAA Weissinger has spoken with the deans about this issue. He pointed out that in Academic Affairs the deans have to file a hiring plan which would then need to be approved by the SVCAA.

Chancellor Perlman stated that it is possible that some funding for positions might be moved from one department to another in order to meet our priorities. He noted that funding will be complicated this year because we will also have some budget cuts. He pointed out that the numbers on the budget keep on changing and we really won't know anything definitive about the budget until June.

Lindquist asked if there is going to be any coordinated single effort for investing in priorities. Chancellor Perlman stated that this has been going on for the past ten years because we have priorities where investments need to be made in order to enhance the university.

Franti stated that he does not know exactly how many faculty members are retiring and from where, but he wonders if there are some departments that will be hit hard by the retirements. He asked how the gaps created by the retiring professors will be filled in these departments. Chancellor Perlman reported that the deans have worked very hard to figure out how they can deal with the significant cash flow problem that will occur this next year because of the retirements. He stated that there is a plan to provide some financing if people need to be replaced for teaching. He pointed out that some people may need to teach more and some courses may need to be rotated each year rather than being offered every year. He reported that there is no one unit that is being overly impacted by the retirements.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he does not see any major infusions of cash into the university in the foreseeable future and the university will have to change to deal with limited resources while expanding our enrollment. He noted that we will have to figure out how to increase teaching without increasing our costs and he has encouraged the deans and department chairs to think of ways to accomplish this. He pointed out that in some cases information technology may be a helpful tool and using professors of practice and collapsing classes into larger classes are other options. He stated that curriculum reform will need to occur. He stated that he does not think there will be very many courses anymore that consistently have a very small number of students unless it can be justified.

## **2.6 Upcoming Visit of CIC Team**

Lindquist asked if this is just an initial visit of the CIC or if there is a particular goal for the visit. Chancellor Perlman reported that the staff of the CIC is coming to visit the campus so they can become familiar with us to see what our strengths are, the opportunities that we have here, and where we can fill gaps within the CIC. He stated that there is no specific agenda but this is an opportunity to start forming relationships with UNL and the CIC.

Lindquist asked if the team was just here for one day. Chancellor Perlman stated that he believes they are here for three days and an elaborate agenda is evolving. He pointed out that the article in the Lincoln Journal Star regarding backlashes to UNL becoming part of the Big Ten contains errors made on the part of the reporter and the newspaper will be retracting its errors.

Nickerson stated that the article implied that other campuses were affected as well. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that the rule of the CIC is that the campus operating the athletic department going into the Big Ten is included in the CIC. He stated that he thinks it is unfortunate that UNMC is not included but this is due to the way our university is structured. He noted that at some of the other Big Ten schools the medical center is under the wing of the chancellor of the main campus. He stated that he thinks UNMC could contribute greatly to the CIC.

## **2.7 Administrative Representation at March 1 Senate Meeting?**

Lindquist noted that the Chancellor will not be at the March 1 Senate meeting and he asked if someone representing the administration could speak to the Senate. Chancellor Perlman stated that he will be overseas during this time but he will check to see if someone can attend in his place. He noted that he will be meeting about a major water initiative in Northern Africa which could be a good opportunity for us.

Lindquist asked if there is a timeline for getting a Director for the Water for Food Institute. Chancellor Perlman reported that this search is being conducted by the President. He stated that he hopes there will be an announcement about the director by May 1, but this will depend on the success of the search process.

## **2.8 Available Funding to Help Recruit Students from Under Represented Areas**

Lindquist stated that McCollough has a group of students coming in from an under-represented area and she tried in vain to find someone who could help provide some funding to help with some recruiting efforts. He asked who a professor should call in situations like this.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the Admissions Office would be the place to call although he imagines that their answer would be complex because they have a limited amount of resources. He noted that the Admissions Office can help with getting campus tours arranged. He pointed out that there are a lot of good causes that we must say no to because with limited funds we have to adhere to our strategies and priorities.

Nickerson asked if there was a point person on campus who could be contacted in these situations. Chancellor Perlman noted that Dean Cerveny is extremely busy these days since he is now overseeing Extended Education and International Affairs, but the Associate Director, Amber Hunter, would be a good person to call.

**2.9 Discussion: Omaha World Herald Op/Ed Piece “Radical Options for NU Due to High-Tech” (Discussed Merging Administrative Responsibilities Across Units Within NU, e.g. Possible Merging of UNL and UNO Educational Administration Department)**

Lindquist stated that the issue was raised by Nickerson last week and LaCost had mentioned a possible merger of the Educational Administration departments of UNL and UNO.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he read the article and noted that the university has considered in the past having one dean for some of the colleges, but in the end you still need someone on campus to manage things so very little money is actually saved. He reported that there has been a process this year of the deans from the Colleges of Education meeting to see if there are ways to save any money through some collaboration. He noted that there may be some things that can be prioritized and we want to make sure that we are not duplicating efforts.

Shea stated that he thinks this discussion should be kept going in the future. He pointed out that when you start thinking about it with the budget situation and how we are going to compete among the Big Ten universities, an argument could be made to have one university with multiple branches similar to other schools. Chancellor Perlman stated that there are models for this, an example is Penn State. He noted that the University of Illinois has gone to a system where the President is now CEO of the Champaign-Urbana campus. He pointed out that this was being considered by former President Smith.

Chancellor Perlman stated that currently President Milliken spends a lot of time supporting and refereeing the four campuses and if he was made CEO of UNL he would probably not be as non-objective a referee.

Nickerson reported that he does research collaboration with people at UNK but when research proposals are written the process has so many obstacles in working with people from the other campuses. He asked if there is any way that this can be minimized. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that this might be a NSF issue. He reported that the campus has tried hard to minimize these difficulties but there is only so much that can be changed at the campus level.

**3.0 Announcements**

**3.1 Key Policy**

Lindquist reported that he received an email message from Chief Yardley of the Campus Police about the key policy. Lindquist stated that he asked Chief Yardley to send out a campus-wide message outlining the new key policy. He noted that the change in the key

policy was sent out only to deans and directors last July but not to the entire campus. Lindquist stated that Chief Yardley is working on getting an announcement out to the campus but he does not know when this will occur.

#### **4.0 Minutes of 2/16/11**

The minutes of 2/16/11 were approved with revisions.

#### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

##### **5.1 Review of Proposed Changes to Parking and Transit Services**

Griffin reported that McCollough was out ill and the agenda item would have to be postponed until next week.

##### **5.2 Health Care Audit**

Fech noted that he has received numerous comments from other faculty members regarding the health care dependent eligibility audit. In particular, there is great concern about giving sensitive information to an unknown firm.

Konecky stated that part of the problem is that Central Administration did not communicate the process better. She stated that Central Administration should address the concerns of the faculty and staff members.

Lindquist stated that this question arose when he and the other Senate Presidents met with VP Dietze recently and they were informed that Chapman Kelly will destroy all documents when the audit is completed. He reported that they were told that Chapman Kelly has conducted this kind of audit with many organizations.

Stock pointed out that most people were not even aware of the audit until they received the letter about it.

Fech questioned why the documents could not be sent to Varner Hall and employees of Chapman Kelly come to our campus to review the documents. He stated that he is worried about scanned documents that are submitted electronically. Lindquist pointed out that Chapman Kelly will not do any scanning and it would be safer if people mailed the documents directly to Chapman Kelly.

Franti pointed out that if people had to provide this information when they were first hired no one would question the process.

Fech stated that another issue that was raised is why there is an amnesty period. He stated that some people feel that if people have been committing insurance fraud that they should not be given amnesty. Franti pointed out that people can't be charged with fraud if the university failed to request this information when the individual was hired. He asked what happens if someone gets a divorce or there is a death. He asked whether people will need to provide this level of proof.

Konecky stated that people with questions should call the Benefits Office directly.

Shea suggested that Central Administration could put together a FAQ and send it out to university personnel.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Update on APC and Faculty Senate Campus Wide Forum**

Lindquist reported that he and Professor Brand, Chair of APC, recently met with the Chancellor to discuss the joint effort to hold open forums for the faculty regarding the transition to the Big Ten. He stated that the Chancellor is very supportive. He noted that the first open forum will be on Thursday, March 17 from 2:00 – 3:30 in the City Campus Auditorium and the second forum will be April 18, also from 2:00 – 3:30. He noted that there will be a reception immediately following each forum. He stated that Griffin is working on finding a location for the second forum.

Lindquist stated that he and Brand suggested to the Chancellor that he give a fifteen minute presentation about where UNL stands relative to other Big Ten institutions, followed by an outline of his vision of what it means to be a competitive member of the CIC. Following the Chancellor's presentation there will be a moderated discussion. He noted that Professor Borstelmann, History, has agreed to serve as the moderator.

The Executive Committee discussed possible ways to advertise the forums. Nickerson pointed out that the faculty should be strongly encouraged to attend the forums. Fech stated that this is something that Senators should do.

Lindquist stated that the forum in April will have President Spanier of Penn State University as the guest speaker. He noted that President Spanier has graciously accepted our invitation and looks forward to interactive with our faculty.

Konecky suggested that additional forums should be held in the future and suggested that one could be on Innovation Campus. Lindquist pointed out that there has already been some discussion about having an open forum in the fall with SVCAA Weissinger on how we want to model our campus and additional forums would be valuable.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 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.