

**UNL FACULTY SENATE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Present:** Anaya, Guevara, Irmak, LaCost, Nickerson, Purdum, Rinkevich, Schubert, Shea, Varner, Wysocki

**Absent:** Lindquist, Struthers

**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 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**

LaCost called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**2.0 Announcements**

**2.1 No Meeting Next Week.**

The Executive Committee will not meet on November 23 because of the Thanksgiving break.

**3.0 Approval of 11/9/11 Minutes**

The minutes were approved as revised. The Committee will ask for a clarification on guidelines for use of the \$15,000 provided to the department of the President during the year of service to the Senate.

**4.0 Unfinished Business**

**4.1 APC Responsibilities**

The Executive Committee reviewed the request made by Miles Bryant and Steve Lahey of the APC concerning whether revisions should be made to the APC guidelines. Anaya expressed the concern that what bylaws state and what is done are very different. She also asked if any specific changes were requested by APC. LaCost said there were no specific requests. Nickerson reminded the group that the Executive Committee had previously reached a consensus not to make any changes at this point in time. LaCost said the language in the guidelines is not as strong as it could be but suggested that we remind the Chancellor of the stated responsibilities of the APC and ask that he engage the APC early on concerning upcoming actions or policy changes.

LaCost suggested that we not make any changes to the APC guidelines at this time and the Committee agreed. She said she would communicate this to Miles Bryant and Steve Lahey and find out if they had any additional concerns. Schubert will participate in these discussions. LaCost also said she would ask the Chancellor for a conversation about the APC. Varner suggested asking the Chancellor how we can help in processes involving the APC.

#### **4.2 Student Bereavement Policy**

At our Oct. 26 meeting, ASUN leaders shared a student bereavement policy they had drafted and asked for support from the Senate. They suggested forming an ad hoc committee of students and faculty to work on this and resolve any issues. At the Nov. 9 Executive Committee meeting, it was decided that the Committee should first study the policy draft to determine what steps should be taken. On Nov. 10, the Committee received a suggestion from Professor Wes Peterson that it would be simpler to modify the existing Class Attendance Policy (<http://www.unl.edu/asenate/classattendancepolicy.pdf>) to cover bereavement. After discussion, the Committee reached a consensus that amending the existing policy makes the most sense. In view of this, the Committee agreed that it would be best to form an ad hoc committee of faculty and students to work on amending the existing policy. La Cost said she would contact ASUN, explain the existing attendance policy and the Committee's suggestion to cover bereavement. She said it would be best to ask someone who served on the committee that prepared the Class Attendance Policy to serve on the ad hoc committee. LaCost will check Executive Committee meeting records for more information about the original policy and will contact Wes Peterson about it.

#### **4.3. Update on Emeritus Policy**

Shea asked LaCost about the status of our response to NU Provost Pratt regarding the proposed revisions to the emeritus policy. He mentioned being contacted with emeritus Professor McShane, and reminded the Executive Committee that he had forwarded concerns and comments from the Emeriti Committee. LaCost said she has a list of suggested changes that have not been submitted yet. Varner said he has received more input from Extension faculty on this issue than anything previous and wants to be sure the policy is sufficiently inclusive of Extension emeriti. He said we need to know where the discretionary authority lies concerning privileges provided to emeriti. LaCost said she would share the list of suggested changes with the Executive Committee for final comment before submitting them to Provost Pratt.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 Suggested Changes to University Curriculum Committee Syllabus**

Shea read the changes suggested by the University Curriculum Committee from the document Karen Griffin sent to the Committee on Nov. 15. He said it appears that the problem concerns “non-substantive” changes because the syllabus only provides guidelines for “substantive” changes. Shea said a concern he has is who determines what is substantive. Wysocki suggested that removing the word “substantive” from the syllabus should take care of this problem. Shubert then suggested that we send the document back to the Curriculum Committee and ask if their objective can be achieved by removing the word “substantive” from the syllabus, and if not, what should be the differences in procedures. LaCost said she will contact Nancy Mitchell (or whomever Nancy suggests) to get answers to the Committee’s questions.

### **5.2 Campus Policy on Reporting Child Abuse**

In light of what has happened at Penn State, Schubert asked if UNL has a policy on reporting child abuse and, if not, suggested that such a policy be developed. No one present was sure about a specific UNL policy on child abuse but LaCost said she is familiar with the Nebraska statute concerning K-12 employees. Wysocki suggested we ask the Chancellor if there is a policy or is one currently being developed. Varner stated that we need to know what is required of employees at off-campus locations, as well as at Lincoln. LaCost said she will ask the Chancellor about a policy.

### **5.3 ADVANCE Committee Update**

Purdum said she was a member of the UNL ADVANCE committee, which has the goal to increase campus diversity in the STEM fields. She said our statistics look really poor and that the number of female UNL faculty members has been decreasing. Shea suggested that UNL could improve these numbers through targeted hires, of which more are expected in the immediate future. Purdum said the ADVANCE committee is having difficulty getting the campus to rally around their goals. She said representatives of the ADVANCE committee would like to meet with the Executive Committee, Senate, and ASUN to discuss their goals and concerns. After some additional discussion, Schubert said he thought it would be best for someone to address the entire Senate. The Committee agreed. Purdum will work with LaCost and Karen Griffin to schedule someone from the ADVANCE Committee to speak to the full Senate at one of our spring semester meetings.

#### **5.4 TeamMates Update**

Schubert reviewed plans to have someone from TeamMates address the Senate. He suggested that Athletic Director Osborne be invited to speak, because he started the program. LaCost and the Committee agreed with Schubert's suggestion. Schubert will contact Osborne about speaking to the full Senate at a spring semester meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, November 30 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.