

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Anaya, Irmak, LaCost, Lindquist, Nickerson, Rinkevich, Schubert, Varner

**Absent:** Guevara, Purdum, Shea, Struthers, Wysocki

**Date:** Wednesday, October 5, 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 3:09 p.m.

### **2.0 Announcements**

#### **2.1 Faculty Governance Award**

LaCost reported that she will be meeting with Emeritus Professor McShane to discuss the possible creation of a faculty governance award and will report back to the Executive Committee.

#### **2.2 Meeting with ASUN Officers**

LaCost reported that she met with Matt Hilgenkamp, ASUN, to discuss dates that ASUN officers would like to meet with the Executive Committee. She noted that ASUN is interested in meeting once a semester with the Executive Committee, in November and February. Griffin stated that she will contact Hilgenkamp to arrange a meeting.

#### **2.3 Student Absence Health Policy**

LaCost reported that she received an email from Dr. Guest, Director of the University Health Center, asking her to remind faculty members about the Health Center's policy regarding verification of a student's presence at the Health Center. The current policy is that the Health Center will verify that a student was seen at the Health Center, but it is up to the student to provide as much or as little information about their health concern with their professor. More specific information is provided if the student should have a communicable disease that would preclude attendance in a class. If a student is ill but treats themselves at home, the Health Center can only write a note saying that the student said they were ill.

Varner asked if the policy is consistent between graduate and undergraduate students. LaCost stated that she does not know if class attendance is an issue for graduate students but she will check.

#### **2.4 Meeting with Graduate Student Association**

LaCost reported that the Graduate Student Association officers would like to meet with the Executive Committee. She stated that she is checking with Executive Chair Sylvia Jons to see when they can meet with the Executive Committee.

#### **2.5 Changes to Emeritus Policy**

LaCost reported that changes are being proposed to the Emeriti Policy. She noted that she will send the information she received about it to the Executive Committee for discussion next week. Lindquist asked if the Emeriti Association is proposing the changes or if the changes are coming from elsewhere. LaCost stated that the changes are coming from Provost Pratt's office and it is a change to a Board of Regents' policy. She reported that most of the changes get rid of the term "retired". She noted that not all retired faculty members should expect to receive Emeritus status.

#### **2.6 Email About Health Insurance Costs for Graduate Students**

LaCost stated that she received an email message from Professor Peterson who is concerned with the high cost of health insurance for graduate students. She asked if this is something that the Faculty Senate should examine. Schubert stated that it is not really a faculty issue. Lindquist pointed out that graduate students are not paying more than anyone else for insurance. He noted that graduate students can get coverage for domestic partners however they have to pay considerably more for this coverage. Nickerson stated that graduate students have grossly disparate stipends but their health care costs are the same. LaCost stated that she will forward Professor Peterson's email message to the Executive Committee for their review.

#### **2.7 Message from Senator Regarding Data Used by the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee (FCAC)**

Lindquist reported that he received an email message from Professor Falci, Sociology, voicing concerns about the calculation of salary figures used by the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee and the statistical analysis of the data.

Lindquist reported that he responded to Professor Falci and asked if he could forward her message to Director Nunez. He noted that a subcommittee of the FCAC will be meeting later this month to review the analysis methods used in the past by the FCAC. He asked that anyone else with issues for the FCAC contact him as now would be a good time to set an agenda for making recommendations in April.

### **3.0 Approval of 9/28/11 Minutes**

Varner stated that he would like a correction to the minutes. He noted that the question he wanted to ask was in regards to departments not having a dedicated contact person that focused on student recruitment. He stated that it would be helpful if departments let the Extension Educators know who the contact person for recruiting is for their unit. Lindquist noted that knowing who to contact is an important issue, especially for extension educators and high school counselors. Varner pointed out that extension personnel typically follow up with a department after they meet a prospective student.

He stated that one of the recruiting challenges at UNL is our size. It is very helpful if a prospective student can actually meet and visit with a professor.

Schubert moved for approval of the minutes as revised. Anaya second the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **4.0 Unfinished Business**

##### **4.1 Draft of Conflict of Interest Policy**

Lindquist stated that just prior to today's meeting he sent the Executive Committee a number of documents relating to the conflict of interest draft policy. He noted that the committee working on creating the UNL conflict of interest policy will be meeting next week. He reported that policies at other Big Ten schools are being reviewed to see if there are components in their policy that we may want to incorporate. He stated that he has received some comments from Professors Peterson and Shea and he forwarded those to the Office of the VCR, who is coordinating the writing of the draft policy.

Nickerson asked if the policy addresses stockholding by a faculty member. Lindquist stated that this falls under significant financial interest. If a faculty member or administrator holds stock worth \$5,000 or more in a company that is sponsoring research they are involved in, they must report it. He noted that stocks obtained through TIAA/CREF are not included in this requirement.

LaCost stated that she did not see anything in the draft document about provisions for a faculty member having a contract with the federal government. She noted that faculty members have to declare a contract.

LaCost stated that the issue will be discussed further next week.

#### **5.0 New Business**

##### **5.1 TeamMates**

Schubert reported that he met with Walter Powell from the Lincoln Public Schools to discuss the TeamMates program. He noted that the program is seeking collaboration with UNL faculty members. He stated that he showed Powell some existing outreach programs and he believes that the TeamMates program would fit in with the university. He stated that Powell is very excited about having much broader participation of faculty members. He informed Powell that the idea for greater participation is a fair request and something that the faculty could consider and discuss. He stated that Powell mentioned that Dr. Osborne would be willing to address the Faculty Senate about the program.

Lindquist asked what the TeamMates program is. Schubert stated that it is a non-profit mentoring program. TeamMates provide support and encouragement to school aged youth. The goal is to have the mentee graduate and attend college. Mentor and mentee meet one-on-one once a week. The mentors are volunteers who are willing to make a difference to a child. The idea is to be an adult who is present and can provide guidance if needed. He reported that there is a good success rate with the program and it is formulated to enable these students to reach their full potential. He pointed out that it is a

Nebraska wide organization and a program that is trying to reach out of state. He stated that LPS is organizing the mentorship and schools have a person who coordinates the program. LaCost stated that it establishes a long term relationship of mentoring between a faculty member and a student. Schubert stated that the LPS TeamMates office has identified students who they think would particularly benefit from being mentored by faculty members. LaCost stated that faculty members are guaranteed one hour of mentoring a week with a student.

Schubert-stated that meetings usually take place at the school the student attends and it is a commitment that can go until the student graduates although this could change. He stated that participating in TeamMates is an excellent opportunity to work with a local organization. He pointed out that when faculty members apply for grants it is becoming increasingly important for the researcher to be involved in outreach activities, especially with K-12 programs. He stated that TeamMates can promote increased diversity of future UNL students and can target under represented students that lack support, for example, in STEM fields. He wants to encourage faculty members to participate in the program.

Lindquist stated that he thinks it is a great idea. Schubert pointed out that Dr. Osborne and his wife are the founders of the TeamMates program. Walter Powell is a former TeamMate member. LaCost stated that she thinks the program should generate some interest and is a great idea to bring to the Senate. Varner noted that if there is interest, it could be helpful for recruiting potential students. Schubert reported that he ended the conversations with Powell in a formative way. He noted that this is a time for growing some ideas for establishing the program at the university and possibly setting up a TeamMate office or having a contact person on campus.

Nickerson asked if any of the students could become involved in research. Schubert stated that Powell indicated that this is a possibility. He noted that the campus has somewhat of a glass bowl over it in that many people who live close by the campus never step foot on it. LaCost pointed out that young children, particularly those underserved by dollars, don't dream big because they have not been exposed to anyone in higher education. She stated that the TeamMates program is an opportunity to expose these younger people to the university and allows them to see what they can possibly do when they grow up.

Schubert stated that he will let Powell know that there is general interest and that the Executive Committee would like him and Dr. Osborn to come to the Senate to speak. He stated that he will have more concrete ideas on how to include the TeamMates into the STEM efforts.

## **5.2 Issues with Streaming Senate Meetings**

Griffin asked the Executive Committee whether senators who stream a senate meeting should be counted as part of the quorum. The Committee stated that senators must be present to be counted towards quorum.

The Executive Committee discussed whether anyone would be allowed to send in questions. Schubert suggested that anyone could send in a question but there should be a no guarantee clause that states that questions may not be addressed.

Nickerson asked if anyone can watch the streaming. Irmak noted that the streaming could be done on a limited basis during the initial phase until all the details are worked out. Griffin pointed out that the Senate meetings are open to the public. Lindquist stated that the meeting should be available to all faculty members. He stated that faculty members could be notified by email about the meeting each month. He noted that if too many questions get raised, we could change our approach with the streaming. Schubert stated that people asking questions should be required to identify themselves. Nickerson noted that making the streaming available to the faculty might be a way to recruit new senators. Anaya stated that streaming could also provide accountability to faculty members who could see if their senator attends the meetings. Varner asked if the sessions were going to be archived. Lindquist suggested that they should. Schubert stated that the archives could be put on the senate website. Varner suggested that a set of instructions on how to view the meetings should be made available on the website as well.

Schubert pointed out that we will have to play with how the camera is set up when we stream the meetings otherwise it could not come across well. He noted that Adobe Connect has a version where you see a small image of all of the participants. He stated that we could possibly find someone who could operate a camera. Nickerson stated that it would be nice to see who is asking questions. LaCost pointed out that we should see how the streaming works before we get into too many details.

Irmak asked why it is necessary to show what senators are present at the meeting. Schubert stated that it provides accountability. Nickerson stated that it would give people a sense that they are actually there. Varner suggested when technology improves that we might need to consider attendance for senators that live in areas outside of Lincoln. Lindquist stated that, eventually, we might be able to allow outstate senators to vote on senate matters by email during the meetings.

### **5.3 Follow Up to Senate Meeting**

LaCost stated that a revised report was sent by Assistant Director Nelson but she is not sure whether it addresses the concern raised by Shea at the meeting. Lindquist stated that the committee reports are important and we need to ensure that they are thoroughly completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, October 12, 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.