

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Anaya, LaCost, Lindquist, Nickerson, Purdum, Rinkevich, Schubert, Shea, Varner, Wysoki

Absent: Irmak, Struthers

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 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.

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Environmental Sustainability Issues

President LaCost said she received an e-mail from VC Business and Finance Christine Jackson detailing environmental sustainability issues at UNL. She will forward the information to Executive Committee members.

3.0 September 14 Minutes

Action on the minutes of the September 14 meeting will be delayed until the September 28 meeting because Karen Griffin needed to attend to an out-of-town family medical emergency.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Suspension of Pay

LaCost reported that she is seeking additional clarifications from Chancellor Perlman and anticipates that we will discuss this issue with him at our September 28 meeting.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Discussion with ASUN President Lane Carr

ASUN President Lane Carr met with the Committee. Carr said a priority for the ASUN is increased connections and involvement with university committees and groups, especially the Faculty Senate. The main topic of discussion was a resolution on Employee Plus One Benefits recently passed by ASUN, which was shared with the Committee, along with a proposal for the same to the Board of Regents (BOR). Carr mentioned that similar resolutions were approved by the student associations on all NU campuses. The resolution is very similar to one passed by the Faculty Senate in December, 2010 and sent to the Regents by then President Lindquist. Carr said ASUN believes now is a great time for this policy change because we are the only Big 10 university that does not have such a policy. Schubert asked why students would be concerned about a policy that does not affect them directly. Carr said that students were concerned and supportive of faculty. He

also said students believe such policy will make NU more competitive in attracting faculty, ensuring quality academic and research programs, and thus make us more competitive and successful in attracting students. Schubert and several other Executive Committee members voiced agreement and support for this argument. Carr said he expects the matter will be addressed by the BOR soon, possibly at their October meeting. He said he understands President Milliken will speak to the Regents on this matter and will likely suggest that benefits be extended to “other adults” who qualify as dependents of employees (such as domestic partners) but not the broader interpretation of “employee plus one” programs. Carr asked for something from the Faculty Senate indicating support of the ASUN resolution and Shea suggested that we ask the Senate to reaffirm its support for employee plus one benefits at the October 4 meeting.

Lindquist asked Carr about relations between ASUN and the UNL Graduate Student Association (GSA). Carr said that ASUN currently has great graduate student representatives, but ASUN would like to work more closely with the GSA. He said the current GSA President is very positive and cooperative. Carr mentioned that the GSA also passed a resolution in support of employee plus one benefits. Carr thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet. The Committee suggested that we try to meet with ASUN officers each semester if possible, but at least once each year. Carr agreed.

LaCost and other Committee members suggested that we bring an emergency motion to the Senate at the October 4 meeting to reaffirm support for the resolution passed at the December 2010 Senate meeting. It was also suggested that we ask ASUN President Carr to speak to the Senate at the October 4 meeting. The Committee agreed to the plan and LaCost said she will invite Carr (or another ASUN representative) to speak to the Senate regarding support of ASUN’s resolution.

Shea suggested that we invite the GSA President to meet with the Executive Committee. The Committee agreed and LaCost said she would work on scheduling a meeting.

5.2 Discussion topics for the September 28 meeting with Chancellor Perlman, SVCAA Weissinger, and VC IANR Green

The committee discussed topics for discussion with senior UNL administrators at the September 28 Executive Committee meeting. Possible topics include the suspension of pay policy, prioritizing and budgeting for new faculty hires, implementation of the 120 credit hour policy, plans for rewarding units for significant accomplishments relative to UNL’s new academic and research goals, plans for growth and infrastructure in international programs, and faculty involvement in these activities. The Committee wanted to follow-up with VC Green on his recent “All Hands” IANR meeting; specifically coordination of recruiting in IANR/CASNR and his vision for the Rural Initiative. The Committee also wanted to ask SVCAA Weissinger what she thought about the IANR Vision 2025 recommendations, and how some of the recommendations might be addressed campus-wide.

5.3 Issues Concerning Professors of Practice

Nickerson told the Committee that he spoke with former Associate VC Academic Affairs Evelyn Jacobson about concerns raised about faculty in professor of practice positions. She directed him to two guideline documents on the Academic Affairs website. She also suggested that we contact Lance Perez for additional details and if we had further questions. Schubert volunteered to contact Perez. He said we need to make sure we understand current policies and have very specific questions for future discussions with administration on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Pat Shea, Secretary.