

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Guevara, Nickerson, Reisbig, Ruchala, Sollars, Schubert, Woodman

Absent: Anaya, Bender, Joeckel, Rinkevich, Wysocki, Zoubek

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2013

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

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Email Message from UNO Faculty Senate President Bacon

Guevara reported that he received an email message from UNO Faculty Senate President Bacon asking to speak to him before the Board of Regents meeting next week. He noted that she mentioned in her email that she is aware that some UNL faculty members are concerned with the resolutions recently passed by the UNO Faculty Senate regarding the College of Engineering.

Nickerson pointed out that the Executive Committee is still hoping to get a copy of the report from the UNO Faculty Senate regarding a proposed resolution to the Regents Bylaws concerning faculty members speaking critically of the administration. Guevara stated that he will follow up with President Bacon on the report.

3.0 Approval of October 23, 2013 Minutes

Reisbig moved for approval of the minutes as revised. The motion was seconded by Nickerson. The minutes were approved.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Follow up on UNO Resolutions

Nickerson stated that he was pleased that Schubert sent an email message to the Executive Committee stating his position on the UNO resolutions. Schubert pointed out that it is quite obvious that UNO's resolution is not valid for UNL because it does not concern UNL faculty members. He noted that Computer and Electronics Engineering is a UNL program, not a UNO program. Guevara stated that he respects the desire of the UNO Faculty Senate to protect their interest, but the resolution is really inapplicable. Woodman noted that it is interesting that the Director of the Peter Kiewit Institute recently resigned.

Schubert stated that in talking with more senior faculty members in the Engineering College, they feel that the new arrangement will work much more smoothly than in the past.

4.2 Update on ACE Ad Hoc Committee

Nickerson reported that due to a large workload recently, he has not had the time to coordinate the ACE Ad Hoc Committee. He noted that he is open to having someone assist with the work and he hopes to have something more positive to report at next week's meeting. Guevara stated that he hopes to be able to give a report to the Senate by the end of the semester.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Petition to Keep Books in the Library

Guevara reported that he has received some serious concerns from faculty members about keeping books in the Libraries. He noted that some of these faculty members have attended the open forums on the libraries and felt that their concerns are not being listened to. He stated that he has been asked if the Senate can circulate a petition to keep the books in the Libraries. He stated that the petition would be given to the Chancellor and SVCAA.

Nickerson pointed out that the concerns might be more discipline related and that removing the books might have more of an impact on the humanities. He reported that he has been quite content with the new storage facility on east campus and gets the text that you need within 24 hours. He stated that he did not think all of the books will be moved out of Love Library. Guevara stated that Dean Busch confirmed this when he recently spoke with her.

Woodman stated that he has concerns that the faculty members who have served on the committee to review the changes in the Libraries are all in agreement with the administration and are not raising the concerns of other faculty members. Ruchala pointed out that her college's representative to the Libraries Committee is quite active and is not afraid to speak up to the administration. She stated that this faculty member attended one of the open forums and was assured that the business faculty members would be involved in helping to identify books and types of books that would be retained in the Libraries. She noted that this faculty member felt comfortable with what was happening in the Libraries.

Guevara stated that this was explained to the faculty member who asked for help with the petition, but they are still against the removal of the books. He noted that he was told that faculty members would be able to browse some areas of the site storage. It was asked where this facility will be located. Guevara stated that it will be near either city or east campus. He reported that these changes to the Libraries will need to be strategically planned and would eventually need Board approval. He pointed out that the removal of the books is a concern to many people on campus. Nickerson stated that he did not think the Senate could oppose the repurposing of Love Libraries, but it could influence how many books are removed and where they are moved.

Woodman stated that it would be better if the administration would have a viable plan of where the books will be stored so faculty members could make a good decision on what books need to be retained at Love and what can go to storage. He noted that if faculty members know they can browse books that are removed to storage and that there is good parking available near the storage site they may be more acceptable to the removal of the books. Reisbig wondered about the structure of the facility and the ease of browsing.

Woodman noted that there was an article recently in the Daily Nebraskan on the forums held on the repurposing of the Libraries and it sounds as if the changes are set in place. Guevara pointed out that the Libraries have a larger responsibility because they support everyone on campus. He believes that the faculty has the right to object to changes, particularly if it impacts their research.

Guevara stated that he could suggest to the faculty member that she/he send the petition to colleagues in the humanities and then the Executive Committee could present it to the administration on behalf of the faculty member. Woodman pointed out that the faculty member might be asking for help because she/he does not have access to faculty email lists. Guevara noted that faculty members could use their department email list. Griffin pointed out that if the petition is to come from the Senate and be sent to the entire faculty body, it will probably need Senate approval. Reisbig suggested that it could just be sent to the Senators. She pointed out that the suggested petition is rather lengthy and might need to be simplified so that it can be more quickly understood.

Ruchala noted that Dean Busch is speaking to the Senate at the November 5 meeting. She stated that questions could be raised directly to Dean Busch at the meeting. Nickerson suggested that the faculty member wanting the petition should be invited to the Senate meeting. Woodman suggested that the faculty members identified in the Daily Nebraskan article should be invited as well. Guevara stated that it has already been pointed out that UNL's libraries are one of the smallest in the Big Ten and removing books from the libraries will make it even smaller and doesn't follow the pattern of the Big Ten schools, most of whom have very large libraries.

Nickerson stated that the university needs to provide faculty members with the mechanism needed to do their research and for some faculty members this is access to all the books in their field. He noted that he has been approached by a faculty member who is being threatened with removal from the lab he has been working in for a number of years. He stated that limiting faculty members from resources they need to conduct research is a theme the Senate should be battling and this issue extends beyond the libraries.

Guevara stated that he will invite the faculty member who wants the petition to the November 5 Senate meeting.

5.2 Agenda Items for CIO Askren

The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for its meeting with CIO Askren on November 6:

- Plans for Blackboard

- Move towards centralized printing in units – impacts on the faculty

- Slowness of Microsoft Outlook

 - Problems with Microsoft Outlook when using web page version

- Update on the latest program to replace KACE

- Licensing negotiations with Adobe and other programs

5.3 December 11 Executive Committee Meeting with Chancellor Perlman

Guevara reported that the Chancellor will now be out of the country and will not be able to attend the December 11 meeting. He asked the Executive Committee if it wanted to arrange an alternative time to meet with the Chancellor or whether he should just meet individually with the Chancellor should there be a need. The Executive Committee agreed with the latter.

5.4 CIC Faculty Governance Survey

The Executive Committee worked on completing the CIC Faculty Governance Survey recently received by the Senate Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, November 6 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Toni Anaya, Secretary.