

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Anaya, Bender, Guevara, Nickerson, Ruchala, Sollars, Woodman, Wysocki

**Absent:** Joeckel, Reisbig, Rinkevich, Schubert, Wysocki

**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014

**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 SVCAA Weissinger/VC Green

#### 2.1 Merger of the Colleges of Architecture and Fine & Performing Arts

SVCAA Weissinger noted that rather than a merger she considers the combining of the two colleges as building a new college. She stated that she has asked the faculty of both colleges to work together to create a plan to build a new college that will protect, sustain, and advance all of the existing programs for the long term. She stated that given the expertise of the faculty in these programs she believes they will be unusually good at the creative process to develop a new college. She stated that the task will be full of questions but she believes the effort will be very successful.

Guevara asked when the building of a new college will occur. SVCAA Weissinger stated that a new college will have to go through all the layers of approval: Academic Planning Committee, Council of Academic Officers, Provost, President, Board of Regents, to the Coordinating Commission and the name change of the colleges will have to be reported to the state legislature for recording purposes. She stated that if all goes well it would be finished by July 2015. She pointed out that the faculty will first need to develop a proposal that would be sent to the APC.

SVCAA Weissinger noted that she has watched from the inside the creation of the College of Education and Human Services and the approach that was taken was to initially get the fundamental work done: develop the vision of the college, create an initial version of an organizational chart, and determine what needs to get accomplished before going to the APC. She stated that the details on things like college committees, promotion and tenure procedures, and other processes took another year to get figured out. She pointed out that it is important for faculty members to make the complex decisions according to a timeline that makes sense to them.

Guevara asked who will be dean of the college. SVCAA Weissinger stated that Dean O'Connor will be the dean. She noted that when the College of Education and Human Sciences was created Dean O'Hanlon was retiring and Dean Kostelnik was new and she

became the inaugural dean. She stated that Dean Kostelnik went through a reappointment process like any other dean has to go through.

SVCAA Weissinger reported that she met with the faculty from each college and also met with the external advisory board of one of the colleges. She noted that while there are still a lot of questions, she believes the two current deans will design a very careful, transparent, and highly collaborative process for conversations to begin between the faculty and staff of the two colleges. She stated that she hopes there may be a plan to go to the APC in October.

Bender asked if architecture will become a school within the college. SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that this will be up to the faculty. She noted that the professional programs get delineated to the architecture program, but the professional programs care very much about the ultimate structure of the college and she is completely sensitive and supportive that they have to voice and shape the college in a way that makes sense to them and their external advisory boards.

SVCAA Weissinger reported that when you look at other colleges around the country that house architecture there are many different structures. She noted that some have a stand-alone College of Architecture and nationally there are only two programs that are combined with engineering. She stated that there are a relatively good number that are included with the fine arts colleges and a couple of these are in the Big Ten.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that one thing that binds all of the programs within the two current colleges is that they are all accredited. She stated that she created a matrix and found that there are a lot of commonalities between the programs in the two colleges.

Woodman asked how the uncertainty for students will be dealt with. SVCAA Weissinger stated that the messaging is being very carefully dealt with for new and prospective students. She stated that one of the principles in creating the new college is to protect, sustain, and advantage these programs and we want to create a structure where all of these programs will exist for a long time and this is being conveyed to the students. She stated that another upside to the new college is that when you put all of the talents of the faculty together you can enact on the dreams of the faculty. For instance, it has been the desire to create an industrial design program but this is difficult to do in a small college and fine arts is trying to create a digital arts program. If you put the talent of the faculty members together new programs can be created more quickly.

## **2.2 Efficient Use of Classroom Space**

Nickerson reported that this issue grew out of conflicts in the Beadle Center. He stated that all of the prime Monday-Wednesday, Friday classrooms are shown as being in use, but in actuality this is not always the case because half of the rooms are scheduled on city campus time and half on east campus time. As a result some of the classrooms are sitting empty because a class is being offered just on one day of the week and not on all three. He stated that he does not know if this reflects a larger problem that might be occurring on campus. SVCAA Weissinger asked if this is just happening in Beadle. Nickerson

stated that he is not sure but if it is occurring anywhere the Registrar's office that controls the classroom space is violating its own rules.

VC Green asked if this is occurring currently. Nickerson stated that it is happening this semester. SVCAA Weissinger suggested that Nickerson contact the University Registrar Richard Morrell about the issue. Nickerson stated that it is his understanding that priority on the classrooms is being given to Honors courses first. SVCAA Weissinger asked how he knew this was happening. Nickerson stated that Professor Osterman tried to schedule 900 level courses and found out that the Honors courses have first priority. SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that this may ultimately be a departmental issue rather than a campus-wide issue. She pointed out that the campus has a highly dynamic optimization problem and we need to create a more systematic way that allows departments and colleges to express their needs and preferences regarding teaching times and room availability. She stated that this information gets put into an optimization algorithm so that we can use our physical plant effectively and efficiently and to make it as easy as possible for faculty to get the space they need. She noted that this is one of the single most important academic systems issues that we face. She reported that we are behind other campuses in terms of utilizing all of our classrooms as efficiently and effectively as possible and this is one of the reasons that University Registrar Morrell was hired. She stated that a short term solution is to discuss the issue with the Registrar to see if the problem can be addressed.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that one of the issues is that we might not have enough 40-seat classrooms available and we are certainly very limited on the number of 100-seat classrooms. She stated that faculty preference for teaching times and classrooms is a delineating factor and so are students' preference for class times, these are very important, but additional factors will have to be considered in order to accommodate all of the courses. Nickerson stated that the Beadle Center tried shifting class schedules to east campus times but found that this did not work and currently there seems to be a mix of east and city campus class times being used. SVCAA Weissinger stated that the Registrar's office responds to these kinds of problems and the department needs to be engaged in the issue. She noted that it is inefficient to have classrooms sitting empty and there is a growing concern that personal preferences are infringing upon a lot of other classes.

### **2.3 Arts & Sciences Dean Search**

SVCAA Weissinger noted that the announcement on the candidates was made today and on-campus interviews begin on Monday. She reported that the search committee did an astonishing job and came up with a varied pool of candidates. She noted that 17 people were on the search committee and it was very diverse, but she was informed that the search committee members worked together very well. She reported that the search committee conducted preliminary interviews with a large number of applicants and airport interviews were conducted with about 12 candidates.

Woodman asked how many of the applicants were identified by the search consultant. SVCAA Weissinger stated that this is a hard question to answer. She stated that Paul

Chou, the consultant, knows us very well, is a professional musician that has worked with Professor Chang-Barnes and he sells UNL well, especially on the coasts. She noted that he cultivates interest in the university. Woodman asked if the consultant has a pool of applicants that are kept in waiting. SVCAA Weissinger stated that Paul Chou of Korn/Ferry International does not. She pointed out that if a search consultant has fidelity with the institution they will seek the best person they can find for a position. VC Green noted that many search firms rely on their stable of applicants who they go to for the vast majority of their open positions, but this is not the case with Chou. He reported that Chou contacted him five years before he came to UNL to get names of people who he thought were good in the field and he still contacts him to find out who is in the network.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that she is confident that Chou has gotten us better candidates than we would have been able to attract on our own. She pointed out that good search consultants will keep a candidate interested in the pool and will continue to sell for the campus when the search is nearing its completion.

#### **2.4 CYT Plans**

VC Green reported that the program statement for developing the upper floors of the CYT library to a student commons area is under development for the Board of Regents and will probably be presented to the Board in May. He noted that the program statement will define the scope of the project and the work that will be required to accomplish the goal. He stated that the program statement will be from Dean Busch and himself and no state dollars will be used for the project. He pointed out that this will then require raising \$12 ½ million for the project and the other \$12 ½ million would be pulled from cash funds in IANR. He noted that fundraising can begin once the program statement is approved by the Board. Anaya pointed out that Dean Busch held a forum on February 18 about the proposed changes and another will be held on April 3 beginning at 2:30 in the CYT library.

VC Green noted that currently CYT is a three-story traditional library but with the changes the bottom floor would still be used as archives and the top two floors would become student common areas. He stated that books not retained in CYT archives will go to the satellite storage facility. He pointed out that the idea is to create an interactive space where students can interact and collaborate. He noted that CYT would be repurposed so it would be attractive to all programs housed on east campus (nursing, law, dental) and while this is not a small task it is very exciting.

Nickerson pointed out that the east campus union is close by and offers similar space. He asked if there would be any interaction between the two buildings. VC Green stated that there is a distinct difference between the buildings; the union is a space where students can hang out and while the third floor has some space for studying it is a quiet area not meant to have interactive space. He stated that CYT is to be an interactive place where students learn together and the idea is to provide them with some technology there for use. He noted that it would be similar to what will be done with Love north. SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that another key difference is that CYT will have library faculty members working there that can be of assistance to the students.

## **2.5 Online Course Tuition Plans**

SVCAA Weissinger noted that there have been discussions with the deans about this for a year but just recently the Chancellor talked publicly about it. She pointed out that when distance education was first starting there needed to be an enticement for faculty members and departments to offer online courses and a variety of incentives were created. One of which was to pay a faculty member a nice sum to develop a course. She noted that instructional design support specialists that worked in distance education were hired and 100% of the tuition from the distance education courses went into the online distance education offices, some of which was then given to departments. She stated that she always thought this was odd and worked with the Business and Finance Office to create a different business distribution. As a result some of the tuition went to the departments and some went to pay some campus bills.

SVCAA Weissinger reported that while the number of credit hours delivered by digital measure has grown, the composition of the revenue stream has changed and the increase in online course attendance came mostly from on-campus students. She stated that when the administration became aware of this situation it realized that we were over incentivizing and changes needed to be made in order for the campus to cover central expenses.

Guevara noted that when he developed an online course he requested that it only be offered to true online students but he was told that this was not possible. SVCAA Weissinger stated that this should be an option.

Guevara asked if the payment for teaching online summer courses is changing. SVCAA Weissinger stated that this is incorrect information. She pointed out that the only change that was made was to eliminate a rule that distance education courses could not be offered in the summer. As a result, there was a significant increase in summer sessions enrollment for these courses. Guevara stated that he received an email message saying that there is a change in the way that a faculty member's course is going to be paid and that they will get paid less. SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that this must be a local rule within the college because it is not a campus rule. She stated that Academic Affairs controls the campus wide rules. She stated that the decision to dissolve the Office of Summer Sessions was a good thing because over time that office was not really needed anymore. She noted that the summer budgets were allocated directly to the colleges as a block of funds and they were told that they were in charge of their summer courses. She pointed out that most of the rules governing summer courses are college based.

Woodman asked how the revenue for the online courses will be handled. He noted that the productivity of the courses is at the department level while the distance education office is the handler for the courses. SVCAA Weissinger stated that the Office of Online Distance Education has a budget but no longer receives the tuition revenue. She reported that 40% of the online tuition goes to the college that offers the course the other 60% goes to remission (about 30%) and Central Administration costs of which the Office of Academic Affairs receives 10%.

Woodman asked how the on-campus students are sifted out. She noted that it usually comes down to whether they have to come to campus to take an exam.

Guevara stated that online courses with small enrollments will be the difficult ones to deal with because if there are less than 20 students in a class it won't be feasible to teach it. SVCAA Weissinger noted that most of the expense with these courses is with the instruction. She pointed out that the revenue that comes to the department from online courses helps to cover the expenses of the department and does not necessarily go to the faculty members.

## **2.6 Senate and APC's Forum for Non-Tenure track Faculty Members**

Woodman reported that the Senate conducted a survey of the faculty and received a lot of concerns reflecting the colleges and departments different ways of dealing with non-tenure track faculty members. He stated that the Senate Executive Committee discussed bringing non-tenure track faculty members together to educate them on issues such as what are their rights, can they attend meetings, are they covered by academic freedom, and to have guest speakers such as the chair of the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee, a member of AFCON, former Vice Chancellor Jacobson who spearheaded the effort to create the professors of practice positions, and others. He noted that the University of Wisconsin recently published what the department expectations are for this group of faculty members. He asked if the SVCAA and VC could offer any other suggestions for the forum.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that she thought the forum was a really good idea. She suggested that clarification should be provided on the minimal expectations for these faculty members. She noted that the expectations are in the bylaws and there are some other guidelines on campus. She suggested having Associate Vice Chancellor Perez speak because he is very knowledgeable. She stated that the university wants these faculty members to feel comfortable and be able to speak candidly about their circumstances and this does not always occur when either she or VC Green are in the room, but she is very interested in the topic for the same reasons as the Senate. She suggested including a chair or two, especially if they have done well in creating a welcoming environment for non-tenure track faculty members. She noted that there is significant unevenness across the campus in regards to non-tenure track faculty members.

Guevara stated that it would be helpful to announce the forum at the deans and directors meeting. He noted that the idea is to have non-tenure track faculty members integrated into their department and colleges but this concept has not been mandated and is only a guideline. He pointed out that there are some rights that are exclusive to tenured faculty members.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that she believes the forum is perfectly timed and that the Senate has the right approach. She stated that she will be interested to hear what the Senate learns from the forum.

### **3.0 Announcements**

No announcements were made.

### **4.0 Approval of 2/12/14 Minutes**

Anaya moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ruchala. The motion was approved.

### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **5.1 Revisions to Senate Rules**

Guevara stated that he was proposing some minimum revisions to the Senate rules that enable the Senate to act more quickly on an electronic vote. Woodman suggested having a deadline of when a quorum is reached rather than specifying three days. Wysocki pointed out that the nature of the vote could change after a quorum has been reached and felt that a specific number of days for a deadline are needed.

Ruchala suggested having three calendar days as a deadline date. Bender said that since the vote is being done electronically 48 hours should be sufficient. Sollars suggested that there be a deadline of at least 48 hours for true emergencies otherwise the deadline could be longer for non-emergencies.

The Executive Committee agreed to discuss the possible revisions further at its next meeting.

### **6.0 New Business**

#### **6.1 Senate Meeting**

Griffin noted that the agenda will be fairly full because motions need to be voted on from the January meeting because there was no quorum at the February meeting. She asked whether the Executive Committee still wanted to include the motion on LB 1018 since it was voted down by the legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Bender stated that he thinks it should be voted on because this issue could come up again in the future. He stated that he will make a friendly amendment to the motion he presented at the February meeting.

#### **6.2 Upcoming Executive Committee Elections**

Griffin noted that at the last April Senate meeting elections will be held for a new President Elect, Secretary, and four members of the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 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.