

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bender, Dawes, Joeckel, Konecky, Lee, Nickerson, Purcell, Reisbig, Rudy, Sollars, Steffen, Vakilzadian, Woodman

Absent:

Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Location: East Campus Union, Arbor Suite

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

Bender called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

3.0 Approval of November 18, 2015 Minutes

Approval of the November 18 minutes was postponed.

4.0 Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Search Committee Member for Dean of Architecture

Bender reported that he received a list of potential committee members for the search for the Dean of Architecture from VC/Interim SVCAA Green. He asked the Executive Committee to let him know if they would like to suggest other possible people for the search committee. Nickerson asked what the time frame is for responding. Bender stated that VC/Interim SVCAA Green wanted to get the search moving by the first of the year.

5.2 Review of Senate Meeting

Bender stated that he was intrigued by what Dean Hecker said at the Senate meeting regarding increasing violations of academic dishonesty and asked if the Senate should pursue and investigate this issue further, possibly developing some best practices and proposals. Woodman stated that he was interested in learning more about the history of the proposed XF grade that Dean Hecker mentioned. The Executive Committee suggested inviting Dean Hecker to a meeting to discuss the issue further. Konecky stated that one of the concerns with the XF grade is that it can stay on a student's record for some time and it becomes an issue when the student applies to a professional school or for military service.

Steffen suggested that there be an open mic discussion about academic dishonesty at an upcoming Senate meeting. Bender stated that a crucial component to the issue is that students repeatedly get the message about the ramifications of academic dishonesty. Woodman noted that the issue of plagiarism in scholarly publications is becoming more prevalent.

Vakilzadian stated that he would also like to see the issue of grade inflation be addressed. He said that he does not think the current grading system makes sense and that having a grading system based on the percentage of the class performance would be more beneficial. Joeckel stated that he does not think that this is something that could be changed strictly by the Senate. Woodman pointed out that some universities report both a grade and an average of the students' grades in a class. Konecky suggested a competency based grading versus bell curve grading system. Steffen stated that the real point of education is to give students a certain knowledge of a discipline and instructors should define objectives for the class and deliver it without so much emphasis being put onto grades.

Nickerson wondered whether the university has defined policies on the subject. Bender suggested that the Grading and Examinations Committee might be asked to look into the issue at some point.

Bender noted that Professor Albrecht mentioned in her report of the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee that there have been some issues regarding VSIP and retired faculty members continuing to teach while others cannot. Joeckel asked when a professor retires if they are automatically no longer a chair or committee member for a graduate student they have been working with. Bender suggested that the Executive Committee find out what policies the various colleges have regarding faculty members that have retired through VSIP. Nickerson pointed out that approval for taking the VSIP was based on the need for coverage of specific teaching courses. Joeckel asked if there is any uniform policy with respect to the hiring of non-tenure track faculty members. He noted that the VSIP policy stated that faculty members could not be hired to teach for at least a year after they retired.

Nickerson stated that he thinks we should find out what the status is regarding the VSIP policy. Bender stated that he will contact the administration to get clarification.

In response to Chancellor Perlman's discussion on international travel during the preceding full Faculty Senate meeting, Joeckel stated that he wondered what benefits the university receives by having a singular contract for booking air travel. He questioned if we really know that using travel arrangements through Travel & Transport is the only mechanism the university has to track faculty members who travel abroad for work.

Sollars asked what the status is on the UNL Bylaws proposed changes and when the faculty members will be allowed to see it. Bender reported that a redlined version of proposed changes from the Chancellor's office has just been received and the Executive Committee's subcommittee will start working on it. The question was asked what is the

timeline? Bender stated that Nunez hoped to have it done by May. Griffin pointed out that proposed changes to the Bylaws cannot be presented to the Board of Regents until ASUN and the Faculty Senate have had a chance to approve them.

Woodman suggested that either Heath Tuttle, Director of Academic Technologies, or Rick Haugerud, Information Security Officer be invited to speak at an upcoming Senate meeting to discuss accessing the university system from an off-campus site. He noted that VPNs will need to be used and there a layers of complexity to the issue.

5.3 Faculty Status of Extension Educators

Purcell indicated that Dean Hibberd or VC/Interim SVCAA Green recently met to discuss the suggested changes on the status of the Extension Educators which were recently approved by Extension Educators. Purcell asked if President Bender had heard from either regarding the next step. Bender stated that he thinks a resolution should be made to the Senate and once approved given to the administration.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in 203 Alexander Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Allison Reisbig, Secretary.