

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent:

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Location: 203 Alexander Building

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 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 December 9th Executive Committee Meeting

Bender reported that Gwendolyn Combs, Associate Professor of Management and Chair of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color, has agreed to come to the Executive Committee meeting on December 9th.

2.2 Extension Educator Survey Results

Purcell stated that the results of the Extension Educator opinion survey were now available and that she planned to email them to the Extension Educators and to Dean Hibberd following this meeting. She stated that Proposal 1 to eliminate NU Regents Bylaws 4.4.5 and Proposal 3 to extend 90-day notice of termination with length of notice dependent on rank were strongly supported and that Proposals 2 (Change titles of Extension Educator promotion ranks) and 4 (Amend, replace or keep the Special Appointment 12-month contract) received mixed results and will not be pursued. Bender noted that the Proposal 1 and 3 changes would be relatively easy to implement. Nickerson inquired if the Faculty Senate was to do anything or just defer to Dean Hibberd at this point in time. Bender noted that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee could endorse these proposals and then bring them to the full Senate in the January meeting for a vote.

2.3 Update of UNL Bylaws Revisions

Bender stated that he and Woodman received the redlined version of the UNL Bylaws from Bill Nunez, Associate to the Chancellor. Bender indicated plans to have the initial sub-committee review completed by May so that they could be presented to the full Executive Committee in July.

3.0 Approval of November 11, 2015 Minutes

Purcell moved for approval of the November 11, 2015 minutes. Motion seconded by Vakilzadian and approved.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1. Resolutions Concerning Guns on Campus

Steffen reported that he had redrafted the resolution so that it was now a weapons policy. He stated that the revised resolution opposes current legislation and affirms the University's current weapons policy. Nickerson noted he supported the new draft. Steffen added that the resolution gives President Bender the support of the Faculty Senate to oppose the legislation. Woodman asked what are the next steps? Bender stated that the revised resolution will be presented to the full Senate and then a vote will be taken. Nickerson moved to approve the revised resolution. Konecky seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4.2 Update on Non-Tenure Track Forum

Woodman stated that the November 20th forum will be available live on Adobe Connect and that the URL has been sent out. He stated that it will also be recorded so that it can be shared afterwards. Bender reported that he had received an email that Dean Francisco would not be able to attend but that Beth Theiss-Morse, Associate Dean for Faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, will be there. He stated that she deals mostly with tenure, renewal, and appointment. He further reported that Sherri Jones, Chair of the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders, indicated she would like to participate. Woodman noted that the College of Education and Human Sciences was being represented through Beth Doll, Associate Dean. Further, he stated that Dean Hibberd was available and Julia Schleck, UNL's AAUP President would also be there. He said that AAUP wants to attract more members from the non-tenure track faculty ranks. Woodman stated that possible topics of discussion will be sent out ahead of time and that the format would depend upon interest. Woodman noted that he did not want to have too large of a panel so that there was enough time for discussion among the forum participants. He said that the goal is to have a discussion about developing best practices and not simply be a statement of policies and current practices. Purcell asked if people attending via Adobe Connect could ask questions. Woodman stated that they could use the chat function or questions could be called into participants at the forum.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Report on AAUP Meeting

Nickerson reported that this past Saturday, he was one of 12 people from UNL and other colleges and universities in attendance at the State AAUP meeting that was held in the Nebraska Union. He said that there are 216 AAUP members in the state of Nebraska. He noted that Julia Schleck was newly elected President and that they are making updates to their website. He said that they discussed having a presidential newsletter and would find it helpful to use UNL's Faculty Senate President's Newsletter format. He reported that one representative from Midland University was there and discussed how when Ben Sasse was their University President that tenure was eliminated and replaced with term tenure which allowed for a rolling contract to be given after completing seven years in the system. Nickerson also reported that information was shared about a tenured Psychology professor being fired at Wayne State College. He said that Wayne State is unionized not by AAUP but by the National Educational Association and that tenure had

been eliminated there last spring. Nickerson stated that the professor who was fired was the spouse of the Wayne State faculty senate president, who had been a strong opponent to the removal of tenure. Nickerson stated that no one from Wayne State was present at the meeting so a subcommittee (including Julia Schleck) was formed to investigate the issue further from AAUP's perspective. He said that he would report back information from the subcommittee so that UNL's faculty senate could decide if support may be lent similar to what was done with Iowa.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 immediately following the Faculty Senate Meeting. The meeting will be held in the City Campus Union, Auditorium. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Allison Reisbig, Secretary.