

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**Absent:** Reisbig, Sollars, Steffen

**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 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.

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### 1.0 Call to Order

Bender called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

### 2.0 Announcements

#### 2.1 Information on Renewal Rate of Professors of Practice

Bender reported that he has spoken with Associate Vice Chancellor Currin about obtaining information on the number of Professors of Practice that have contracts renewed. He stated that Associate VC Currin will get back to us with the information.

### 3.0 Approval of October 14, 2015 Minutes

Joeckel moved for approval of the minutes as revised. Motion seconded by Nickerson and approved by the Executive Committee.

### 5.0 Unfinished Business

#### 5.1 Professional Ethics Statement

The Executive Committee finalized the changes to the Professional Ethics Statement. Joeckel made a motion to approve the document, with the changes outlined during the meeting, and present it to the full Senate. Konecky seconded the motion and it was approved by the Executive Committee.

#### 5.2 Extension Educators Proposals and Options

The Executive Committee suggested some additional changes to the Extension Educators proposals and options document. Purcell stated that she will send the revised document to Dean Hibberd and the Extension Educators for them to consider. Bender once again pointed out that these are just suggestions for the Extension Educators and it is up to them to decide whether they want the Senate to pursue some, or all, of the suggestions.

Nickerson asked if someone will be taking notes and who will lead the discussion when the suggestions are discussed on November 13 at the Extension Educators' meeting. Bender stated that he will be present at the meeting to discuss the proposals. Purcell noted that there will be a straw poll vote at the meeting on the individual proposals to determine whether the Extension Educators support them or not.

Lee asked if there is any anticipation that other faculty members will be against some of the proposals. Bender stated that there could be some resistance. Nickerson pointed out that there could be resistance to the idea of giving fully promoted Extension Educators tenure.

Woodman asked if the proposals have to go to the Senate for approval. He noted that the proposals seem to be more of an administrative matter. Lee suggested that the Senate might want to support the proposals. Bender pointed out that if Extension Educators want to pursue all, or some of the proposals, there would be more weight to them if they had the support of the Senate. Joeckel wondered how much education needs to be provided to regular faculty about what exactly Extension Educators do. He suggested that a one page list outlining their responsibilities might be helpful.

Woodman pointed out that it is important that there not be confusion between tenure and contracts. He questioned what the tenure process would be for Extension Educators. Nickerson noted that the Extension Educators would need to set the criteria for someone to receive tenure. Bender pointed out that the Extension Educators would need to determine what the exact mix of research, teaching, and service would be to receive tenure. Woodman asked if an Extension Educator would be released from the University if they did not receive tenure in six years. Purcell noted that option 4c clearly lays out that if they don't receive tenure within a given time they will be let go. Lee asked if anyone envisions a system where current Extension Educators would be grandfathered in so they do not have to get tenure. Joeckel pointed out that this occurred in IANR when the Conservation and Survey Division became part of the School of Natural Resources.

#### **4.3 November 3 Senate Meeting – Open Mic Discussions**

Griffin noted that the November 3 Senate agenda will include a number of items including having Chancellor Perlman speak, a presentation by Director Susan Foster, four committee reports, an emergency vote on the ballot for election to the Academic Planning Committee, and the presentation of the Professional Ethics Statement. She suggested that open mic discussions take place at a later Senate meeting. Bender agreed.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Agenda Items for President Bounds**

The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for President Bounds when it meets with him next week:

1. What characteristics is he seeking in a Chancellor? How important is faculty support in deciding who will become Chancellor given the recent controversy at the University of Iowa?
2. Has he developed more specific ideas for recruitment plans at UNL, particularly in the graduate programs, and what are his enrollment goals for each campus?

3. Can he provide more specifics on his plans for some system-wide centralization, such as information technology? Are there other areas that he is considering for cooperative or centralized efforts?
4. Provide updated information on the former Nebraska Bookstore building and how it will be used.
5. What is his vision of Nebraska Innovation Campus and what does he see as the potential growth areas?
6. What is the legislative agenda for the upcoming year? What are his feelings regarding the proposed legislation to eliminate gun free zones in Nebraska?

## **5.2 Possible Proposal to Legislature to Eliminate Gun Free Zones in Nebraska**

Woodman hoped that the proposed legislation would not get out of committee. Lee pointed out that there is no evidence to suggest that having more guns available leads to less gun violence. Woodman suggested that the proposal could be a topic of discussion at a Senate open mic meeting. Bender noted that there are several things that could be done. He could write an op ed piece for the Journal Star or World Herald or the Senate could pass a resolution. Joeckel pointed out that a resolution from the full Senate would be difficult to ignore. Nickerson suggested that Bender consult with the three sister campuses to see what they think of the issue.

Joeckel stated that he thinks it is imperative that we open up a larger dialogue about gun violence on campus and what can be done. Bender suggested that this be a topic for discussion at the December Senate meeting. Lee suggested getting ASUN's input on the issue as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, October 28, 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.