

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bender, Dawes, Hanrahan, Konecky, Lee, Purcell, Reisbig, Rudy, Vakilzadian, Woodman

Absent: Fech, Leiter, Steffen

Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2016

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

Woodman called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2.0 Associate to the Chancellor Nunez and Professor Wagner, Chair of Academic Planning Committee

2.1 Institutional Research, Analytics, and Decision Support (IRADS) Representative on APC

Lee noted that he has concerns with the APC's revisions to the UNL Bylaws to not have representation from IRADS on the Committee. He stated that when he was on the APC it was very important to have the representative from Institutional Research provide the data that was needed, but not be connected to anyone making proposals, particularly on budget cuts. He stated that having the data presented by the Associate to the Chancellor does not look good, again particularly during budget cutting times.

Nunez stated that he appreciates the concern but pointed out that the previous director of Institutional Research was part of the Chancellor's senior administrative team. He also referenced that the world of data analytics is changing with online data delivery systems, and furthermore, the office has been restructured within the university. He noted that data is now separate from the Chancellor's office and is under the supervision of VC Askren in Information Technology Services. He stated that the bylaws might need to be changed if the APC still wants a data support person on it. He reported that the position of director of IRADS currently isn't staffed and the office is still undergoing changes. He stated that the APC discussed the issue at several meetings before finalizing the revisions.

Lee asked if it is possible to have someone from IRADS on the committee. Wagner stated that he is not clear what the advantage is to having an IRADS person on the APC because the Committee can request that someone from that office come to a meeting to provide data if needed. He pointed out that the APC did not feel that an IRADS person needed to be a sitting member of the Committee, particularly since the APC agreed that all members should have voting privileges.

Lee noted that he is sensitive to the issue of having someone from IRADS on the APC because in 1991 when they tried to cut his department it was found that the data presented

by the administration was incorrect. He reiterated that having a non-partisan person to provide information to the APC is important. Wagner pointed out that we can still gain access to the data without having someone from the IRADS office as a sitting member of the APC.

Reisbig asked what the APC committee would do during budget cutting times. Wagner stated that an analyst from IRADS would be asked to come to the meetings to provide information. Lee noted that in past budget cuts the data became a point of conflict. Nunez pointed out that this issue will never cease because it is complicated information and interpretations of it can vary. He noted that dialogue on data will never cease and it is the dialogue that occurs between those involved with the budget cuts that is most crucial.

Woodman asked if there is a way to ensure that the data filtering that the APC receives is not driven by the administrators. He stated that members of the APC should be able to speak directly to those providing the information. Nunez pointed out that there are federal, state, and other standards that we must adhere to with the data. He noted that departments/units can have their own data reports generated and people are invited to speak to the APC which results in unfiltered dialogue.

Vakilzadian asked if it is possible to get data from different perspectives. Nunez reported that there is a lot of data available, but it is not until there is a pressing need or issue presented that the relevant data is generated and/or interpreted. He noted that it is not until we ask questions about the data that we can get to the basics and see the merits and shortcomings of the data.

Lee stated that the Chancellor is talking about responsibility sourcing with the budget and this could be very data driven. Reisbig stated that data is a part of every issue and questioned why an analyst would not be there for the meetings. Nunez pointed out that data driving information is needed mostly during critical budget times. Usually most of the work of the APC is with reviewing new course proposals, hearing Academic Program Review reports, and project initiation requests which corresponds with many varying types of data and information.

Lee stated that he would like the chairs of the APC to know that they can contact the IRADS office and have analysts available to meet with the Committee. Griffin pointed out that the APC procedures need to be updated and suggested that language could be included stating that the IRADS office should be contacted whenever data is needed by the APC. Wagner and Nunez agreed that this should be brought to the attention of the APC.

3.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

4.0 Approval of August 16, 2016 Minutes

Vakilzadian moved that the revised motions be approved. Motion seconded by Lee and approved by the Executive Committee.

5.0 Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Executive Committee Goals

The Executive Committee reviewed and revised the goals for the 2016-17 academic year that were developed at the Committee retreat held on August 18.

6.2 Executive Committee Summer Report

The Executive Committee reviewed and revised the summer report. The report will be presented to the Faculty Senate at the September 6 meeting.

6.3 Upcoming Senate Meeting

The Executive Committee worked on developing an agenda for the September 6 Faculty Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 203 Alexander Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Allison Reisbig, Secretary.