

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Steffen

Date: Tuesday, February 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

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Email Regarding Students who are Military Veterans

Bender reported that he received an email from a student who is working with Student Veterans of America which seeks to increase awareness of problems that Veteran students may face. He stated that the student would like to speak to the Faculty Senate about online training sessions that faculty members could view. The Executive Committee agreed to have the student speak briefly at the April 5 Senate meeting.

3.0 Approval of February 16, 2016 Minutes

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

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Committee on Academic Honesty

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft charge for an ad hoc committee on academic honesty. Rudy suggested that it would be good to have a couple of students on the committee. It was suggested that there be an undergraduate and a graduate student appointed by ASUN. The Executive Committee agreed that the faculty members of the ad hoc committee should have expertise and/or interest on the issue. The Executive Committee agreed that a faculty member should chair the committee.

Nickerson asked whether this should be a permanent committee or an ad hoc committee. Lee suggested that it initially be an ad hoc committee. Joeckel suggested that the ad hoc committee could make a recommendation as to whether it should be a permanent committee. Bender stated that he will revise the draft charge and the Executive Committee will review it again at its next meeting.

4.2 Committee on Diversity and Inclusiveness

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft charge for the Committee on Diversity and Inclusiveness. Bender stated that the Committee is to assess the climate at UNL for diversity and inclusiveness for faculty, staff, and students. Reisbig asked Bender if he received a copy of the recommendations from the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color (CCSPC) that was given to the Chancellor. Bender stated that he has not and believes that the Senate needs to have its own mechanism to address diversity and inclusiveness. He noted that the Committee on Diversity and Inclusiveness will probably be a permanent committee. Rudy suggested that the Committee be made large enough to accommodate a faculty subcommittee and a student subcommittee. Lee suggested that the chair of the CCSPC be a member on the Committee and also the director of the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center. Konecky stated that the Committee should not only consider faculty concerns and experiences, but also address how faculty can make UNL a better place. Rudy suggested that the Committee also look into how faculty members can make their classrooms a welcoming place.

Woodman noted that people can report incidents of racial discrimination or harassment on the TIPS Prevention site, but the Senate has not had a report about TIPS for some time. Dawes pointed out that it is difficult to get documented information on the number of racial incidents that occur because there is no one source for that kind of information. The Executive Committee agreed that Associate to the Chancellor Nunez should report to the Senate on the TIPS Prevention program.

Bender stated that he will revise the draft charge based on recommendations made by the Executive Committee.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Wellness Committee Concerns (Rudy)

Rudy reported that he is a member of the Chancellor's Committee on Wellness and recently an issue of concern has come up. He noted that the Affordable Care Act stated that all insurance programs must have a wellness program. The University was grandfathered in because we are self-insured but we do need to have one in place by 2017. He stated that Kim Barrett, Assistant Director for Wellness Services and Fitness Programs, told the Wellness Committee that she met with the Benefits Office and a person from Blue Cross/Blue Shield who said that we already have a wellness program that makes us compatible with the ACA. He said that the wellness program identifies about five specific diseases and some employees who have one of the diseases is contacted and a wellness program is set up to help them manage the disease. Those involved have been happy with the program and are managing their diseases better. He reported that there are approximately 22,000 people are eligible to receive insurance, but only 1,500 individuals are enrolled in the program and Blue Cross/Blue Shield does not want to expand the program further. Nickerson pointed out that the University is self-insured and Blue Cross/Blue Shield should be working for us. He stated that if the wellness program saves us money because people are healthier then the program should include all eligible people.

Rudy wondered who should be contacted to get the issue resolved. Bender stated that he will contact President Bounds about the problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, March 8, 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.