

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Fech, Purdum

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017

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 (*Woodman*)

Woodman called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Professor Potuto, Faculty Representative to the NCAA to Speak to Faculty Senate

Griffin reported that Professor Potuto will speak to the Faculty Senate at the April 25 Senate meeting and will provide an update on NCAA activities and impacts on universities.

2.2 Athletics Director Shawn Eichorst to Meet with Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Griffin reported that Athletics Director Shawn Eichorst will meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on May 30 to discuss UNL recruiting.

2.3 Law College Dean's Search

Leiter reported that the search committee for a Dean of the Law College has been constituted, but it will be an internal search. He pointed out that it is too late in the law school academic year to conduct a national search because they are usually conducted in the fall with the hire to occur in the spring semester. Woodman noted that EVC Plowman sent him a list of potential search committee members and he asked that Leiter be included on the search committee and Leiter has been appointed to the committee.

2.4 Honor's Program Director

Woodman stated questions are being asked on whether there will be a new Honors Program director since Dr. Berger is retiring. The Executive Committee agreed that Woodman should contact EVC Plowman to get clarification on what is happening with the Honors Program.

3.0 Approval of January 31, 2017 and February 7, 2017 Minutes

Leiter moved for approval of the revised January 31, 2017 minutes. Motion seconded by Lee and approved by the Executive Committee with one opposition.

Bender moved for approval of the revised February 7, 2017 minutes. Motion seconded by Rudy and approved by the Executive Committee with one abstention.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Resolution on Travel Ban

Woodman noted that the 9th Circuit Court has upheld the restraining order. Leiter pointed out that we still don't know what will happen and it is likely to be heard by the Supreme Court. Lee reported that some student advisors on campus are recommending that students from the countries listed in the ban not leave the United States. Leiter stated that he believes it is still too early to make a statement and noted that President Bound's and Chancellor Green's statements expressed concerns and he would feel comfortable supporting their statements or making a general statement saying that we support anyone caught in this situation.

Steffen stated that the Executive Committee should encourage faculty members to welcome students who will be staying here through spring break because of the ban. Woodman stated that he would draft a statement that would be sent to the Daily Nebraskan saying that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee agrees with President Bound's statement and supports anyone affected by the travel ban.

4.2 Centers Having Faculty Senate Representation

Griffin reported that there are over 50 centers on campus, some in Academic Affairs, some in IANR, and some in the Office of Research and Economic Development, and that some faculty members in the Centers can have home departments in colleges while other faculty members are associated strictly with the Centers. She noted that data from IRADS will need to be obtained to try to determine how many professors are in centers, whether their FTE is strictly with a center, or whether they have an association with a department. Woodman pointed out that some centers might not have the density of faculty members needed to have representation on the Senate and may be unaffiliated with a department. He noted that in some of the Big Ten universities non-tenure track faculty members have three representatives from one college on the Faculty Senate, but this is on a rotational basis so that each college has the opportunity to have representatives from this group of faculty. He suggested this could be done with the research faculty members in the centers.

The Executive Committee agreed to continue looking into the situation.

4.3 Update on Best Practices and Meeting with Interim Associate VC Judy Walker

Rudy reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Best Practices for Non-Tenure Track Faculty Members will be meeting with Interim Associate VC Walker to discuss the guidelines that are being developed by Academic Affairs. He pointed out that the Committee wants to work with her to ensure that the issues identified by the Committee are addressed in the guidelines.

Rudy asked if non-tenure track faculty members can participate in tenure decisions. Lee stated that they cannot. Rudy pointed out that his department believes that they should have a voice. He stated that he has heard that Professors of Practice should be included in all administrative governance.

Hanrahan asked if the Ad Hoc Committee is going to address strategies on how to get tenure track and tenured faculty members to be more accepting of non-tenure track faculty members' involvement in department responsibilities. Lee pointed out that conducting a national search for positions like Professors of Practice gives more legitimacy to a position.

Rudy stated that Professors of Practice can have 95% teaching and 5% service, yet promotion is based on research publications which does not match the apportionment of duties. Lee stated that in Arts & Sciences Professors of Practice can have up to 10% research responsibilities. He reported that the policy on non-tenure track faculty members being developed in the College requires full Professor of Practice status be obtained by six years or the contract will not be renewed. Woodman noted that many of the non-tenure track faculty hires were spousal or opportunity hires which some tenure and tenure-track faculty members view with skepticism. He stated that non-tenure track faculty members can legitimize their position by conducting research and/or getting promoted. Rudy pointed out that some lecturers do not want their position to be changed to a Professors of Practice. He noted that university experience should be considered when evaluating a non-tenure track faculty member.

Rudy reported that not all non-tenure track faculty members get an annual evaluation. He stated that a gap exists between the policy that all employees should be evaluated and the actual practice. He stated that if evaluations are not being done consistently, Professors of Practice could be blind-sided if their contract is not renewed if there is a policy that says they are out in six years if not fully promoted. Hanrahan noted that the administrator of a unit may review a non-tenure track faculty member, but when the department faculty members conduct an evaluation than may not agree with the administrator.

Woodman stated that the Ad Hoc Committee and the Executive Committee need to stay apprised of the changes that are being proposed regarding best practices for non-tenure track faculty members.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Questions for Associate VC Amy Goodburn When She Speaks to the Senate on March 7

The Executive Committee identified the following questions for Associate VC Goodburn:

- What steps are being taken to do a better job of recruiting Omaha area students?
- What efficiencies could be implemented to improve UNL's recruiting and enrollment management?

- How sensitive is enrollment to tuition increases?
- What populations would be most impacted by a tuition increase?
- Address retention from an academic success aspect. Provide information on what group of students are leaving and what does she attribute our lower retention rates to?
- How many Big Ten schools offer a flat tuition rate?
- Are there any enhanced assessments available that can identify at-risk students?
- Is MyPlan working well or do we need an easier system that does not require another sign-in so more faculty will use it?
- Where do we stand in comparison to Big Ten peers in regards to scholarships that we offer?
- Reconsider implementation of ACE 9 certification and have stricter guidelines for it.

5.2 Procedures to be invoked for Significant Budget Reductions and Reallocations

Woodman stated that in reviewing the Procedures he noticed that the Faculty Senate involvement is very limited. He stated that he would like to see the President, Past-President, and President-Elect involved and that there be discussions about the budget recommendations with the Executive Committee. Lee pointed out that one thing the Faculty Senate can do that is very powerful is to sanction an administrator should their budget cuts be so egregious.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 203 Alexander Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Sheila Purdum, Secretary.