

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Fech

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 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 2:35 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Meeting with Interim Associate VC Judy Walker

Rudy reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Best Practices for Non-Tenure Track Faculty Members recently met with Interim Associate VC Walker who suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee concentrate its white paper on Lecturers and Lecturer/T's. He stated that the reasoning for this is because the issues for Professors of Practice and Lecturers are different and should be separated. He noted that the guidelines Academic Affairs is working on is for Professors of Practice. He stated that he thinks the white paper will be very well received by EVC Plowman, although there might be a couple of items that could be contentious, one of which is including Lecturers into faculty governance at the department level. He pointed out that Professors of Practice are typically already included in faculty governance because of the Regents policy identifying them as faculty. He noted there are policies in existence on campus that do not reflect the actual practice and EVC Plowman wants to know when this mismatch occurs.

Woodman pointed out that the Faculty Senate identifies Lecturers as faculty members and includes them in the Academic Assembly if they have an FTE of .50 or greater and have been here for three successive years. Rudy stated that the Ad Hoc Committee feels that Lecturers who have been here for more than three years should be allowed to participate in faculty governance and should be able to provide input on the curriculum and textbooks for courses.

Lee asked what the main difference is between a Lecturer versus a Professor of Practice. Rudy stated Lecturer's typically don't have a Ph.D. while a Professor of Practice does. He noted that Interim Associate VC Walker pointed out that our budget situation does not always match our best practices and long term contracts for Lecturers would not be feasible. Rudy pointed out that Lecturers are the most vulnerable faculty members when budgets are tight and Interim Associate VC Walker suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee could be the strongest voice possible for these faculty members.

Rudy stated that another issue is salary increases. He pointed out that increases for Lecturers should be tied to regular faculty. If tenure and tenure track faculty members receive 1.9%, so should lecturers, although Interim Associate VC Walker stated that there needs to be caution because of the current budget cycle. A faculty member could leave the university and be replaced by a temporary Lecturer which could negatively impact the curriculum. Rudy stated that there was agreement that all faculty members should have an annual evaluation which would help defend promotions. He reported that there was agreement with Interim Associate VC Walker that Lecturer salaries lag and that the pool of funds used for Lecturers has become a slush fund that Deans sometime use.

Rudy reported that he informed Interim Associate VC Walker that a survey of the non-tenure track faculty members will probably be conducted again and she suggested separating the Lecturers and Lecturer/T's in the survey.

Steffen stated that he advocates that those faculty members with .50 FTE and three successive years of employment at UNL should be allowed to participate in faculty governance. He asked why a department would not want these employees to be engaged in the department.

Woodman asked if participation in faculty governance is required in IANR (implying that one MUST attend faculty meetings) or if it is considered a part of their service obligation. Lee stated that in his department it is seen as service. Woodman pointed out that Lecturers and Lecturer/T's typically do not have a service apportionment of duties, but many of them do participate in departmental service activities.

Rudy stated that there is no date as to when the guidelines on Professors of Practice will be coming out from Academic Affairs. He noted that the guidelines are suggesting that Professors of Practice should be included in all department decisions, including promotion, but not for tenure decisions. Hanrahan asked if the guidelines will also be for Research Professors. Rudy stated that it was discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee, but the consensus was that it would be best to have a separate best practices for Research Professors.

2.2 Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusiveness

Lee reported that the Ad Hoc Committee will not have to do an IRB to interview focus groups of typically marginalized people on campus. He stated that the Committee is currently drafting the survey that will be used, but funds will be needed for transcribing the interviews. Woodman stated that an inquiry should be made to EVC Plowman to help cover the cost of the transcription and suggested that Lee draft a message including the approximate cost.

2.3 University of Nebraska Information Technology Services Reduction Task Force

Leiter reported that the Task Force had its first meeting and will be meeting regularly to look at possible cost saving measures. He noted that the Task Force is looking at

everything from eliminating printers, to mandating platforms, and software. He stated that he will keep the Executive Committee informed. Woodman noted that this is a subcommittee of the Task Force and recommendations from all of the Task Forces will need to be given to the Steering Committee which will give the recommendations to the President. He pointed out that CIO Askren is chairing the Information Technology Task Force and he is very sensitive to faculty needs. Konecky stated that it will be interesting to see what happens because UNMC has already gone to a digital campus, but they are using Apple equipment.

2.4 Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Honesty

Rudy reported that the Ad Hoc Committee meets tomorrow and they have already edited half of their report and hope to have a final draft in two weeks.

2.5 ACE 9

Woodman reported that he received a note from Director Nancy Mitchell regarding concerns that have been raised about ACE 9 by members of the Executive Committee. He stated that she is willing to come and speak with the Committee about the concerns. Griffin noted that she will contact Director Mitchell to schedule a meeting.

2.6 Honors Program

Woodman reported that an interim director has been identified for the program and an announcement will be made soon. He stated that EVC Plowman will be working with the faculty to determine what will happen with the program. In the meantime, he and Purcell received a copy of the academic program review of the Honors Program and will forward it to the Executive Committee.

3.0 Approval of February 14, 2017 Minutes

Hanrahan moved for approval of the revised minutes. Motion seconded by Rudy and approved by the Executive Committee.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 UNL Bylaws Revisions

The Executive Committee reviewed and made a few minor revisions to the proposed Bylaws. Griffin noted that some revisions have been suggested, including clarification about when the redistricting report is conducted. She was asked how significant the changes are when the report is conducted every other year. Griffin stated that there have only been very minor changes with a few departments regarding the number of Senate representatives they would have. Steffen suggested that the report be conducted as needed, but at least once every five years. Lee moved for the Committee to approve the revised Bylaws and send it to the Senate for consideration at the March 7 meeting. Motion seconded by Vakilzadian. Motion carried.

4.2 Letter to Daily Nebraskan about Immigration and Climate

The Executive Committee reviewed and made revisions to a letter drafted by Woodman supporting students and faculty members who are affected by the travel ban. The letter will be submitted to the Daily Nebraskan.

4.3 Faculty in Centers Having Representation on the Senate

Griffin reported that she has been doing some research regarding faculty members associated with a center and the issue appears to be more complex than originally thought. She reported that there are over 50 Centers on campus, some through Academic Affairs, some through IANR, and some through the Office of Research and Economic Development. Some faculty members in the centers have academic home departments, others do not. She stated that she checked the database that was provided by IRADS and was surprised to see only three or four centers listed and noted that some centers had only one or two faculty members. She suggested that more research needs to be conducted. The Executive Committee agreed and stated that it would look into the issue further.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Announcement about AFCON

Woodman reported that the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON) plans to present two or more readings of “Sedition” in fall 2017 to commemorate the centennial event of the 1918 University of Nebraska Professors trial when a dozen professors were put on trial before the Board of Regents for not being sufficiently loyal and anti-German. One reading will be part of its 2017-18 salon reading series along with other plays on the theme of free speech. Another reading will be the basis for the fall 2017 annual membership meeting of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska.

5.2 Legislative Budget Proposal

Woodman noted that the Legislative proposal on the University’s budget is worse in terms of absolute dollars than the Governor’s proposal and still creates a \$50 million deficit for the University. Purdum reported that the second year of the biennium budget could be flexible as it is now being predicted that the agricultural economy will start improving in 2018. Rudy suggested that the next time the Executive Committee meets with the Chancellor it should ask what the projections are for our health insurance costs.

5.3 Meeting with Academic Planning Committee and Faculty Senate Executive Committee Regarding Involvement in Budget Reduction Process

Woodman reported that he met with APC Chair William Wagner to discuss Faculty Senate involvement in the budget cutting procedures. He noted that it would be difficult to make any changes to the Procedures to be invoked for Significant Budget Reductions and Reallocations since they will soon be enacted, but Wagner stated that he would be willing to support involving the Senate Executive Committee in the process prior to the Chancellor’s announcements of the proposed cuts. Woodman stated that the idea is to involve either the Executive Committee or the three officers of the Senate in the discussions. He stated that he hopes the Chancellor will be in agreement with this idea. Lee pointed out that the Executive Committee could always invite the faculty members of the APC to meet with the Committee. Griffin noted that this has occurred in the past.

5.4 Proposal from Information Technology Services Committee (Leiter)

Leiter reported that the ITSC will be meeting next Friday and consideration is being given to create a manifesto regarding the computing needs of faculty members. He

pointed out that there is concern that with the proposed budget cuts and efficiency task forces that there could be a proposal that would hinder the purchase of technology that the faculty need in order to conduct research and teaching. He noted that there is currently no statement on the minimal cuts that can be made that would not have a negative impact on the faculty. He stated that he will bring the ITSC's document to the Executive Committee and the Senate for approval. He asked that anyone with ideas that would help define spending on technology would be appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, February 28, 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.