EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Belli, Dawes, Fech, Hanrahan, Lee, Leiter, Peterson, Purcell, Rudy, Vakilzadian, Woodman

Absent: Adenwalla, Latta Konecky

Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Location: City Campus Union, Auditorium

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 (Purcell)
Purcell called the meeting to order at 3:51 p.m.

2.0 Announcements
2.1 ASUN Member for Grading & Examinations Committee
Purcell reported that she is working with ASUN to identify a student representative to serve on the Grading & Examinations Committee.

2.2 Town Hall Meeting
Purcell reported that she will be attending Chancellor Green’s Town Hall meeting tomorrow morning to hear about the budget cuts.

3.0 Approval of August 29, 2017 Minutes
Peterson moved for approval of the minutes as revised. Vakilzadian seconded the motion. Motion approved.

4.0 Unfinished Business
4.1 Non-Tenure Track Faculty Members in Centers and Representation on the Faculty Senate
Griffin reported that Associate Vice Provost David Jackson sent her a list of centers that have been approved by the Board of Regents. She noted that 80 centers for UNL are listed, although there are a few that have been discontinued. Purcell suggested that the two centers that have five or more non-tenure track faculty members become part of the Faculty Senate with each having a separate district with representation. Griffin suggested that the non-tenure track faculty members in other centers either be included with a department that the center works closely with, or that a Senate district be created at the college level. Woodman suggested contacting non-tenure track faculty members in centers to see what department or college they would want to be aligned with. Griffin noted that the Senate Bylaws state that any department with less than four faculty members be linked with one of closely related interests after appropriate consultation with the departments in question.
Belli pointed out that the existing Senate Bylaws do not adequately address faculty representation in units other than academic departments. He suggested that the Senate Bylaws may need to be updated.

The Executive Committee will continue working on resolving the issue.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Documentation Requirements for ACE 1, 2, 3 Courses

Purcell asked Director of Undergraduate Education Patty Sollars, to address ACE concerns. Woodman stated that there is concern that the practice regarding the retention of student materials for ACE 1, 2, 3 courses has been changed. He noted that previously the faculty were told that just a sampling of students’ performance in the course need to be retained, but the faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences has been told they have to report on every student in the class.

Sollars pointed out that in the past faculty had to submit at least three samples of students’ products and their assessments each semester. Now there is no requirement to submit student work when reporting ACE assessment. She reported that faculty groups worked on establishing rubrics that would clarify what is intended in each of the outcomes. The campus planned on purchasing the T20 system that would use the rubrics to make assessment easier and which could create an overview. She stated that Professor Brassil has been working with someone in Canvas to make the process easier there and a decision has been made to have people assess only the signature assignments for the course. She pointed out that any changes are to make the assessment process easier.

Woodman asked if there are other options if a faculty member should not want to use Canvas. Sollars stated that there are other ways. For instance, in Mathematics they are doing a simple scoring method and some are just using multiple choice exams. Woodman stated that it is his understanding that the entire process for assessment in Canvas is not in place yet. Sollars stated that it is still being worked on.

Woodman pointed out that a problem with ACE is that a faculty member could make it easier on themselves by simply saying that the students all have the required skill levels from the course. Sollars stated that this is correct and has always been the case, but the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee wants to make sure there is transparency which is why evidence needs to be maintained. She pointed out that ACE courses are recertified every five years. She stated that there have been some glitches with getting the information about the rubrics out campus-wide and she has offered to go to the different colleges to meet with the faculty to discuss how the process will work.

Lee pointed out that not all courses have a signature assignment that can be uploaded. Sollars stated that faculty members are being asked in these cases to judge the signature assignment based on the rubric. She noted that the process is a work in progress and knows that there will be some compromises that need to get made in order for it to work well. She asked that faculty members please keep her posted if they are having any
difficulties or questions. Woodman suggested that Sollars make a presentation to the Faculty Senate once the procedure is fully up and operating.

5.2 Agenda Items for Chancellor Green
The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for Chancellor Green:
- Are waivers being granted to all colleges for recent changes in requirements for promotion and tenure files? Does he approve of them being enforced mid-process?
- Academic Restructuring Plans
- Suggestion for having a travel per diem rather than itemizing expenses
- Concerns over losing department staff
- Free speech zones concerns
- If finals week schedule is not changed, will diplomas still be distributed at graduation?
- What will the impacts be on graduate teaching assistants if they are not funded by grants?
- Issues on the Horizon

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Joan Latta Konecky, Secretary.