

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Adenwalla, Belli, Buan, Franco Cruz, Dawes, Fech, Hanrahan, Peterson, Purcell, Renaud, Rudy

Absent: Leiter, Vakilzadian

Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Location: City Campus Union, Big 10 Conference Room

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 (*Rudy*)

Rudy called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 National Council of Faculty Senates

Purcell stated that she is interested in attending the National Council of Faculty Senates meeting in Texas on October 27th. She stated that if other Executive Committee members are interested in going to let her know. Rudy pointed out that it would be interesting to see what the Council's agenda is, but he and Hanrahan will be attending the Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Governance Conference on that date.

2.2 Search Committees

Rudy reported that the search committee members for the Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences has been announced by EVC Plowman. He noted that the search committee members for the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences position would be announced soon. He stated that the search process for the Dean of CASNR is to begin soon.

3.0 Approval of July 24, 2018 Minutes

Peterson moved for approval of the revised minutes. Motion seconded by Fech and approved by the Executive Committee. There were three abstentions.

4.0 Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Report on Board of Regents Meeting

Rudy reported that the Board of Regents approved the plans to renovate the Scott Engineering Center and Link. He noted that the renovations are needed to improve the infrastructure which will allow for updating equipment needed in the labs. He pointed out that with the upcoming demolition of Mabel Lee Hall along with the construction of

the new building, and the renovation of the Walter Scott engineering facilities, that area of campus will be under heavy construction for a considerable period of time.

Rudy reported that the four campus Senate Presidents met with Associate Vice President for University Affairs and Director of State Relations Heath Mello and had a very informative discussion. He noted that Mello stated that the current economic forecast looks fairly good and tax receipts are up. He stated that if the Governor were to announce another budget rescission it would need to be done a week before the elections in November. Fech asked if Mello gave any indication that the tax from online sales is helping with the State's revenue. Rudy reported that the Governor has stated that there will be no new taxes of any kind, although the U.S. Supreme Court did approve online sales tax. He reported that some large retailers, such as Target and Amazon, are already charging the sales tax and remitting it to the State.

Rudy stated that there has been a request for an interim study to be conducted looking into faculty speech and faculty conduct. He noted that an interim study is a resolution authorizing a Legislative Committee to study an issue following the adjournment of the legislative session. Belli pointed out that the Board of Regents' Freedom of Expression policy approved in January already addresses faculty speech and conduct.

5.2 Invitation to Join the Coalition for Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)

Rudy reported that he received an invitation for UNL to join the COIA. Griffin pointed out that that at one time the campus belonged to the COIA, but the Senate voted to discontinue membership because we already had policies and regulations in place regarding intercollegiate athletics that COIA members were striving to get at their universities.

Renaud asked if concerns with athletics, such as those that have occurred at Michigan State and recently at the University of Maryland, are ever raised at the Big Ten Academic Alliance Conference. Rudy reported that occasionally athletics has come up, but the conference focuses on faculty and academic governance issues. He pointed out that our athletics policies are different from some of the other Big Ten schools, such as some of them allow special admissions for athletes, while we do not.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 203 Alexander Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.