

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Belli, Buan, Dawes, Fech, Hanrahan, Leiter, Purcell, Renaud, Rudy, Vakilzadian

Absent: Adenwalla, Franco Cruz, Peterson

Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018

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 (*Rudy*)

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Board of Regents Meeting

Rudy reported that the Board of Regents would be meeting on Thursday, June 28th and the University budget should be approved at that time. He noted that the amount of salary increases will be announced after the Board's approval and the salary notification will appear in Firefly on July 1 for employees.

Fech asked if the Board will be voting on the change of health care carriers for the university. Rudy stated that he believed that this will be an agenda item. He noted that he heard that the trustee firm handling our health care insurance will also be changing.

2.2 Hiring Procedures

Leiter reported that a justification form must be submitted in order to obtain approval for conducting a search. He noted that the dean, Executive Vice Chancellor, and the Chancellor must sign off on the form and then it goes to President Bounds for approval. Purcell pointed out that President Bounds is reviewing the justifications for staff searches, not faculty searches.

2.3 UNL Box and Canvas Policies

Rudy noted that he was contacted by a faculty member who said that he received notice that he ran out of storage space in Box and Canvas. Dawes pointed out that there is unlimited storage space with Box. Hanrahan reported that Canvas has a limited amount of storage space, and in his college they have asked the faculty to put any class handouts and other information in Box. Buan pointed out that previously local IT people could have handled these kinds of questions and concerns at the local level, but now that a number of IT employees have been laid off, these kinds of questions will either go unanswered, or the information will have to be obtained elsewhere.

Rudy asked if the policies regarding Box and Canvas were liberal enough. Leiter and Buan noted that this question could be raised in the Information Technologies Service Committee, but IT does a good job of staying on top of these kinds of concerns. Leiter said that ITSC could write a letter if additional space is needed.

Valizadian suggested that the issue regarding changing the timing of the tornado warning drills should be raised again so that the alarms go off at 10:25 a.m. rather than during the class time.

2.4 College of Arts & Sciences' Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relations Policy

Belli reported that some departments and faculty members in the College of Arts & Sciences are expressing concerns over the College's new Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relations Policy. Purcell noted that Associate VC Walker is working with the Professional Conduct Task Force to look into a similar policy for the UNL campus, but it would need to be approved by the Faculty Senate. She pointed out that former Chancellor Perlman had wanted the Executive Committee to endorse a policy similar to that of Harvard University, banning sexual relations between professors and students, but the Faculty Senate Executive Committee developed a Professional Ethics Statement instead.

Buan stated that a real problem with the policy is how strictly it is worded, and noted that any third party could file a complaint. She pointed out that departments already do a good job of ensuring that there are no conflicts with reporting lines. Leiter stated that the more rules that are written, the more complicated things become. He noted that it would be difficult to enforce the policy. Renaud pointed out that there is nothing in the policy that protects faculty or graduate students' rights. Belli stated that there needs to be a discussion of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with Interim Dean Theiss-Morse of the College of Arts and Sciences and with Assistant to the Chancellor Tami Strickman about the policy.

2.5 New Academic Regalia

Rudy reported that there will be new academic regalia for undergraduates during commencement ceremonies. He stated that the regalia now comes with a sash which is Nebraska distinct. He pointed out that previously student organizations provided sashes for members, but they will now need to provide some other distinction such as a cord.

3.0 Approval of June 12, 2018 Minutes

Belli moved for approval of the revised minutes, motion seconded by Purcell and approved by the Executive Committee. There were three abstentions.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Ad Hoc Committee to Review Policies and Procedures in Place and Executed Following the Suspension of Courtney Lawton

Belli asked what the status is of the Ad Hoc Committee. Rudy reported that he is going to discuss the Ad Hoc Committee with Associate to the Chancellor Mike Zeleny, but he said that the Committee needs to be formulated before the end of the summer.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Hanrahan Opportunity

Hanrahan reported that the director of Theater Arts has stepped down and the Associate Dean of the College of Fine & Performing Arts is taking over the Director's position temporarily. As a result a part-time (.50% FTE), interim Associate Dean is needed and his name has been put on the list as a possible candidate for this temporary position. He stated that he wanted to consult with the Executive Committee whether this would be considered a conflict of interest since he is currently President-Elect. He noted that both he and Griffin checked the Senate Bylaws and as long as a faculty member has an FTE of .50 or greater they can be a member of the Senate.

Rudy stated that he is fully supportive of Hanrahan's opportunity. Leiter pointed out that it would be a great experience for Hanrahan if he is planning on moving into administration someday. Buan stated that there could be a problem if the position would be made into a full-time position. Hanrahan noted that the position mostly deals with college related issues such as the undergraduate curriculum and college grants.

Purcell asked if Hanrahan would abstain from voting if there was any conflict. Hanrahan stated that he does not foresee any conflicts of interest. He pointed out that when he takes over as President of the Faculty Senate the temporary administrative appointment will be over.

Purcell moved that the Executive Committee support Hanrahan's opportunity. Motion seconded by Leiter and approved by the Executive Committee. Hanrahan abstained from voting.

5.2 Grading and Examinations Committee Structure

Purcell stated that the membership of the Grading and Examinations Committee needs to be reviewed. She noted that currently many of the faculty members of the Committee, who are selected from and by each of the undergraduate colleges, hold administrative positions within the college. Griffin suggested that the Committee syllabus be changed to state that only faculty members can serve on the committee.

5.3 Agenda Items for Chancellor Green, Executive Vice Chancellor Plowman, and VC Boehm

The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for the upcoming meeting with the administrators:

- Enrollment projections
- Budget projections
- What are the two most important things you want to accomplish in the next academic year?
- What is the Political Action Committee for the University, and what is its relationship to us?
- Are there any plans to move us forward to get us off the AAUP censure list?

- Thoughts on UNL issuing an open invitation to all candidates running for state legislature, governor, and Board of Regents to speak in a recurring open forum to student, staff, and faculty this fall at which the candidates would address the question of what their vision is for the University of Nebraska within our state, our country, and the world.

5.4 Replacement Needed for Travel BRT

Rudy reported that Professor Duplissis is leaving the university and needs to be replaced on the Travel BRT. Suggestions were made for a replacement. Rudy stated that he would contact the professor to see if he is willing to serve on the BRT.

5.5 Determine One-Year Term for New Executive Committee Member

Rudy noted that one of the new Executive Committee members needed to serve a one-year term to fill the seat vacated by Hanrahan when he became President-Elect. He reported that the usual practice is for the candidate with the lowest number of votes to get the shortened term, but since there were only three candidates for three positions on the Committee, the Senate voted to accept all three by acclamation. He pointed out that the member serving for one year would be eligible to run for election for a full three-year term once this year is completed. All three new Executive Committees volunteered, but Renaud noted that he was the last person to submit his name in April for election to the Committee and suggested that he should be the person with the one-year term. The Executive Committee agreed to have Renaud serve in the one-year term.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.