EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Adenwalla, Belli, Franco Cruz, Dawes, Kolbe, Leiter, Peterson, Purcell, Vakilzadian

Absent: Buan, Fech, Hanrahan, Renaud

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Location: City Campus Union, Colonial Room A & B

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 (Belli)
Belli called the meeting to order at 3:54 p.m.

2.0 Announcements
2.1 Non-Tenure Track Faculty Forum Committee
Belli reported that a committee has been formed to work on developing the non-tenure track forum. He stated that currently the Chancellors and Deans have been contacted to see when they would be available to participate in the forum with the idea being to hold the forum in April. He asked that Executive Committee members send him any additional revisions to the non-tenure track faculty survey.

2.2 Academic Affairs Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom
Belli reported that Academic Affairs has formed an ad hoc committee to deal with issues of academic freedom and the committee has written two statements on the issue with one statement being more general and the other pertaining to teaching. He stated that it is his understanding that EVC Plowman has approved the language and that the statements will come to the Executive Committee for review and then to the Senate for approval. He noted that Associate Vice Chancellor Walker, faculty members with AAUP membership, and other faculty have served on the committee.

3.0 Approval of January 29, 2019 Minutes
Peterson moved for approval of the revised minutes. Motion seconded by Kolbe and approved by the committee. There were two abstentions.

4.0 Unfinished Business
4.1 How to Engage Senators More
Belli stated that introducing the faculty rights document as a policy would have provided more participation from Senators. Peterson pointed out that it makes good sense to have the document on the Senate webpage and suggested that the information be included in the new faculty orientation rather than making it a policy.
Leiter noted that the Law College can have two Senators, but for years it has been difficult to fill the two Senate seats. He stated that he knows that everyone is getting so pressured to be involved in numerous different committees, and suggested that the Senate publicize the issues that the Senate is dealing with such as faculty rights, health care insurance concerns, academic freedom, and shared governance to see if that would spark people’s interest in serving on the Senate.

Kolbe stated that there may be a perception issue too and suggested that we need to establish what the Senate is doing on a monthly basis and get this information publicized to make the Senate more prominent. He pointed out that the faculty need to be aware that the Senate is their voice to the administration.

Adenwalla noted that a lot of faculty members do not know that they can come to the Senate meetings. She suggested that an email message be sent out to the faculty asking them to share their concerns in the open mic session of the meetings. Belli thought there could be topics of discussion for the open mic. Adenwalla noted that the faculty should also be made aware that attending the Senate meetings would give them an opportunity to speak directly with the administrators in attendance.

Vakilzadian stated that the President’s newsletter could be used to educate faculty members on how important the Senate is and what it can do for them. Franco Cruz suggested that a section be included in the newsletter on how faculty members can participate and to let them know that we want their input on current and upcoming issues. Peterson suggested that the Executive Committee could be more liberal in sharing information and documents if it is appropriate. Adenwalla stated that the newsletter should share what the Senate’s successes have been.

5.0 New Business
5.1 IANR Institution-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee
Peterson reported that there is a proposal to develop an IANR promotion and tenure committee, which the Institute has never had before. He noted that some people feel that these decision should remain within the department because the faculty members are more qualified to assess the work of an individual seeking promotion and/or tenure. He stated that it is his understanding that the plan to create the Institute-wide committee is to promote fairness with the process. He stated that the plan is to have nine members on the committee.

Adenwalla pointed out that a good thing with having a college-wide promotion and tenure committee is that the decision making is less personalized. Dawes noted that a college-wide committee looks solely at the promotion and tenure file and the politics of a department do not enter into the decision.

Belli stated that the reason why the issue is coming to the Senate is because it impacts more than one college and therefore the Senate needs to act on it. He noted that the issue will be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.
5.2 Survey of Tenure Track and Tenured Faculty Members

Belli reported that inquiries have been made asking if there will be a survey of tenure track and tenured faculty members, similar to the survey that is being conducted this spring for non-tenure track faculty members. The Executive Committee agreed that a survey should be conducted at some time. The Committee discussed whether to conduct the survey this spring or in the beginning of the fall semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 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.