

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Buan, Franco Cruz, Fech, Gay, Hanrahan, Kolbe, Latta Konecky, Minter, Peterson, Purcell, Vakilzadian, Woodman

Absent: Adenwalla

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2020

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 (*Hanrahan*)

Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Update on Proposed Bylaw Changes

Hanrahan reported that the Chancellor's goal is to get Central Administration's suggested changes to the proposed Bylaw revisions to the Executive Committee for review by spring break. He noted that Central Administration wants "professional staff" replaced with "faculty." Fech asked if the different categories of faculty would then be listed. Hanrahan pointed out that currently professional staff includes all categories of faculty members, and is the language used in the existing Regents Bylaws. He noted that the current Bylaws extend academic freedom to all members of the professional staff.

2.2 Update on School of Computing Proposal

Hanrahan stated that in his meeting with the Chancellor he was informed that the proposal to establish a School of Computing would be going to the Academic Planning Committee in April.

2.3 Meeting with VC Barker and Assistant VC Friday

Hanrahan reported that he had a good and enlightening conversation with VC Barker and Assistant VC Friday about diversity and inclusion issues. He stated that they felt it would be helpful for the Senate to create a formal, standing committee on diversity and inclusion with VC Barker, or his designee, and another member chosen by his office serving on the committee. He reported that VC Barker felt that having such a committee would demonstrate the Senate's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Franco Cruz asked what would be the responsibilities of the committee. Hanrahan stated that one responsibility would be to serve as a liaison between the Senate and the administration on diversity issues. He pointed out that under-represented faculty members are often asked to serve on many committees, yet they are often penalized for not being more productive. He suggested that the diversity and inclusion committee could conduct an audit on processes to see how they can be revised to address problems like this.

Hanrahan stated that with the current moratorium on ACE courses, ACE 9 needs to be examined because currently it can either be taken for global awareness or diversity.

Buan stated that the Faculty Diversity and Inclusion Fellows team is working on improving recruitment and retention at UNL. The recruitment process is being reviewed and a number of documents and proposed policies have been drafted, but they are now at the administrative level waiting for approval.

Hanrahan noted that VC Barker stated that under-represented faculty members do not see the Senate as being receptive to diversity and inclusion. Woodman pointed out that the Executive Committee is a diverse group of faculty members.

Hanrahan reported that there was also discussion with VC Barker about having one or two representatives from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee serve on the Council on Inclusive Excellence and Diversity. He noted that the representative(s) would then report back to the Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate.

Hanrahan pointed out that other universities and their Senate have a diversity and inclusion committee. Kolbe asked what the difference would be between a Senate committee, the Council on Inclusive Excellence and Diversity, and the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color. Franco Cruz pointed out that there needs to be some delineation between these groups.

Gay stated that one way the administration could demonstrate its commitment to diversity and inclusion is to provide large start-up packages to attract under-represented faculty.

3.0 Approval of February 25, 2020

Hanrahan asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none he asked for approval of the minutes. The Executive Committee approved the minutes.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 NSSE Survey Results - How Can the Senate Help to Make Improvements

Agenda item postponed due to lack of time.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Extension Zones

Hanrahan stated that changing the Extension districts and centers to zones in the Faculty Senate effects the Faculty Senate districts and the Senate Bylaws, and amounts to the redistricting of the Senate. He pointed out that redistricting requires a vote of the Senate and is done at the February senate meeting according to the Senate Bylaws. In addition, he noted that elections to replace outgoing Senators are already in progress. He therefore, suggested that for the purpose of Senate elections this year, the Extension districts remain as they have been before the changes to zones with the understanding that the Extension zones will be voted on at the February meeting. The Executive Committee agreed, and both Fech and Purcell thought that the interim arrangement was acceptable.

5.2 Executive Committee Elections

The Executive Committee worked on identifying Senators who they thought might be willing to serve on the Executive Committee if elected.

5.3 Student Health Insurance Changes

Buan reported that she is serving on a committee that is examining student health insurance policies. She noted that health insurance rates for students has gone up significantly across the country, and she is concerned that our students will see sharp increases.

Woodman asked if it is a requirement that international students obtain student health insurance. Buan stated that it is a federal requirement. She noted that the government wants to make sure that these students have real insurance coverage that will be useful to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 203 Alexander Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Joan Latta Konecky, Secretary.