

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Belli, Buan, Franco Cruz, Fech, Hanrahan, Leiter, Renaud, Vakilzadian

**Absent:** Adenwalla, Dawes, Peterson, Purcell

**Date:** Tuesday, November 27, 2018

**Location:** 201 Administration Building

**Note:** These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

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### 1.0 Call (*Hanrahan*)

Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

### 2.0 Chancellor Green

#### 2.1 Is there an implementation plan being developed from the strategic initiatives that emerge from N150, and if so, how do you plan to involve the faculty in the implementation?

Chancellor Green reported that he recently received the near final draft of the N150 report which he reviewed and provided comments on and gave back to the N150 Steering Committee. He noted that it is the Steering Committee's plan to deliver the final report to him before the holiday break. He stated that the next step in the rollout process will occur on January 15<sup>th</sup> during the State of the University address.

Chancellor Green stated that he will be announcing an implementation team that will look at the visions identified in the N150 report and will work to develop an initial five-year implementation plan. He reported that he hopes the implementation team can complete its work in six months with the goal to roll out the plan beginning in academic year 2019-2020. He noted that he is considering a team of about 30 people with a combination of faculty, administrators, students, and staff. Belli asked if the Chancellor has any plans to ask the Senate Executive Committee to nominate Senators to be members of the implementation team. Chancellor Green stated that he has not progressed that far in determining the membership of the team, but he has already considered Senate representatives for it.

Vakilzadian asked if the implementation team will have taskforces similar to the N150 Commission. Chancellor Green stated that he will leave this decision up to the implementation team. Buan asked if the implementation team will be identifying benchmarks. Chancellor Green pointed out that the visioning comes from the work of the N150 Commission, the implementation team will develop the strategy, but fully expects for there to be goals, timelines, and milestones in the implementation plan.

Belli noted that the Commission's initiatives will likely be ideals for the university, yet elected faculty are more likely to evaluate whether the goals are pragmatic and whether

they can be accomplished. Belli noted that, accordingly, elected faculty input is critical on the implementation team. Chancellor Green pointed out that the N150 Commission identified long-range goals, and the implementation team will work on getting pragmatic input from the faculty regarding what needs to be done to accomplish the goals. He stated that he was asked if he will hire a consultant to help with the implementation effort, but at this time does not think this will be needed to successfully develop the implementation plan.

## **2.2 Have there been any developments/updates on the NU allocation to UNL going into the next biennium budget negotiations?**

Chancellor Green stated that he does not anticipate that there will not be any changes with the budget, but he noted we are not in the budget discussion stage yet. He pointed out that he shared with the Faculty Senate at the November 6 meeting that the State's budget looks more optimistic than we have seen over the last few years.

Buan noted that with the recent budget cuts 118 positions were eliminated. She asked if the chancellor knew how many positions were lost at UNO and UNK. Chancellor Green stated that he did not have that specific information. Hanrahan pointed out that the 118 positions were across the university system, but believes that 32 staff positions have been cut from UNL. Chancellor Green noted that most of the positions that were eliminated were open positions and some of them were in IT. As a result some units had to be reformulated when the positions were lost. Leiter pointed out that IT has become an integral part of the infrastructure and students come here assuming that we are on the cutting edge of technology. Chancellor Green pointed out that so much of the investment in IT now goes towards security and protecting property and threats, and that he feels very good about how the University IT consolidation has proceeded.

Buan stated that there is lingering concern about UNL and UNMC budgets being lessened to cover UNK and UNO budgets. She stated that the combined threats of decreased budget allocations and trends in higher education towards non-major credentialing have the potential to deplete the resources and rigor allocated towards students obtaining a comprehensive 4-year degree. She stated that if we aren't careful to support vibrant 4-year programs that are the hallmark of a quality Research 1 university, we run the risk of turning into a large 2-year or certificate college.

Renaud asked if the State's economy is starting to see the impact of the international trade issues. Chancellor Green stated that he doesn't know of any new developments and the State is hoping that there will be some resolutions regarding trade at the G20 Summit that will have positive impacts for the State. He stated that impacts from the tariffs may not be evident yet for some farmers due to the agricultural economy cycle.

## **2.3 What is the status of the Student Code of Conduct and Central Administration?**

Chancellor Green noted that Professor Lenich, Law, along with ASUN, put great effort in proposing revisions to the Student Code of Conduct, but important next steps in the discussion will need to occur in relation to the other campuses in the NU system.

Hanrahan reported that the Faculty Senate is scheduled to vote on the proposed revisions on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **2.4 Update on Computer Engineering Program in the College of Engineering?**

Vakilzadian reported that there is a group of faculty members from the Computer Science & Engineering department in the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Electrical and Computer Engineering department in the College of Engineering who are working on developing a unified curriculum for computer engineering, but it is unknown which of the two departments will manage the program. Chancellor Green stated that he has not heard any news on this and knows that conversations are still occurring, but computer engineering is an area that we need to make significant investments in because there is such a strong demand in this area.

Vakilzadian reported that he has heard that the new engineering building is supposed to house the Computer Science and Engineering department. Chancellor Green stated that while there have been some discussions, no decisions have been made and the faculty will need to be involved. He reported that fundraising is underway for a new engineering building which will cost approximately \$85 million, with much of the space for elevating the instructional capabilities for the College.

Buan asked if there have been discussions on whether the Computer Science and Engineering department will be split with some faculty members going to Engineering while the others remain in the College of Arts and Sciences. Chancellor Green stated that there have been some preliminary discussions. He pointed out that a different model might be to have a School of Computing, but questions need to be considered as to whether such a school would be shared between the two colleges or whether it goes into one college. He stated that we need to figure out what the best way is to move the program forward in the near term.

Hanrahan noted that software engineering is related to coding and programming which is now considered a fundamental skill needed in so many other disciplines. He suggested adding a course on coding to the Humanities which provides fundamental skills courses.

#### **2.5 Issues on the Horizon**

Chancellor Green stated that he is excited about the N150 proposals, but it will take hard work for the ideas to materialize. He noted that there are some big, bold ideas that would take a lot of leg work to make happen.

Chancellor Green reported that our administrative searches are going well. He stated that he is very pleased with the hiring of Dr. Marco Barker as Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, who will start his position at the University on April 1, 2019.

Chancellor Green stated that the dean search for the College of Arts & Sciences is going well and is at the airport interview stage with the plan to bring candidates to campus in the spring semester. He noted that the dean for the College of Education and Human Sciences search is slightly behind the Arts & Sciences search, but the plan is to have

airport interviews done by the end of January. He reported that the on-campus interviews of the final candidates for dean of CASNR are now finished and deliberations about the candidates is in progress.

### **3.0 Announcements**

#### **3.1 Special Lab Fees Committee**

Vakilzadian reported that the Special Lab Fees Committee has received 32 requests. Some departments have requested to remove or reduce the fees, some to increase the fees in certain areas, and some are new requests. The Committee will meet to decide on the requests.

### **4.0 Approval of November 13, 2018 Minutes**

Hanrahan asked if there was any discussion or revisions to the minutes. Hearing none he asked for a unanimous consent to approve the minutes. The Executive Committee approved the minutes.

### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **5.1 Statement on Academic Freedom/Freedom of Speech**

The Executive Committee discussed whether to move forward with a statement to the Senate regarding Academic Freedom/Freedom of Speech. Belli stated that he was ambivalent about it and Vakilzadian noted that there has been no further statements or comments from politicians. Renaud stated that the Executive Committee should make a statement at the December Senate meeting. Griffin suggested that the information in the draft statement be put up on a Faculty Senate webpage addressing academic freedom. The site could provide historical information regarding academic freedom, as well as the Faculty Rights Document when it is finalized, and links to resources pertaining to academic freedom and free speech. She noted that Hanrahan could announce this plan to the Senate. Buan moved to rescind the statement on academic freedom and instead insert the document onto a Senate webpage. Motion seconded by Renaud and approved by the Executive Committee.

#### **5.2 Amendments to the Extension Educators Termination Resolution**

Hanrahan noted that an amendment has been suggested to the resolution to include assistant extension educator, associate extension educator, or extension educator in section 4.4.1 (7) of the Regents Bylaws. Belli moved to accept the amendments and to present them to the Faculty Senate. Motion seconded by Fech and approved by the Executive Committee.

#### **5.3 Amendment to the Budget Resolution**

Hanrahan stated that amendments to include language regarding the amount of budget cuts that have occurred during the college career for students graduating in 2019 and to provide missing numerical information have been suggested to the budget resolution. Fech moved and Renaud seconded approving the amendments. The motion was approved by the Executive Committee. Hanrahan noted that the amended motion will be presented to the Senate at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Suspension Definition Board of Regents Bylaw Change Resolution**

Hanrahan reported that the Ad Hoc Committee Addressing the AAUP Censure has decided that it wants to work further on clarifying language in the Regents Bylaws regarding termination and wants to present all of its proposed changes to the Board of Regents en masse. Therefore, it is unlikely that the AAUP censure will be removed this academic year because the Regents would not be able to address the proposed changes before the AAUP's scheduled vote. He noted that the Ad Hoc Committee will be able to spend the extra time to ensure that each of the documents are worded correctly. He stated that the plan would be to bring a motion to the Executive Committee in September 2019 and then to the full Senate in October 2019 which will vote on the resolution in November 2019. He pointed out that Professor Schleck indicated that it typically takes two years to remove an AAUP censure. Renaud moved and Leiter seconded the motion to remove the Suspension Definition on the Regents Bylaw Change Resolution. The Executive Committee approved the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, immediately following the Senate meeting. The meeting will be held in the City Union, Colonial Rooms A & B. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.