

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Belli, Fech, Hanrahan, Peterson, Renaud, Vakilzadian

Absent: Adenwalla, Buan, Franco Cruz, Dawes, Leiter, Purcell

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 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 (*Hanrahan*)

Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Report on AAUP Meeting

Belli reported that he attended the September 26th AAUP meeting where there was discussion about three aspects that the AAUP will seek for UNL administrators to be removed from the AAUP censure list. He stated that the three aspects are: to clarify policies and procedures that are unclear, to make appropriate efforts to resolve the issue with the faculty member involved in the incident, and to show general improvement in the campus climate for academic freedom. He noted that the overall message is that the AAUP would want the process to be doable and the local and national AAUP offices would want to assist the university in meeting these various criteria.

2.2 Open House on Changes to University's Health Care Provider

Fech reported that he attended the open house on the health insurance changes which was very informative. He noted that Assistant VC Bruce Currin, Director of Benefits Gayle Schanou, and Assistant Vice President of Business & Finance Brian Schlichting addressed those in attendance and answered questions. He stated that a representative from CVS Caremark, EyeMed Vision Care, UMR Health, and Ameritas Dental were also in attendance. He stated that he told Currin, Schanou, and Schlichting that the difficulty he is finding is getting other employees to understand that our health care policy, the coverage that we receive, is not changing, just the management of the policy. He reported that there will be a webinar on October 17th from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

2.3 Meeting with Administrators

Hanrahan stated that he is in the process of scheduling the President's monthly meeting with the Chancellor and he would like to do the same with the Executive Vice Chancellor.

2.4 Report on Board of Regents Meeting

Hanrahan reported that at the Board of Regents meeting the motion to revise the Bylaws by eliminating 4.4.5 County Employees of the Cooperative Extension Service, was

presented and should be voted on at the December meeting. He noted that the Board will also be voting on changes to the Board of Regents Tenure Recommendations Policy which will require annually a single report for those granted a continuous appointment in the previous year instead of a recommendation prior to the meeting in which action is to be taken, and the Board also eliminated a number of degrees that had low enrollment.

Hanrahan stated that the Senate Presidents met with Associate Vice President of University Affairs Heath Mello who told the Presidents that Central Administration will be focusing on working with the state legislators this year. He reported that Mello asked the Presidents to notify their colleagues about the Washington D.C. Internship Enrichment Program. This program is for any University of Nebraska student who is doing an internship.

Hanrahan reported that the University has hired a new lobbyist in D.C. and Central Administration would like faculty members seeking federal research funding through national organizations to contact Central Administration first so the lobbyist can work with the faculty member to lobby for support from the organizations. Belli pointed out that the Office of Research and Economic Development wants individual faculty members to meet with the funding organizations in order to get feedback about writing proposals. Hanrahan stated that the lobbyist would help to further leverage the opportunity for a faculty member to get funding. He noted that he did not see this as Central Administration trying to oversee the funding process, but to assist the faculty member in obtaining funding.

Hanrahan stated that the University has submitted the budget plan for the next biennium.

3.0 Approval of October 2, 2018 Minutes

Approval of the October 2, 2018 minutes was postponed due to lack of a quorum.

4.0 Unfinished Business

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

Hanrahan noted that feedback from members of the Executive Committee indicated that they did not agree with former President Rudy's charge, responsibilities, or membership of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Policies and Procedures in Place and Executed Following Suspension of Courtney Lawton. As a result, he suggested first renaming the Committee to the "Ad Hoc Committee Addressing the AAUP Censure." He also suggested reconstituting the membership with two UNL AAUP representatives; two UNL administrative representatives; three Faculty Senate representatives, possibly one from ARRC, one from the Executive Committee, and one at-large Senator. Belli stated that he thinks it is important to keep the graduate student perspective on the Ad Hoc Committee and the Executive Committee members debated whether a graduate student was needed. Griffin suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee's findings could be shared with the Graduate Student Assembly President to get input. Hanrahan stated that the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee would be one of the Senate representatives.

Hanrahan suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee's charge be changed to review and recommend changes to the UNL bylaws/policies/procedures/processes in order to strengthen academic freedom at UNL and to get UNL off the AAUP censure list. He stated that the Committee should also consider: 1) clarifying suspension and whether suspensions through the end of a contract constitute a summary dismissal; 2) addressing the need for faculty review when a faculty member is removed from the classroom and not pending termination; 3) addressing the decision making process - who decides and when; 4) steps the campus can take to improve the climate for academic freedom. Peterson suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee consider how contracts can be protected from not being renewed because of an academic freedom issue.

Renaud asked if the Ad Hoc Committee would eliminate the administration's committee and the AAUP's committee. Hanrahan stated that this would be his suggestion, but he would need to speak to the administration and the AAUP group.

Hanrahan stated that the Executive Committee will continue working on the proposed changes at the next meeting.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Senate Canvas

Hanrahan reported that a suggestion came in from Senator Brantner, Modern Languages and Literature, to have a better way for Senators to communicate with the Executive Committee. He suggested that an organization site on Canvas could be created which would allow easier communication between the Senators and the Executive Committee. He stated that he would give a demonstration of how the Canvas would work at the next meeting.

5.2 Resolution in Support of NU Budget Request

Hanrahan reported that the Faculty Senate Presidents at each of the NU campuses would like to create and pass a resolution supporting the University's budget request, similar to the one UNL passed this past March.

5.3 External Affairs Report

Hanrahan noted that the UNMC Faculty Senate President stated that they receive standing reports from External Affairs and asked the Executive Committee if we should do something similar. He stated that Assistant to the Chancellor Michelle Waite would be asked to provide information to the Committee. Griffin noted that Waite has come to speak with the Committee on an as needed basis in the past. A suggestion was made to invite Waite to come to speak to the Committee once a month if there is information that needs to be shared.

5.4 President-Elect

The Executive Committee discussed filling the President-Elect position. Hanrahan stated that the Senate rules would need to be suspended if he should agree to serve as President through the 2019-2020 academic year. He noted that it would take a 2/3 majority of the Senate to suspend the rules.

5.5 UNL Sustainability Initiative (Professor Gosselin)

Gosselin stated that he is looking for feedback from the Faculty Senate about sustainability, what role it should play in higher education, and how they perceive the University is doing with sustainability efforts. He stated that he would like to distribute a brief survey to the Senate. The Executive Committee suggested that Gosselin make a brief presentation at the November 6 Senate meeting and then gather feedback at the meeting.

5.6 ASUN Resolution on Textbook Ordering Deadline

Hanrahan pointed out that the issues raised by ASUN in their resolution are really a problem with the University Bookstore, not with the instructors. Renaud noted that some instructors do not get their teaching assignment until shortly before the next semester. Griffin reported that she has heard instructors say that they want to consider a new edition of a textbook, but the new edition is not available until after the deadline for ordering textbooks. Hanrahan stated that he will contact ASUN to let them know that there are issues that instructors face that need to be considered.

6.0 Future Agenda Items

Hanrahan stated that he wanted the Executive Committee to be aware of future agenda items:

- Questions for Dr. Marjorie Kostelnik when she meets with the Executive Committee on November 13

- Update on Ombudspersons

- Meet with Associate to the Chancellor Tami Strickman to update us on Title IX issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, October 16, 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.