

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Belli, Buan, Fech, Hanrahan, Kolbe, Leiter, Peterson, Purcell, Renaud, Vakilzadian

Absent: Adenwalla, Franco Cruz, Dawes, Leiter

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

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 Assistant to the Chancellor Michelle Waite and Assistant Vice President Matt Hammons

Hanrahan noted that he invited Waite and Hammons to come and speak about how they could assist the faculty and the university with state and federal legislatures and agencies. Waite pointed out that it is important for the University to know what is going on both at the state and federal level.

Waite stated that she deals more directly with the state legislature, but on federal level work she interacts with a lot of colleagues who are heavily involved with the federal government and federal agencies. She noted that while she works on public policy issues she also collaborates with people in the Office of Research and Economic Development who work with grants and contracts. She reported that she also works closely with Hammons on public policy related issues, particularly those at the federal level. She stated that she is also contacted by faculty members who are going to Washington D.C. and who are seeking some assistance about contacting our federal delegation.

Hammons stated that he works with President Bounds and deals with federal relations on topics such as policy issues, student financial aid, research funding, and national security. He noted that it is a very dynamic job which includes putting together our annual priorities for the University of Nebraska which are then taken to our federal delegates. He reported that one of his current efforts is to expand University of Nebraska footprint in the D.C. area. He noted that we have over 4,000 alumni in the area and these individuals could be helpful to our faculty and students.

Hammons stated that the goal of his office is to add value for the faculty and students and for the University as a whole. He noted that a new federal lobbying firm that has a team approach was hired last September by the University and they have already been very helpful. He pointed out that the team approach of the firm is to have members of the

team focus on specific areas such as agriculture, national security, or energy, but they coordinate with each other on behalf of the University.

Hammons reported that the University has hired its first D.C. based employee, Jacob Dowd, as Federal Relations Coordinator. He noted that Dowd is from Columbus, NE and he is doing a great job focusing our efforts to have strong relationships with the Congressional staff and alumni, and to help the University build a stronger connection and presence in D.C. He stated that Dowd has hired his first intern to work in his office this summer who will coordinate the University of Nebraska Washington D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy which is a professional development program for student interns who are in the D.C. area during the summer. He noted that the Academy program has been developed with input from 30 faculty members and staff across the university system. It is an eight week program that brings students together to participate in weekly evening seminars designed to develop professional skills and knowledge, to join other NU students in D.C. and provide opportunities to network with NU alumni in the D.C. area. He reported that the first cohort in the program last summer said that the best part of the Academy was getting to know the other NU students who were in D.C. He stated that he anticipates the number of participants to increase this year. Hammons stated that the Academy will operate this summer on a three-legged stool model with Jacob Dowd as a full-time employee in D.C., his student intern managing logistics for the Academy, and a UNL Career Services staff member who will serve as program coordinator and career coach for students.

Purcell noted that students need to apply for the Academy and asked if anyone has been denied admission. Hammons stated that no one has been denied entry into the Academy. Vakilzadian asked what qualifications are required to get into the Academy. Hammons stated that both undergraduate and graduate students can apply to the program. He noted that the Academy is a no-cost program available to students from UNL, UNO, UNK, and UNMC, but students who are in D.C. during the summer on an internship are responsible for securing their own internship.

Hammons noted that the program is a great way to involve our alumni, many of whom wish to be actively involved, and students in the D.C. Academy may be matched with an alumnus who is in a field the student is interested in working in and meet them for coffee this summer. He stated that the College of Arts & Sciences at UNL has zero credit Pass/No Pass course for the summer term so that the Academy experience will appear on student transcripts. He stated that one of the course assignments is for students to keep a journal of their experiences. He stated that he wants to encourage students to apply to the Academy and noted that more information can be found at <https://nebraska.edu/offices-policies/university-affairs/federal-government-relations/dc-intern>. He reported that efforts are continuing to build our network with alumni in D.C. and to get them actively involved in the Academy and other activities. He stated that the idea is to develop clusters of alumni relating to particular fields. He shared D.C. Academy flyers with the faculty and asked them to help disseminate the information to students who will be in the D.C. area over the summer.

Hanrahan asked if there has been any fallout with Congressman Fortenberry due to the incident that occurred last fall. Hammons stated that Congressman Fortenberry sees himself as UNL's Congressman and the University is working to rebuild the relationship. He noted that Congressman Fortenberry wants to help the University. Waite stated that hopefully people will realize the incident was not associated with the University. Hammons noted that each year is different with the delegations and the University is working to build relationships and to make sure people realize the value of the University. He pointed out that the real work of the University is occurring with faculty and students on the campuses and that is what we want to highlight in D.C.

Peterson reported that a faculty member in his department who annually organizes a trip for students to visit the Department of Agriculture and other government agencies each year. He noted that he does this on his own and will let the professor know he should contact Hammons. Purcell reported that Extension Educators across the state focused in 4-H Youth Development take students to D.C. for a summer 4-H Conference. Waite stated that Dowd would be very helpful in assisting with the visits of these groups.

Hammons stated that discussions have started with the College of Business, Global Studies, and IANR at UNL to explore building D.C. career exploration programs for students that would allow them to meet with alumni and to visit federal agencies.

Vakilzadian asked if we have a lobbyist in D.C. and if this person is involved with funding agencies which could be helpful to faculty members. Hammons suggested pointed out that the best place for faculty members to start out when seeking funding from a federal agency is with the Office of Research and Economic Development. He stated that the lobbyists help brainstorm ideas and make introductions to federal agencies for faculty at the direction of ORED and UNL leadership.

Hanrahan asked if there was any further information on President Trump's Executive Order "Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities" in regards to free speech. Hammons offered to share a copy of the Executive Order and pointed out that there is only one sentence in the Order that applies directly to free speech on university campuses. It reads: "that the heads of covered agencies, shall, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, take appropriate steps, in a manner consistent with applicable law, including the First Amendment, to ensure institutions that receive Federal research or education grants promote free inquiry, including through compliance with applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies." He stated that the remaining portion of the Order was about the Department of Education moving towards measuring student outcomes at a programmatic level rather than institutional level (based on default rates) which could show if particular areas of study have a higher rate of employment following graduation. He noted that the Government's efforts seem to be an over simplification of the information that would be required and is only based on student major and IRS income. In addition, he noted that only students who receive federal student aid would be included in this federal data. Kolbe pointed out that this kind of data could discourage students from pursuing their interests and passion because the data on salaries and work would

vary widely, and the information would not necessarily be in the best interest of the students.

Waite reported that the University continues to be optimistic about the budget with the Appropriations Committee. She stated that the Committee's recommendations will go to the State Legislature on May 1. She noted that the Forecasting Board will meet again on April 25 and stated that questions still remain regarding what will happen with the State revenue due to the flooding disaster that hit the state, although the impacts of it may not be felt this year. She stated that it is believed that a significant portion of the flooding recovery costs will be paid through federal funds. Fech asked what the impact will be to the economy with the impact of the flooding on small businesses. Waite stated that it is too early to tell.

Waite pointed out that the infrastructure of the State will take considerable time to repair. Hanrahan wondered if there will be a mandate that Nebraska companies and resources will have to be used to help with the recovery efforts. He noted that this would help the citizens of the State, and the State could recoup some of its lost revenue. Hammons stated that it will depend on the contracts that are made. He noted that the newer levees held up well, but the older levees were the ones that failed. Kolbe noted that some of the rebuilding efforts of levees will be handled by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Belli asked whether there is real concern that Congress will not offer additional financial support to help Nebraska with the recovery process. Hammons noted that this relates to the gridlock in Congress to provide additional hurricane recovery funds to Puerto Rico and to provide disaster recovery funds for Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. He stated that the hope is that the bill will be passed in the Senate and the House.

Hanrahan noted that the Forecasting Board's meeting at the end of April will review the state's earnings for the first quarter of the year and the flooding did not happen until the end of the quarter. Waite noted that the next meeting of the Board will be in October and the University will be watching the situation carefully.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Discussion with Associate VC Walker

Hanrahan reported that he had a discussion with Associate VC Walker about non-tenure track faculty members and said she wants to talk about how we can make improvements for them on campus.

4.0 Approval of April 2, 2019 Minutes

Peterson moved to table the agenda item, motion seconded by Belli and approved by the Executive Committee.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Draft Resolution on Lecturers' Termination Notice

The Executive Committee worked on revising the draft resolution. Belli suggested that the resolution should mimic the language that is in the Regents Bylaws regarding

Professors of Practice. Vakilzadian moved that the existing language on Professors of Practice should be used in the draft resolution. Motion seconded by Kolbe. Further discussion ensued and Vakilzadian withdrew his motion, followed by Kolbe withdrawing his second. The motion to withdraw the original motion was approved. The Committee agreed to continue work on the resolution at the next meeting.

5.2 Comments on Faculty Survey

Agenda item postponed until the next meeting due to lack of time.

6.0 New Business

6.1 RCM Committee Update (Peterson)

Peterson reported that the RCM Committee will be meeting every other week until May 15th. He noted that new information on the budget and planning process redesign and the guiding principles are now available on the web at <https://budget.unl.edu/responsibility-center-management>. He stated that UNL will work with the Huron Consulting Group through a three-phased approach: 1) initial assessment, model development, and launch; 2) evaluation and stakeholder engagement; and 3) implementation and delivery fulfillment.

Hanrahan stated that it is his understanding that a model will be in place by July 1 to shadow the existing budget model. Peterson stated that the Committee is being methodical, but there is a lot of components of the budget that need to be considered. For instance revenue units, support units, and hybrid units have to be defined, as well as the organizational framework and how units fall into the framework. He pointed out that the Committee is very early in the process and considerable work needs to be done. He stated that he believes the composition of the steering committee is fine. He pointed out that there needs to be a considerable number of people on the Committee who have a deep knowledge of how our budget works, yet there are also faculty members who provide input. He stated that it is clear that we don't want a system that will give people an incentive to do things like offering courses just to generate more credit hours. He noted that part of the conversation will be to recognize the units that don't raise a lot of revenue and how to ensure that they get their needed funding.

6.2 Review of Non-Tenure Track Faculty Forum

Vakilzadian wanted to thank Belli, Hanrahan, and Professor Woodman for all of the effort in arranging and conducting the forum. Belli noted that there were several agenda items discussed including the Board of Regents' definition of a faculty member, the reappointment and hiring of non-tenure track faculty members, and academic freedom and free speech.

Hanrahan stated that the auditorium was about half full, although it is unknown how many people viewed the meeting via Zoom. He noted that there was an open mic session and many people spoke. He thought there was good participation and he thought the discussion about the poor compensation lecturers receive was good for the administrators to hear. Belli reported that Chancellor Green, EVC Plowman, VC Boehm, VC Wilhelm, Associate VC Walker, Associate VC Bischoff, Dean Carr, and several other

administrators were in attendance. Belli stated that Associate VC Walker has been in touch with some of the presenters who spoke at the forum and she indicated she is interested in having them meet to have discussions in May. He suggested that the main points of the forum need to be summarized for distribution to the administrators.

Vakilzadian stated that he thought the forum went well and was very well handled. He noted that the questions were politely raised and answered. Hanrahan stated that he has received comments that people thought the forum was well done, informative, and there is a feeling of hope for some of the non-tenure track faculty members.

6.3 Updating Senate Bylaws

Hanrahan noted that the Executive Committee has discussed previously the idea of revising the Senate Bylaws. He stated that he would like to discuss next week forming the Senate Rules and Bylaws Committee. Griffin pointed out that the members for this Committee need to be Senators. Hanrahan stated that possible revisions could include a section on the procedures that would need to be taken to remove a President, and the length of term for the President.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, April 16, 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.