Faculty Senate Executive Committee/UNK Administration Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
1:00 pm Warner Conference Room, Founders Hall

Present: Trewin, Moore, Mollenkopf, Dimock (sec.) Benz, Miller, Kristensen, Oravecz, Carlson, Bicak.

I. Changes to Drop/Add Policy (no signatures or instructor notification required). Registrar’s Office indicated that it was a decision from the Deans’ Offices to set up this way.

Bicak: July 2010 - issue developed and decided upon at the Dean’s retreat. It was installed in the Fall as a pilot concept. Students can have difficulty finding faculty, move on to chair, to deans, and even the VCAA. So in terms of an effective policy, once the student leaves the faculty level, the signer is uninformed on the issues involved. The deans are not entirely comfortable with this process.

Senate: Faculty would like notification.

Bicak: Some process of notification and support for students is warranted.

Benz: There is also the potential of a student who is failing due to cheating being able to drop.

Bicak: That is something else we can look into.

II. The Voluntary Separation Plan, progress and implementation.

Bicak: There are six applicants out or 40+ eligible faculty. April 1 is the deadline to apply.

III. Technology:

a. Follow up on Google ad issues, Loper e-mail, and degree audits

The Google ads are gone.

Some emails are going to the old email addresses, even when using the loper.mail address. The problem is being examined.

The Degree Audit program looks like it will be very useful and allow faculty to provide more support and guidance for the students. Features like tracking and planning for the future are specifically useful.

b. Retro-fitting of Ockinga for ADA compliance (surround sound system?)

Johnson: There is a plan to renovate the auditorium and the conference/classroom. The technology will allow presentations in the auditorium to be simultaneously sent to the conference room. The plan has not been approved yet, but will be brought to the Chancellor.

IV. Impact on UNK in light of UNO announcement regarding sports programs.

Chancellor: 10 days ago, UNO met with the BOR and got approval to go to the Division I conference. In order to get into Division I, they gave up football and wrestling. As of January, NCAA changed the fee for changing to Division I to over a million dollars. UNO has raised the money and is ready to pay the fee. Football would have had to affiliate or go independent and they decided to drop it. Wrestling is also being dropped. They are adding Men’s soccer and golf. The move does make March Madness money available.
Chancellor: The impacts on us - The MIAA is ready for us to come in. We had to designate a rival. We chose Ft. Hayes. The MIAA is relieved that we are staying. The athletes at UNO are left hanging - football is supposed to be in Spring training and the wrestling team (championship wrestling team) is cut loose. There are a number of students who are looking at transferring. We are seeking a waiver to be allowed (per NCAA rules) to go to their campus to talk to their students.

Most scholarship money has been committed. We asked UNO to honor their scholarships if they come to UNK. UNO is offering to keep the students there and honor the scholarships they offered. What they do and how they support their students is an institutional decision.

On this campus, we are more balanced in our approach to support of athletics. We would like to help out students from our sister institution.

Dimock: If students have concerns about program cuts here, what can we say?

Chancellor: We are much more transparent in our approach to the budget and there has been no consideration of program cuts here.

Note: The Chancellor will come and present at the April 7th Faculty Senate meeting.

V. Administrative Reports.

a. VCUR: The web developer search is concluded and the position will be offered in the next couple days. UNK will have a larger presence at the State Fair this year (8/26-9/5). Any volunteers to help represent campus would be welcome.

The marketing team has added a new tool - mobile phone app - My Majors.com. This year we’re looking at it to see if it is a good tool to use. When students register with the app, we get their information.

b. VCAA: Information: 1) in the last 3 weeks there were 5 accreditation exercises/academic reviews. All have gone very well. APR’s are also under way. 2) Kenya Taylor presented what we do and who we are regarding research and grants at the BOR meeting and. We were represented well.

Some items we are looking at include summer school, changing graduation requirements from 125 to 120 hours. We are working with the Deans.

c. DSL: Moving forward on the searches for Greek and Residential Life and Academic Services. Candidates should be on campus after break. The academic review of the program is awaiting the report from reviewers. Initially, they have given us the feedback that they are impressed with the engagement of our students and faculty. The exit interview was healthy and they have some good ideas.

The Dean’s office sent some information to the students regarding travel safety over break, particularly to Mexico. The APR liked the way we combine counseling services and student health. Disability Services also went under review.

The Dean just returned from a national conference, attended sessions on student mental health and there are ways Student Affairs can coordinate with faculty.

Moore: Can we make sure that any health screenings are not sponsored by pharmaceutical companies?

Oravecz: yes.

d. VCBF: Budget - annual review is under way. Central Administration wants a draft budget plan by May. The budget is updated based on the most recent information. Legislature will be done
in June and the BOR meets after that, then we will have accurate numbers. We work with different models that the deans are working on and will meet with faculty in April to discuss those models and our priorities.

The Six-Year Capital Report - Otto Olsen is still at the top of our list. It is a priority to have that project put forward to the state. Next biennium the Nursing building will be advanced by the President. The following biennium, we are hoping to have the President advance Otto Olsen to the state (the President will only advance one capital project at a time).

Residence Halls - We need to make a decision about Martin Hall: main options include (a) demolish it, (b) demolish it and build the next building in the new residence hall set, or (c) renovate it to make administrative space. There are other options being discussed, nothing is decided yet. There are ongoing discussions about needs and concerns for space. Randall will be back on line in the Fall. There is a design for entrance to Mantor and Randall halls.

Parking - Will be paving the small lot south of Ockinga. We will also be replacing the lot north of the Towers and the lot on 28th. By paving a graveled lot, you gain some spaces and make it safer. These are on the agenda for the summer.

The former Sauder's property is and has been ours. We are still working to get the state to make decisions about the project. The project will be 2-3 years in duration.

e. Chancellor:

- Last week, Kearney City Council, gave Chancellor ½ hour on the impacts our campus has on the town. The campus community constitutes about 1/5 the population of town. The Health and Sports center brings in visitors, the State Speech Tournament brings in visitors, many other campus projects bring in visitors. The university brings in a great deal of intellectual and cultural capital. The City would like to help us.

  There are some projects and maintenance, particularly for publicly used buildings, that the city could help us with. There are other capital projects that could help improve the University area (lighting and landscaping around HWY 30). The City seems pretty receptive to supporting the campus.

- At the Regents, Bicak did mention that UNK is being evaluated by a metric for evaluating research on campus (grants) that is not useful for evaluating our campus. There are different metrics that the provost is interested in looking at. As an undergraduate research and scholarly activity institution, we are doing well and the metric at the University level needs to be re-evaluated.

- BOR will be visiting campus the end of May.