Executive Committee & Cabinet

Minutes

Wednesday, August 1, 2007, 2 p.m., ASH 196

Present:  Anderson, Barnes, Boucher, Hewins-Maroney, Miller, Sollars, Tarry

Excused:  Noble, Reilly, Shaw

I. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m.

II. The minutes of the July 11, 2007 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Senator Tarry reported that the Executive Committee and Administration Meeting was held July 18, 2007. Chancellor Christensen discussed the issues he plans to address during his presentation at the Senate retreat in August. He discussed the budget shortfall, which is now slated to be $378,900 for UNO. The administration is working with the deans to reallocate resources to cover the shortfall. There is greater concern about next year’s budget. The additional operations and maintenance costs for new buildings in the NU system are not budgeted and no additional resources are expected from the state. Utility costs may also adversely affect the budget next year. The apparent reluctance of the Regents to support more than nominal tuition increases is cause for concern if the projected shortfall materializes. Wade Robinson discussed enrollment projections and said we appear to be on track to match last year. Robinson also noted that while the additional new housing on campus will eventually help recruitment, its immediate impact on enrollment numbers will be minimal. The HPER project, which is also projected to help recruitment efforts, goes before the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on September 22. Chancellor Christensen said that he is fine with the NU administration’s decision not to hire a private firm to handle “whistleblower” reports of problems within the university. The Chancellor pointed to the university’s internal “ombudsperson” process and encouraged the senate to remind faculty, as well as staff and students, that such a system exists. The Chancellor also reported that the Omaha Police Department’s first responder training exercise was a success and gave both OPD and university officials a chance to become more comfortable with how a campus crisis might be handled.

IV. Old Business

A. Senator Tarry reported the UNO seat on the **NU-Wide Gender Equity Committee** has been filled by Dr. Juliette Parnell, as reported by Assoc. V.C. Sheri Rogers.

A. The draft schedule for the August 22, 2007, Faculty Senate Retreat was discussed and approved without substantial change. Senator Tarry will contact the five guest speakers to assure that their intentions for time speaking and taking questions fits the schedules.

V. New Business

A. Senator Tarry moved the following resolution, which the Executive Committee passed:

**Resignation of Senator Sam Brown**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee accepts the fact that Senator Sam Brown (CPACS) has resigned from the Senate, as he has already left UNO. Dr. Jay White (CPACS) will be appointed to finish this term through 5/13/09.

A. Senator Tarry also moved the following resolution, which the Executive Committee passed:

**Resignation of Senator Deb Anderson**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee accepts with regret the resignation of Senator Deb Anderson (CPACS), effective August 2, 2007. She is moving on to a position with Project Harmony in Omaha.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.