



SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 23, 2012
12:45 P.M. in SKH 369

Present : Richard Miller, Ramon Cerro, Deborah Heikes, Ina Warboys, Timothy Newman, Mitch Berbrier, David Neff, Jeet Gupta, Derrick Smith, Brent Wren, Vistasp Karbhari, Wai Mok

- ❖ Dr. Richard Miller stated there are many changes on campus—there are lots of opportunities. I am optimistic that we will be able to serve faculty and students to give our input on changes being made now. The President is out of town in Birmingham at a Board Meeting about Athletics.
- ❖ **Provost Vistasp Karbhari**—distributed WOW brochures. The President is in Birmingham for a meeting and he is the senior President in the System now. Welcome to a new semester. We had the Installation, Convocation, Groundbreaking and picnic on Tuesday. It was good to see you there. Many events have already taken place. There are over 70 activities. I had an opportunity to visit welcome tents. Alumni activity this evening starts at 5.

Added over 32 faculty in all five colleges. A couple were converted from research to tenure track. Others were brought in.

We are well on our way for the search for the Director of International Engagement. The Committee worked over the summer, completed round one with phone and Skype. They will present a short list this week—there will be 3 or 4 to bring on campus and there will be opportunity to talk by all. Used to be Director of ISSO. Hope to have those interviews in early September after Labor Day.

New CIO joined August 13—Dee Childs is coming up to speed. Like to afford her opportunity to meet with you.

Enrollment today about flat -- 7641 now compared to 7637 last year-- up at graduate level and down in undergraduate. Up in Nursing. Credit hours down in undergraduate and up graduate level.

Dean Smith interim VPR—transition phase now join formally after Labor Day. Here this week out next week back after that. He is from Texas Tech. Good Experience in Biological Sciences and solar telescope Starting search.

Department of Health has a new requirement—it requires disclosure similar to the ethics commission. There is an interim policy in place and it will be discussed further and we will put in place something permanent –over a period it will probably become applicable to all funding. Now NIH or NEH. Financial conflict. Most rules and policies mirror those of the ethics commission. NIH says every time we get a new contract we will have to update the disclosure.

We will start the review for the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts—it is a standard review—I met with the College and I was given names—it will be chaired by Dean Raines. We will announce more as we put it in place.

Director SSC search ongoing—fairly close to naming a person in the next few days.

Hope to start search for Director of Library in near future. Have a meeting with Mitch Berbrier and Rich Miller to start. Named David Moore as interim after Wilson Luquire left. Was Director before Wilson Luquire and going back to previous title. Faculty in Library on Lecturer status—common to other Libraries.

Timothy Newman—stated enrollment is up by 4—That is baffling—had good headlines—good positive coverage—any guesses? Provost Karbhari state he is trying to do an analysis—there are challenges with the economy both Freshmen and Transfers—holding on to see if we need to work on something—change in tuition could have affected. As we had drops in previous year’s cycle it continues. Trying to do a lot with Community Colleges—getting close to signing contracts to get students. Need to market ourselves a lot more. Let people know what we have on campus. It takes some time to catch on. Community college had drop in enrollment in summer. Have not seen numbers from others right now. There is a significant amount we need to do to increase the numbers. Tim Newman—asked if there is a difference in Freshmen—Provost Karbhari stated retention is actually very good. We have been running a comparison daily for the last 7 years. Numbers are up—in Nursing—Business has grown at the graduate level—Liberal Arts has come down both n lower and upper levels. Engineering is about flat. Science is up by 3% overall. Mitch Berbrier—in Liberal Arts enrollments for transfers are up and freshmen are lower—this affects Liberal Arts. We are up in some areas and down in others so the numbers are flat. Tim Newman—differential tuition—Provost Karbhari stated he talked with the President this morning and we are going to get numbers and determine whether we can do that being the only university in the System that

does that. The term differential tuition is not liked by ACHE. Have to be careful with that.

Something came up this morning based on the opinion of the Attorney General—Distance Education—a concerned citizen asked the Attorney General—Should DL tuition be at the same level as in-state and out-of-state—yes according to the constitution there should be no difference in tuition except for military and the common market—it could cause concern if we go in with different forms of tuition. Auburn has certain courses and it is different from in-house. Mitch Berbrier—already has differential tuition in the sense that if someone takes 15 credits then it is one cost. If they take 120 here it is different. Looking at that and block tuition per Provost Karbhari. Explained block tuition. Also looking at what if we give a guarantee. Some concern because of PAC. Looking at a variety of options. Through this year we will have a lot of those on the table. We will have some things to present and we will try to get something in place before the tuition rates are set for next year.

- ❖ Richard Miller—stated we need to revisit the Center for Teaching Excellence—any documents for budget analysis—what the center would be, status, resources, goals, concrete things to advertise to faculty. Ombuds Office—financial—has not heard about where going we are with that. Provost Karbhari stated we support the office—there are concerns with the finances to put it together. We still want to discuss this.
- ❖ Deborah Heikes— have we finished making the web easy to access—Provost Karbhari stated we have not completed the migration. Deborah Heikes had problems getting on the website. Library and email are under current students. Provost Karbhari stated please let me know if there are other little quirks. We hope to get it done quickly.
- ❖ **Richard Miller reminded the group** that the primary purpose is to form an agenda for the Senate meeting. Ask some of the same questions you ask here in open Senate as well. Move to more of a dialogue in Senate. Have always had purview to do that here but want to do it in Senate as well.
- ❖ Introductions—everyone introduced themselves. Richard Miller stated he needed to send all meetings, committees, members to everyone. He stated he will send after this meeting.
- ❖ **Reports from Committees**—Richard Miller stated he received information from most—most were about elections. No additional reports.

- ❖ Jeet Gupta asked where are and what is the status of the Bylaws document.
- ❖ University Committees—no report
- ❖ Senate Agenda—Richard Miller stated there are a number of carry over items.
- ❖ Faculty Handbook—passed all chapters through 8, 9 is the first order of business at the next meeting. Timothy Newman reminded the group that there is a standing rule that each chapter is reviewed one at a time. Each person is allowed 1 minute only. Passed last time. Once all 9 chapters are reviewed there will be a final vote on the document as whole and then the Bylaws and same rules apply to the Bylaws. The question was asked if someone has a copy of the changes. Richard Miller stated that Timothy Newman is the keeper of that and we can make it available for all to see. As move beyond and get remaining chapters amended and passed –there will be another opportunity to vote. None is secret and can make all that available. Difficult because now it is in flux. Faculty Senate has seen it. Chapter 8 has passed. Started Chapter 9. When all is covered then the entire document will come back and there will be an opportunity to amend then when it is passed it goes to the Provost, to Legal and the President and then back to the Senate and then to the Board. This has been hanging around a long time. This is important because it is effectively a contract per President Altenkirch. It needs to be done right. Need to move through Chapter 9 and the Bylaws as expeditiously as possible. Other work is being held up because of this.

There are **4 bills to carry over** from last year.

Bill 363 at 3rd reading

Bill 361 Disease Policy at 2nd reading

Bill 365 Tuition Remission at 2nd reading

Bill 367 at 2nd reading

There are **no new bills**—we did receive one over the summer—there is no way we will get to this bill at the next senate meeting given already pending business. Hence will be considered at the next Exec Comm meeting.

Richard Miller stated he will send the ones that are still under consideration.

There will be **items to turn into bills soon**. There will be a Bill eliminating the 64 hour rule—expect to see that.

Searches around campus—SSC—this was demoted to Director from Executive Director—what is the SSC and what is the vision. Maybe the appropriate Committee should have Brent Wren come and enlighten us on what it is. The appropriate Committee is probably the Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs.

Library search for new leader. The head of the Library was previously a Dean—now they want to make it a Director. This raised questions among the Library staff—this is a concern to them—they view themselves in the same vein as Clinical faculty. Highly trained and couple has PhD. Don't currently have opportunity for advancement. Resulted in loss of two recent hires. Richard Miller stated I don't know the right answer however I was provided a document and I will be happy to share it. The Library staff has done some research on peer institutions similar to ours and the faculty are similar to Clinical faculty. Paradigm at Tuscaloosa but not at Birmingham. Provost Karbhari is meeting with Mitch Berbrier and Rich Miller. What is the motivation for demoting the head of the Library and how it impacts the future ability to have Library faculty. Lecturers do not count toward Senate. Lecturers have no voting rights. There was some discussion regarding Lecturers and how it all works. We have no Library Science degree.

Center for Teaching Excellence—Ina Warboys stated she talked to the Provost and worked on this previously. Richard Miller stated we need to come up with ideas and work with Administration. If Administration comes up with ideas they need to provide some vision, goal and financial resources. Tim Newman stated it is a beginning of numeration of goals, etc. **Research Committee**—Jeet Gupta asked what happened with this. Richard Miller stated he found out he has the right to form ad hoc committees. The Research Committee was rejected as a Standing Committee. Because of important issues I intend to form the committee.

There are still some issues with **BETA Team**. We need to talk about it. We had some members serving as part of a BETA review. We still believe there are some issues. If recourse, we need to be sure there is oversight making sure it is not abused. We need to keep an eye on that and talk more about that.

Wai Mok and I are on the **Budget Planning Committee** and we should get some insight and we will communicate when possible.

Richard Miller met with the Interim VPR—he is a good guy—we know some of the same people. I will put in my report some of the things we talked about. He is an academic. He has managed academic and non-academic research. He has some goals even though he is interim. He can review the research enterprise here because he has no stake. He will set the stage for the permanent VPR. He can give a truly objective view. This gives us the opportunity to help him. The best way to do that is to bring to him in to speak to the Senate. He is a

discussion guy but he likes to have it on paper to remind him. Giving committee mandate to compile issues and solutions and recommendations and meet with him over the 9 months. He cannot fix what he does not know about. He may not always agree. He is big into transparency. He had discretionary funding made public. I will say more at the Senate meeting. He has a book on managing the research university.

Richard Miller stated the **agenda for this year** is too big, too broad—my agenda boils down to the following—hope you will join me in working toward these goals. Establish or reestablish the Faculty Senate in shared governance.

(Re-)establish Faculty Senate in an advice and consent role to University endeavors.

(Re-)establish Faculty Senate and related groups as sources of solutions for the University not just identifiers of problems.

Work to identify projects and issues that facilitate our success and the success of our students – this will lead to growth.

Ramon Cerro stated it all boils down to shared governance. Most problems result from the lack of shared governance or shared governance being dismissed. Richard Miller stated the President who is an academic will listen. We have an opportunity. We are stepping forward and demanding we be a part of shared governance.

Jeet Gupta and Ramon Cerro discussed the fact that the Senate and Faculty should be part of the discussions when ideas are brought forward regardless of whether there is a document presented by the Administration.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 p.m.