

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MONDAY, November 15, 2021

UC Spruce A | 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Feinstein, Fischer, Greene, Kyle, Levin, Luger, Maxey, Schuttler, Senbet, Vaughan, Vollendorf, Wiegand

Absent:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the Minutes from November 1, 2021

Approved without objection.

Announcements

Chair's Report (Levin)

- The Provost search is going well. We will select semifinalists on 12/16, and first-round "airport" interviews will be in early January on Zoom.
- HR is seeking a Faculty Senate representative to serve as a member on the search committee for an Ombudsperson; the search will run through February. The Ombudsperson will help faculty and staff determine appropriate university resources for addressing conflicts.
- Levin is seeking a replacement faculty member for PLC.
- The BOT approved the inclusive pronoun language Senate action; Codification can begin work on updating UR and BPM language.

Academic Covid Responsiveness Group Report (Senbet & Vaughan) – No Report.

Senate Committee Reports

Academic Policies (Vaughan) – No Report.

Codification (Schuttler) – We are reviewing a Leave of Absence policy for the graduate catalog.

Elections (Kyle) – No Report.

Faculty Welfare (Senbet) – No Report.

Salary Equity (Greene) – No Report.

Standing Reports

Board of Trustees (Fischer) – The BOT met on November 11th and 12th. Highlights include:

- The BOT is supportive of pursuing the next steps in the osteopathic medical school exploration: applying for accreditation and initiating the hiring process for a founding dean.
- The presentation of the compensation investment plan and rationale were well received; salary investment will be part of the discussion in planning for the budget.
- UNC is in the best financial position it has been in the last decade; monies from oil/gas royalties and HEERF funding are contributing to a surplus.

President (Feinstein) – Thanks to Fischer for presenting the compensation investment topic to the BOT; Feinstein is committed to salary investment. Regarding the next steps in the medical school exploration, we are working to make the necessary adjustments in State statute for UNC to operate a medical school, and we are pursuing State funding to help build the medical school. We are also working to raise the funds needed to support our application for accreditation. We will soon identify a search firm to assist with the search for a

founding dean of the medical school. Regarding UNC's financial outlook, we are in good shape and can start to invest strategically in our future.

DISCUSSION: *How to change the perception of our financial position*

- Some units are still struggling with loss of faculty/staff; turnover contributes to a perception of scarcity.
- Stabilizing enrollment is crucial. Public perception will not change if enrollment is down.
- Pursuing the medical school may help change public perception.

Provost (Vollendorf) – We are thinking strategically about how we are staffed across the institution. Seven staff positions have been allocated to the colleges, and twenty-three tenure-track faculty positions have been authorized this year. Academic Affairs is working on strategic budgeting and multiyear planning.

DISCUSSION:

- As enrollment needs evolve, we have an excess of faculty in some areas, while we are lacking faculty in other areas.
 - Early retirement incentives – many faculty members are nearing retirement age; how can incentives be utilized to benefit the institution and retiring faculty
 - Aligning needs and skill sets – how to leverage existing faculty expertise to help across colleges

Unfinished Business

New Business

- **Student Teaching Supervision policy**
 - Vaughan presented an issue regarding mileage reimbursement on behalf of PEC Chair Jeri Kraver.
 - The current student teaching supervision mileage policy caps reimbursement to a 50-mile roundtrip maximum.
 - This limit on travel and reimbursement is not adequate as many student teachers are placed in the Denver metro area or other areas more than 25 miles away.
 - PEC believes the mileage limit should be increased, but no one is sure where responsibility for the policy ultimately lies.

DISCUSSION:

- It appears the policy was implemented in response to fiscal concerns, but the money savings produced are not a good example of strategic belt-tightening.
- Student teachers pay full tuition, but the tuition funds seem to be disconnected from providing supervising services.
 - Student fees could be adjusted to cover supervision costs in the future.
- Vollendorf will take on the issue and find out how to address the concern.

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Oscar Levin
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary