

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2020

Presidents Kevin Hanrahan, Nicole Buan, and Sarah Purcell, Presiding
Zoom Meeting

1.0 Call to Order

President Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

2.0 Executive Committee Elections

2.1 President-Elect

President Hanrahan asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none he declared Professor Kolbe, Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film, as President-Elect by acclamation.

2.2 Secretary

President Hanrahan asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none he declared Professor Dawes, University Libraries, as secretary by acclamation.

2.3 Executive Committee Members

President Hanrahan asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none he declared Professor Billesbach, Biological Systems Engineering; Pete Eklund, Glenn Korff School of Music; Michelle Krehbiel, 4-H Youth Development; Kristy Weissling, Special Education and Communications Disorders; Karna Dam, Metro District, by acclamation.

President Hanrahan then thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Committee, Coordinator Griffin, and others for their assistance during the time he served as President.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Introduction of New Senators

President Buan introduced the following new Senators: Brigette Tenhumberg, School of Biological Sciences; Ashok Samal, Computer Science & Engineering; Jennifer Sheppard, College of Journalism and Mass Communications; Mark Wilkins, Biological Systems Engineering; Claire Nicholas, Textiles, Fashion Merchandising & Design; Deirdre Cooper Owens, History; Jenny Nixon, Panhandle Extension; Rich Weiner, Psychology; Tammy Stuhr, Southeast Extension; Oleh Khalimonchuk, Biochemistry. She also congratulated Professor Robert Gorman, Classics & Religious Studies, and Professor Yunxia Zhu from Supply Chain Management and Analytics on being re-elected.

President Buan wanted to thank Professor Ron Lee, Communication Studies, and Professor Walter Stroup, Statistics for their years of service on the Faculty Senate and to wish them well in their retirement from the University.

4.0 Chancellor Green

Chancellor Green thanked Past President Hanrahan for his protracted length of service as President of the Faculty Senate and was hopeful that President Buan would have a good year ahead of her. He also thanked all Senators who have served, and are currently serving on the Faculty Senate.

Chancellor Green stated that the pivot to online teaching has gone reasonably well and with the spring term ending there will be over 3500 students graduating in May. He noted that the

commencement ceremony will be virtual this year. While it is not the ideal ceremony, he stated that he feels good about how it has come together during these challenging times.

Chancellor Green reported that enrollment for summer courses is up almost 20% this year and this was before adding the new online courses. He pointed out that we are continuing to see enrollment increase and reported that there were over 100 proposals for funding to support additional courses or sections during the summer term. He stated that starting this year we are offering Husker Start in the second summer session which is for new first-year students and allows them to take online courses for less than half the cost.

Chancellor Green reported that an announcement was recently made that we are shifting to a Level 4 operation for at least two weeks, after which time the situation with COVID-19 will be reassessed to see if we can return to our previous level of operations. He noted that we are closely watching the spread of the virus in Nebraska and decisions will be based on its prevalence in Lincoln and the state. He acknowledged that there was another communication about the desire of the University to have in person classes this fall, although this will take an enormous amount of planning. He reported that the Forward to Fall Committee is being created to coordinate all of the efforts across the campus as they work to ensure a healthy, safe campus environment for everyone during this pandemic. He pointed out that UNMC is carefully consulting with us as we go through the process of preparing the campus and noted that things will be very different with classes being a blend of in person, asynchronous or synchronous teaching. He reported that it will be up to the departments and faculty members to decide how they want to teach their courses.

Chancellor Green stated that the financial impacts of COVID-19 are significant. He reported that with the loss of revenue from conferences, athletics, housing, and other summer activities, UNL may see a \$40 million decline in revenue. He pointed out that July 1 will begin the second year of the biennium budget and he has asked the campus leadership to plan for 5%, 7.5%, and 10% reduction in revenues for FY21. He noted that all of the revenues are likely to be impacted in FY21, and pointed out that enrollment plays a big part of our revenue, and we are currently only slightly behind our enrollment for the fall. He noted that the time for students to submit their deposits for enrollment has been extended until July 1. He reported that there has been a flurry of applications with the Nebraska Promise announcement.

Chancellor Green wanted to congratulate Professor Ray Hames, Anthropology, for being elected to the National Academy of Sciences. He noted that Professor Hames and Professor Jim Van Etten from Plant Pathology, are the only two faculty members currently from UNL that are members of the Academy. He stated that he is very proud of Ray for his accomplishments and the accolades the membership brings to his department and college.

Professor Billesbach, Biological Systems Engineering, asked if there is a robust Plan B in case we have to go back to a Level 3 or 4 operations in the fall. Chancellor Green reported that there are spectrums of possibilities that will be considered should things change. He stated that a planning structure for the curriculum will be in place and will be developed by the departments and colleges.

Past President Purcell asked what the rationale is for moving forward with the new budget model. Chancellor Green stated that EVC Spiller and the Deans are very committed to the incentive-based budget model and we will not deviate from putting it into place. Professor Zuckerman, Educational Administration, asked what would happen to departments if the faculty choose to deliver their courses strictly online. Chancellor Green stated that he believes that our students will adjust accordingly to the need for having courses online, and stated that enrollment will more than likely be adjusted to across the board for a college rather than drilled down to the department level because of the COVID situation.

Professor Woodman, School of Biological Sciences, noted that non-tenure track faculty members become very nervous when they learn of budget cuts and asked if there would be a prioritization with the cuts. Chancellor Green stated that he will be putting together a budget advisory committee to help frame the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and the plan is to have some level of contingency plan for the budget by the end of June. He pointed out that academic programs would be protected as much as possible, and there are currently no changes planned for academic programs in the fall. Professor Schwadel, Sociology, reported that the chair informed the department faculty that the Dean stated that no adjunct faculty could be hired for the fall. Chancellor Green pointed out that this was not the direction that Deans were given by the Vice Chancellors. He noted that there may have been some confusion about the hiring freeze and stated that Lecturers and Professors of Practice are not included in the freeze.

Chancellor Green was asked if salary increases would be moving forward. Chancellor Green stated that salary increases of 2% were included in the approved budget, with slightly more approved for UNL and UNMC for equity and benchmarking, but at this time he cannot say whether there will be salary increases. He stated that the budget advisory committee will discuss this, but with the level of budget reductions we are facing, it is likely that the funding for salary increases will need to be used to offset the revenue loss. He pointed out that promotion raises will still be given. Past President Purcell noted that the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee recommended to the Chancellor that promotion increases be a priority and suggested preserving benefits with some hope of cost of living adjustment and re-examining the mileage reimbursement. Chancellor Green reported that he did receive the FCAC's letter of recommendations and all things will be considered by the budget advisory committee, but the driving principle has to be academic programming and protection of our people. He stated that he will not approve any new administrative appointments during these difficult times, and he expects the process that is being developed will help us get the budget cuts down to a manageable situation.

President-Elect Kolbe noted that people, especially those with health issues, are very concerned about the safety of coming back to campus in the fall. He asked if a statement could be made that the University will not jeopardize people's health. Chancellor Green stated that he believes this has occurred, but stated that more forceful messages about safety will be made as the plan for fall classes is more fully developed.

President Buan asked if there were any guidelines and help for returning international students. Chancellor Green reported that Associate Vice Chancellor Josh Davis informed him that individual dialogs with our returning international students is occurring. He pointed out that there is the expectation that some of these students may not be physically returning to Lincoln in the fall, but possibly later.

Chancellor Green wanted to thank the faculty for their resilience and to thank them for their response to the COVID crisis. He noted that the efforts of all the faculty, staff, and students are deeply appreciated. President Buan thanked the Chancellor for continuing to involve the Faculty Senate as the campus deals with the pandemic.

5.0 Approval of April 7, 2020 Minutes

President Buan asked if there were any corrections or comments on the April 7th minutes. Hearing none she asked for the Senate to vote on the minutes. The minutes were approved.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Information Technologies and Services Committee (Professor Krcmarik)

Professor Krcmarik noted that when she reported to the Senate back in March about Duo

Authentication the plan was for everyone to be using the authentication sign-in by late May.

However, due to the pandemic Information Technology Services has delayed the requirement. She

reported that all new students will have to use the Duo Authentication program when they start in the fall but required use of the program for the departments will occur in stages.

Professor Krcmarik reported that the transfer of student emails to huskers.unl.edu is going fairly smoothly, although there was some discussion regarding data breaches earlier in the year, but the hope is that Duo will reduce any breaches. She stated that the vendors for network hardware were reduced from 11 to 2 which will result in a savings of \$15 million over the next five years.

Professor Krcmarik stated that there are still some VPN issues, but ITS is working on this. She stated that ITS has done a great job of working with students to get them laptops during the COVID-19 crisis. She suggested that anyone who has IT problems contact the Help Desk to file a help ticket. She reported that ITS reached out to our vendors well in advance of the campus moving to Level 3 operations to make sure the vendors could support the University's needs as we moved to remote teaching and working. She noted that Heath Tuttle is now Chief Information Officer for UNL, and several other positions in ITS have been filled.

Professor Krcmarik reported that President Buan suggested that a security handbook for faculty members be created and this will be made a priority for the ITSC next year.

6.2 Executive Committee (Past-President Hanrahan)

Past President Hanrahan reported that the Executive Committee met weekly during the academic year and discussed numerous issues on various topics with the administrators.

7.0 Unfinished Business

7.1 Motion to Create the Faculty Senate Diversity and Inclusion Committee

President Buan noted that the motion to create the Senate Diversity and Inclusion Committee was introduced at the last meeting. She asked if there was any discussion, hearing none she called the question. The motion to create the committee was approved.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Pound-Howard Award Ballot

President Buan reported that the ballot for the Pound-Howard Award will be sent out to the Senators via SurveyMonkey.

8.2 Proposed Additional Changes to Regents Bylaws

Past President Hanrahan stated that the proposed changes to the Regents Bylaws did not go the way the ad hoc committee expected it to go, and the committee worked hard to ensure the integrity of its original proposals. He stated that he feels confident with the newly proposed changes and hopes the Senate will endorse the changes. He stated that if approved the proposed changes will be forwarded to the Chancellor who would then present the proposed changes to Central Administration. Lindquist pointed out that in section 4.17.3 and 4.17.4 the numerical references need to be changed.

Professor Woodman asked if we assume that the version being presented today will be the final version or is it expected that General Counsel will make further changes. AVC Walker stated that it is everyone's sincere hope that this is the version that will be presented to the Board of Regents, and she noted that the Chancellor is committed to taking it forward. Professor Schleck, member of the ad hoc committee, echoed what Past President Hanrahan stated and pointed out that the committee went over the proposals with a fine-tooth comb. She stated that the goal was to bring in line all the substantive changes that were made to the Bylaws after the Senate approved the proposals this past fall.

President Buan called the question and asked for a vote of the proposed changes. The motion was approved by the Faculty Senate.

8.3 Additional Proposed Changes to Student Code of Conduct

President Buan reported that the proposed additional changes to the Student Code of Conduct is being put forward by the Senate Executive Committee. ASUN President Miller noted that it has been a multiple-year process to get the proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct to this point and reported that ASUN will vote on the proposed changes tomorrow.

Past President Hanrahan asked if ASUN will approve the changes. ASUN President Miller stated that she believes they will be approved, although there are still some questions regarding expulsion and that it only be applied in very serious situations. She did not think the questions would interfere with ASUN approving the proposed changes.

Professor Fech, Metro District, noted that there was concern about the application of the Code during non-academic events that occur off campus and asked if this has been resolved. ASUN President Miller stated that AVC Johnson from Student Affairs explained to the students that the University would only apply the Code if there was a serious violation off campus. She pointed out that the earlier version of the proposed changes stated that the Code would apply as soon as the student pays a deposit fee to the University, but it has been changed to when the student is engaged on campus, such as athletic practice or classes starting.

Hearing no further discussion President Buan called the question. The motion was approved.

8.4 Open Mic

President Buan thanked the outgoing Senate Executive Committee members and Senators for their service and reminded the Senators that they can ask questions to her or any of the Executive Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Joan Latta Konecky, Secretary.