

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Billesbach, Buan, Dam, Dawes, Eklund, Franco Cruz, Gay, Hanrahan, Kolbe, Krehbiel, Minter, Weissling, Woodman

Absent:

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Location: Zoom meeting

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call (*Buan*)

Buan called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Green, EVC Spiller, VC Boehm

2.1 Lecturer Proposal from CAS, why is it being put on hold?

Buan noted that there was an ad hoc committee about the status of lecturers in CAS that recently submitted a report to Dean Button and Academic Affairs. EVC Spiller stated that the report has been reviewed, initial changes are being implemented by the College and additional recommendations are being considered and she will provide an update to the Executive Committee in December or early January.

Hanrahan noted that prior to former EVC Plowman's departure from the University she gave \$1 million to CAS to address temporary teaching needs and he asked what happened with these funds. EVC Spiller stated that those funds, which were part of a larger rebasing achieved by EVC Plowman; those funds are now part of the College's base budget for instructional needs. Minter stated that the money was a tremendous shift of funds but the annual temporary instruction costs for CAS are much higher and the \$1 million was not in addition to the temporary instruction funds. EVC Spiller noted that the colleges have been strongly discouraged from using temporary instruction funds to address the current budget cuts.

2.2 Spreadsheet on Proposed Budget Cuts Availability

Chancellor Green reported that the spreadsheet for the Phase 1 budget cuts will soon be posted on the budget website (<https://www.unl.edu/chancellor/budget-reduction-process>) and the target is to have the Phase 2 spreadsheet available some time in the next week. He noted that the line item spreadsheet will show the total number of people being cut and the shifting of funding, but no identifiable personnel information will be shown. Zeleny noted that the APC's recommendations for the proposed budget cuts will be made either late this month or in early November.

2.3 Is there a plan to get the Dance program back on State funds and should endowments be changed to fund the mission of the university?

Buan noted that questions have been raised about the continuation of the Dance program and whether endowments should be used to support academic programs.

Chancellor Green reported that most of the endowments are designed to support one of the missions of the University in a variety of ways such as chaired professorships and student scholarships. He noted that the University has been increasing over time the percentage of underwriting our mission through private funding and the distribution today compared to years ago is significantly different. He stated that we have a more diverse financial portfolio now than in the past.

EVC Spiller stated that the administration has carefully looked at all of our foundation accounts and reviewed the donor agreements to make sure that our funds are being spent correctly. She pointed out that the University has evolved over time and some of the very old foundation accounts can no longer be used for the specific purpose they were set up for so we have sometimes gone back to an existing family member of the original donor to rewrite the agreement so it more accurately captures what we are actually doing. Chancellor Green noted that most endowment funds are very specific in terms of support for students and faculty. He reported that there is an increasing level of hesitancy on the part of donors to want to create endowments. Instead they like to manage their funds and prefer to give cash to the University. An example of this would be the Daughtery Water for Food Global Institute supported through a \$50 million gift received as \$3.5M annually over a period of 15 years.

VC Boehm noted that funding higher education has gone through a transformational shift over the last decade and the COVID pandemic is punctuating this change. He stated that our strategies for engaging international students and partnerships with universities around the world are all being put to the test because of the pandemic and other forces at play. He pointed out that the N2025 plan has a focus on how we need to be efficient and good stewards of our funds and doing this is part of the shared governance process.

Hanrahan stated that it is his understanding that the Glenn Korff endowment for the School of Music is not to be used to replace state funding but rather to support and enhance student and faculty efforts. He pointed out that redirecting some of these funds would limit the School's ability to highlight the work of the faculty and students. Chancellor Green pointed out that the decision to use the Hixson-Lied endowment fund was based on a college decision, not an upper administration decision.

2.4 Is there a Phase 3 budget cut coming?

Buan stated that some people are speculating that there is a Phase 3 budget cut coming. Chancellor Green stated that he has not heard of anything but in times of uncertainty he can't say that there couldn't be but noted that there is nothing on the radar for the next three years. He pointed out that currently our largest unknown is the effect of the global pandemic on our student retention rate for the upcoming spring semester.

Buan suggested that people might be confused with the three-year phase of our current budget cuts. Chancellor Green stated that there are a Phase 1 and Phase 2 of our budget cuts and these cuts will be implemented over a three-year period, and we will seek to be even more explicit about this to avoid any confusion.

2.5 Title IX Collaborative Report – has it been received yet?

Chancellor Green stated that he has received an advance of the report just last week and he will meet with the Collaborative on Sexual Misconduct on October 27th for a full and formal briefing. He stated that his initial review of the report is that it is very well done, and he is looking forward to meeting with the Collaborative. Buan stated that the Executive Committee is excited to hear how things will move forward.

2.6 How do you see the role of the UNL AAUP chapter?

Chancellor Green stated that the UNL chapter of AAUP is part of a national organization that members may independently join but it is not affiliated directly with UNL and does not represent the UNL faculty. He noted that the AAUP is important, but it does not have a governance role for the institution. He stated that he understands that a small portion of his response to a letter he received from Professor Werum, the UNL AAUP chapter President, was read at the most recent Senate meeting. He pointed out that he interpreted the letter he received from Professor Werum as a directive that information be provided on the proposed budget cuts, as if it was speaking for the faculty at UNL. He noted that the letter came on the heels of a survey that the UNL chapter of AAUP commissioned, and publicly released, without the knowledge of the University and the administration, and for which the University was not consulted. He stated that it was important to state these facts in his formal response letter to Professor Werum, again in relation to UNL AAUP's lack of official role on behalf of the UNL faculty.

2.7 Update on the progress of getting information on consultant fees.

Zeleny apologized for the delay in getting information about consultant fees to the Executive Committee. He pointed out that the University does not have a code specifically for consulting costs, so it is difficult to sort these fees out from other expenditures. He noted that he is sharing five years of expenditures, some of which are consulting fees. Chancellor Green pointed out that some of these fees may be for marketing expenses and some of the larger fees may have to do with the design of capital projects.

Buan noted that Faculty Senators have commented that there has been an increase in hiring outside consultants when we have faculty members with expertise that could be utilized and given the budget situation this should be considered in the future. Gay pointed out that there are students who also have skills such as graphic designing that could be hired.

2.8 The TMFD programs is a unique blend of art/science/and extension, and the HRTM is a cross-college program. Is there concern that college-level metrics and the budget model punish one-of-a-kind emerging, or transdisciplinary programs?

Chancellor Green stated that we will certainly work to ensure that the incentive-based budget model does not negatively impact transdisciplinary programs. EVC Spiller noted that we need to make sure that the new budget model has the right balance to allow us to do what we have been doing but also creates a structural model that allows for both research and curricular development. She pointed out that incentive-based budget models are typically designed to give the colleges greater autonomy and greater decision authority, but we need to create a culture in which there are opportunities to pursue new ideas. She stated that a question with the new budget model is how to keep colleges from cannibalizing each other. She reported that she is considering creating a separate small fund in her office that would be entirely dedicated to curriculum innovation and priority funding. She stated that there would be emphasis of using the funds for programs that involve two or more colleges.

Minter asked Chancellor Green for clarification regarding his earlier use of the term “cohesiveness”. VC Boehm stated that TMFD is a terrific program, but all departments go through growth spurts and hit plateaus and TMFD is currently in the midst of evolution. He noted that the department was originally housed in the College of Home Economics which was nested in IANR. Chancellor Green stated that the priority for the program and the need for it academically over time has changed.

2.9 Will the faculty member from IANR HRTM be absorbed into the CEHS HRTM program?

VC Boehm stated that the proposal to eliminate the HRTM program in was driven in larger part by the fact that there are two redundant degree programs in two different colleges. He pointed out that CEHS would have to be part of the discussion to absorb the faculty member into the HRTM program in their college. He noted that choices can occur as was done in 2017 when the EVC’s office proposed cutting its share of the funding to the Department of Statistics and IANR made a strategic decision to backstop these cuts, but it must be done at the local level and he knows that Dean Jones of CEHS had to deal with a significant budget reduction for the college and wasn’t sure how much financial flexibility existed in CEHS.

Chancellor Green stated that with the new budget model if the HRTM program grows there will be the opportunity to increase the size of the program. He noted that when the program was first proposed former Deans Waller and Kostelnik thought the program would be more successful if it was offered in both CASNR and CEHS.

2.10 Housing’s Plan to Charge Students for Storing Items in the Dorms over the Winter Break

Billesbach reported that traditionally if students are returning for the spring semester they can keep their belongings in their dorm room but this year Housing is planning on charging the students which seems to be a disincentive for students to return to campus.

Chancellor Green reported that there is some lack of clarity on this issue that needs to be resolved. He stated that when the Housing contracts were set this year the fees were charged month to month rather than for the semester which resulted in less cost to the student. He noted that the storage fee is to cover the base cost of retaining student possessions, but it is still less expensive than the cost of Housing for the academic year. Zeleny reported that the storage charge was part of the Housing contract this year and there have been no last-minute fees added. EVC Spiller stated that the idea with the month to month contract was to provide the students with more flexibility. She stated that Housing should make it clearer that there is still a savings for the students.

Kolbe pointed out that the byline in the news article was that students may not have the same room or roommate when they come back in the spring which he thinks is a bad idea given the difficult year that students are having to deal with. Woodman suggested that an incentive for students to return would be to have the storage fee waved if a student signs the contract for the spring semester. EVC Spiller stated that this is a good idea that she will share with Housing.

2.11 Final Exams and Football Game

Chancellor Green noted that there is a football game scheduled for November 21 when final exams begin, and he tried to get it rescheduled to Friday evening but due to the television contract he could not change the date. He has at least been able to change the time to an evening start time. He reported that there should be a minimal number of exams that will need to be moved to another location due to their proximity to the stadium. Woodman asked if the sound volume on the stadium speakers can be reduced during exam times. Chancellor Green agreed this is a good idea. He noted that the number of exams scheduled for that day are considerably lower than what we normally experience.

Chancellor Green stated that he received a call from a colleague at another Big Ten institution who wanted to allow students to attend the football games. He pointed out that the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department would need to be consulted and if this were to occur it would have to adhere to local health measures including social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. He noted that he wanted to get the Executive Committee members' opinion on the idea.

Kriehbiel suggested that the Chancellor speak with Gene Taylor at Kansas State because they have done a good job of managing the student section and the band. Eklund noted that Iowa State has had success as well. Chancellor Green stated that both universities have been consulted with. Dam pointed out that allowing students into the stadium could help student morale and could give them a bit more incentive to return to campus.

Chancellor Green stated that he is very concerned what will happen outside of the stadium as people gather in their own place. He noted that there is so much need for people to be able to socialize again that he worries that people will not take the necessary precautions to prevent increased spread of COVID-19. Billesbach stated that he is fearful that parties will amp up and the idea goes against depopulating gathering places on

campus. Buan stated that with the random testing if the student population rate of infection is low the idea of allowing some of them to attend a game could be considered. Weissling stated that she thinks it would be difficult to enforce and she is concerned with the increased number of hospitalizations already occurring in Omaha and Lincoln and we should not compound the problem. Kolbe stated that he is waiting to hear how the campus is going to enforce people from randomly showing up on campus and to keep things safe. Chancellor Green pointed out that we can enforce group gatherings on campus.

3.0 Meeting with Professor Kang, Hospitality, Restaurant and Tourism Management

The Executive Committee met with Professor Kang to discuss the elimination of the HRTM program in CASNR and what she needs to do to prepare for the Academic Planning Committee's public hearing on October 21.

4.0 Announcements

4.1 BTAA Faculty Governance Leadership Conference

Buan noted that this Thursday and Friday the Faculty Senate will be hosting the Big Ten Academic Alliance Faculty Governance Leadership Conference via Zoom. She reported that 37 participants are registered to attend the conference and noted that Chancellor Green, VC Boehm, and Hanrahan are scheduled to speak during the conference. She wanted to thank the Chancellor's staff Annette Wetzell, Melanie Nunez, Corrie Svehla, Kolbe, and Griffin for their valuable assistance with arranging the conference.

4.2 Report on Board of Regents Meeting

Buan reported that the Board of Regents approved an amendment to the Regents Policies relating to Student Fee Variances. She stated that the Board approved "the President of the University to establish a procedure by which the campuses may vary the rate of any student fees from that established by the Board." She noted that this would allow the campuses to have more flexibility during the COVID pandemic. She stated that the fee variance policy would continue into the next year.

Buan reported that UNO is seriously talking with their AAUP union representatives about establishing a path for non-tenure track faculty members to convert their lines to a tenure-track line.

4.3 Graduate Faculty Status for Non-tenure Track Faculty Members

Minter stated that Professors of Practice who have a doctorate degree are getting rejected for Graduate Faculty status by Central Administration. She noted that these people have a record of research, sometimes teach graduate level courses, and their department has voted unanimously to approve their request for the Graduate Faculty Status. The Executive Committee agreed to discuss the issue with EVC Spiller when it meets with her again.

5.0 Approval of October 6, 2020 Minutes

The Executive Committee approved the revised minutes after a slight revision was made by Hanrahan.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 Extension Educator Resolution Update

Buan reported that Chancellor Green approved the Extension Educator resolution calling for an extended time for notification of termination. She reported that the Faculty Senate approved the resolution in 2018. She stated that there was a slight correction that needed to be made with the removal of the word “one”. Hanrahan moved to make the correction. Minter seconded the motion. The Executive Committee approved the motion. Buan stated that the resolution just needs the Chancellor’s signature before it is forwarded to Central Administration.

6.2 Update on Proposed Bylaw Changes

Buan noted that she sent the new proposed changes from the Senate to other NU campus Faculty Senate Presidents for consideration. She stated that a final version will hopefully be forwarded to them for ratification in November.

Buan reported that Senator Zuckerman has concerns over the language pertaining to mental health and she believes there will be discussion about this section at the November 3 Senate meeting. Hanrahan stated that Senator Zuckerman can offer an amendment at the Senate meeting. He suggested that Senior Associate General Counsel Hofer, Chancellor Green, EVC Spiller and AVC Walker be invited to attend the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.