

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**Absent:** Franco Cruz,

**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 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.

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### **1.0 Call (*Buan*)**

Buan called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### **2.0 Announcements**

#### **2.1 Buan, Krehbiel, and Weissling Met with the COVID-19 Task Force**

Buan reported that she, Krehbiel, and Weissling met with the COVID-19 Task Force last week to discuss concerns that have been raised by faculty members in dealing with the pandemic. She noted that the Task Force is composed of faculty, staff, and administrators from various units on campus. She noted that the Task Force meets twice a week.

#### **2.2 Spring Open Task Force**

Buan reported that she and Professor Leiter, Law, will serve on the Task Force through the rest of the year and possibly into January.

#### **2.3 2020 State of Diversity**

Buan reported that she attended the State of the Diversity conference that was conducted by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). She noted that a video of the session is available at <https://diversity.unl.edu/state-diversity-2020> and encouraged faculty members to view it.

#### **2.4 Council on Inclusive Excellence and Diversity Report**

Gay stated that he wrote a report on the work for the CIED which he distributed to the Executive Committee. He noted that he will meet with Professor Combs, Director of Faculty Diversity, because they are both concerned with faculty recruitment and retention.

### **3.0 Approval of October 20, 2020 Minutes**

Buan asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she asked for approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Buan stated that a correction needed to be made to the October 13<sup>th</sup> minutes. She noted that the date in the minutes for the Senate's approval of the Extension Educator resolution was 2018, but the original resolution was passed by the Senate on April 5, 2016.

#### **4.0 Unfinished business**

##### **4.1 Status of Proposed Changes to Regents Bylaws**

Buan stated that she has received some questions from Senators concerning the proposed changes regarding mental health in the Bylaws. The Executive Committee then discussed the Senate Rules concerning the writing of motions and the requirement that a resolution made during the meeting needs to be submitted in writing within five minutes of it being stated.

##### **4.2 Review of University Consulting Contracts**

Buan reported that Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny provided a five-year record of expenditures which included payment to external consultants. He pointed out that consulting costs were not coded so the data includes expenditures not related to consultants. Woodman stated that the data was almost meaningless because it did not sort out what were consultant fees. He suggested that the spreadsheet be attached to the minutes and Hanrahan agreed. Dawes suggested that Buan ask the Chancellor to have details of the expenditures provided and stated that she was not in favor of including the spreadsheet. Dam agreed and pointed out that the information in the spreadsheets could be easily taken out of context. Weissling agreed that Zeleny should have the opportunity to provide the requested information. The Committee agreed that Buan should ask the Chancellor for more detailed information on what were the actual consultant expenditures.

#### **5.0 New Business**

##### **5.1 Electronic Voting**

Buan reported that electronic voting at Senate meetings was a discussion at the BTAA conference and a number of our peers use Qualtrics for voting, however, UNL does not currently have an institutional license for the software program. She noted that CIO Tuttle is checking into it since UNK and UNO have Qualtrics.

The Executive Committee discussed the best way to vote during a Zoom meeting of the Faculty Senate. It was pointed out that only Senators can vote and while Zoom allows for polling the Senate meetings are open to the public raising concerns that someone could vote who does not have voting rights. In the end, the Committee decided that it would be best to do a roll call vote at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Buan stated that we will continue to explore the use of Qualtrics at the Senate meetings.

##### **5.2 Questions for Chancellor Green**

Buan noted that she has a meeting with the Chancellor and asked the Executive Committee if there are any specific questions that should be raised. The Committee suggested asking for clarification on the consulting fees, get an update about what actions are being taken with the theft of the BLM signs, if there will be any adjustments to the

mileage rates, having more students who are off campus get tested for COVID-19, and whether there are indications that more students have dropped courses this semester.

### **5.3 Extension Personnel Needing Accommodations**

Buan noted that an email was received about concerns that Extension Educators are not being provided accommodations for working remotely during the pandemic. She reported that she contacted VC Boehm and Interim Dean Varner who stated that he is only aware of a single case and that anyone who is concerned should ask their supervisor and to elevate it up to him if there are any problems.

Krehbiel pointed out that anyone seeking accommodations must apply through the ADA first. She noted that there is confusion for Extension employees on whose guidelines to follow, the University or the County Health department where they work. Dam stated that Extension offices in the counties have a unique model because within the same office you have University employees and then there are people who are paid by the county, but there are two separate sets of rules. The University employees follow the University's rules and the county-paid employees follow the County rules but this can often lead to resentment and confusion. Hanrahan pointed out that the University can only be responsible for its employees.

Buan stated that she will respond to Interim Dean Varner to let him know the concerns that were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, November 10, 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.