

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Billesbach, Buan, Dam, Eklund, Gay, Herstein, Kolbe, Minter, Nicholas, Weissling

Absent: Krehbiel, Woodman, Zuckerman

Date: Tuesday, June 29, 2021

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 (*Kolbe*)

Kolbe called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Green/EVC Spiller

2.1 Board of Regents Meeting and Approval of University Budget

Chancellor Green reported at the Board of Regents meeting the Board approved the budget for the University system for the next biennium. He noted that there are two unique things about this budget: 1) is that there is zero increase in tuition rates for the next two academic years, and 2) the campuses will be receiving different amounts in the general salary increase pool for the next two years. He noted that last year during the pandemic UNL and UNMC did not take a salary increase because of the financial pressure stemming from the pandemic. However, UNK and UNO, which are unionized, received a collective bargaining rate increase and because of this UNL and UNMC will receive 1.5% increase in the salary pool this year, but UNK and UNO will receive less. He stated that in the second year of the biennium UNL will receive a 3% increase in the salary pool providing us with a total of 4.5% salary increase over the next two years.

Chancellor Green reported that President Carter has identified a strategic priority fund of \$10 million for the next two years. He stated that \$5 million will be allocated to UNL for each of the next two years to help enhance faculty salaries relative to our peers. He noted that we lag our Regental peers by approximately 6% and the \$5 million will help us address this problem and bring our tenured and tenure track faculty lines up to the midpoint of our peers. He reported that EVC Spiller and VC Boehm have been working on developing a process for the Deans to decide how to distribute the funds, and no matter when the decision is made this fiscal year, the increase will be retroactive to July 1.

Chancellor Green stated that another unusual thing with the June Board meeting is that Governor Ricketts attended and addressed the Board which was the first time this has occurred since Governor Exon. He noted that Governor Ricketts spoke very positively about the University and its importance to the future of the State. Governor Ricketts also expressed appreciation for how the University handled the pandemic and how it was still

able to deliver its missions. He reported that Governor Ricketts also acknowledged the importance of the relationship between the University and the leadership of the state and mentioned how good the relationship has been, particularly since the arrival of President Carter.

2.2 Status of the Chancellor's Collaborative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct

Chancellor Green stated that he is in the process of appointing people to serve on the Collaborative and the plan is to have the committee active beginning with the fall semester.

Buan asked what is happening with the recommendations made by the Title IX Collaborative. Chancellor Green pointed out that the formation of the Chancellor's Collaborative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct was one of the recommendations from the Title IX Collaborative and other recommendations have already been implemented. Buan asked if the Chancellor's Collaborative will have regular meetings. Chancellor Green stated that it would, and it will be similar to the other Chancellor's Commissions.

2.3 Update on the Budget Governance Advisory Committee and the status of the implementation of the new budget model.

Chancellor Green reported that appointments are being made to the Budget Governance Advisory Committee and letters confirming the appointments should be sent soon. He stated that the implementation of the new budget model is on track and noted that with this first year of implementation we will have a full year of data to use for future budgets. Kolbe asked when the Committee will be meeting. Chancellor Green reported that it will happen sometime after all of the appointments have been made. Buan asked what the ratio is of faculty members to administrators on the Committee. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny stated that there will be more faculty members than deans with three faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate, a faculty representative from the Academic Planning Committee, the Faculty Senate President-Elect, and Professor Bloom.

Chancellor Green noted that the campus leadership will be in a retreat August 8-10 and the implementation of the incentive-based budget model will be a key component. He reported that Professor Ken Bloom will help lead the discussion on the new budget model at the retreat.

2.4 Is there any data to report what progress we have made relative to the outcomes of the N2025 Strategic Plan?

Chancellor Green stated that this will be a discussion at the leadership retreat on what mechanism will be used for annual reporting to the N2025 plan. He noted that the goal is to have very good accountability measures.

2.5 Update on AAUP Censure Removal Process

Chancellor Green reported that he has an interview with an AAUP Committee A member this afternoon, and other campus leaders, ASUN and GSA students, the Faculty Senate President, and the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee members will be interviewed during the month of July. He noted that the intent of the AAUP is to have

the work completed so the AAUP can vote on the matter in November. He stated that things really started moving with the process after the Board of Regents approved the revisions to the Bylaws. Kolbe thanked Buan for all of her work in helping to get the Board's approval of the revisions this past academic year.

2.6 Enrollment Figures for Fall

EVC Spiller pointed out that AVC Winter stressed that the current enrollment figures are still very fluid and until we reach the third day of classes, we will not have accurate enrollment numbers. With that being said, EVC Spiller reported that as of now there are 4,847 deposits for new students which is minus 12 from fall 2019. She stated that currently there is a 1.4% increase in Nebraska students, a 5% decline in national students (65 students), and we are down 35% in international students. She noted that we anticipated that there would be a decline in international students because our program with Rwanda had expired. She stated that relative to last year, we are seeing a 6.3% increase in first generation students, and 24% of deposits are from students of color. She stated that 18% of new students were admitted without submitting ACT scores which may have occurred due to the limited opportunities for students to take the ACT because of the pandemic. She reported that we are down 3.8% overall in enrollment but the number of credit hours students are enrolled for has gone up slightly relative to last year.

EVC Spiller pointed out that we are the only university in the Big Ten to host in-person visits for new students. She noted that new students were given the option to do a virtual tour of the campus or to attend in-person and 71% of the students choose to come to campus. She stated that we are paying close attention to how recruiting is going in markets like Chicago, Colorado, California, and other areas. She noted that we are seeing a higher number of students that did not attend any school last year, but this was probably due to the pandemic.

EVC Spiller stated that AVC Goodburn has reported very good success for our students in the spring and more students than usual kept their scholarships for the fall because they did well and kept their GPAs up.

3.0 Announcements

4.0 Approval of June 15, 2021 Minutes

Kolbe asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Dam moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Herstein and approved by the Executive Committee.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Instructional Continuity Policy – Clarifying Executive Committee's Concerns

Agenda item postponed until the July 13th meeting.

5.2 Agenda Items for Executive Committee/Administrators Retreat

The Executive Committee suggested agenda items for the Committee's retreat with the administrators in August.

- Improving communications from administrative offices and colleges
 - notifying non-tenure track faculty when opportunities are available to improve salaries or applying for promotion to a Professor of Practice
 - have colleges list some of the work that is being done by faculty, this is extremely helpful information for Extension Educators when speaking to potential students

- Improving campus climate
 - What is administration's plan for assessing climate, and can information from exit interviews be used to make improvements in campus climate and is there any level of accountability?

- Graduate Faculty Status
 - On ramping for people who are teaching graduate courses
 - Have departments determine who should receive graduate faculty status

5.3 IANR's New Travel Policy

Buan reported that IANR is now requiring pre-travel authorization 10 days prior to travel, otherwise IANR faculty will not be reimbursed for the trip. She pointed out that there are many faculty members that travel on federal grant funds and these grants have been approved with funds for travel. Buan pointed out that the state does not require people to submit the pre-travel authorization request 10 days prior to travel. Kolbe noted that it is 7 days for the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Herstein stated that she gets a standing pre-trip authorization for the year. Dam noted that Extension does the same thing. Buan reported that she is required to submit a pre-travel authorization request for each trip she takes. Minter stated that some departments have a limited amount of funds available for travel and so they require a pre-travel authorization request for each trip to carefully monitor the available funds.

Billesbach questioned why there are different rules governing travel on campus and pointed out that faculty are now having to do a lot of the business work that was previously done by staff. Weissling agreed and noted that requiring faculty to fill out the travel forms takes time away that they could use to write grants, conduct research, or see patients. Gay pointed out that the budget reduction task force on travel did not initially have faculty members on it and it is important for the faculty to keep pushing for shared governance, so the issues just raised are considered before policies are changed. Buan stated that some of the travel policies need to be reviewed and revisited to make them better.

5.4 Faculty Senate Handbook

Agenda item postponed.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Review of Candidates for AVC/Dean of Graduate Education

The Executive Committee reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the three candidates for the AVC/Dean of Graduate Education and agreed that all three candidates were acceptable.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Kelli Herstein, Secretary.