

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Buan, Dam, Dawes, Eklund, Franco Cruz, Gay, Hanrahan, Kolbe, Krehbiel (with Ike the cat), Minter, Weissling

**Absent:** Billesbach, Woodman

**Date:** Tuesday, March 30, 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.

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### 1.0 Call (*Buan*)

Buan called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

### 2.0 Announcements

#### 2.1 Report on Consulting Fees Paid by UNL

Buan reported that Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny has promised he will provide the Executive Committee with a report on the consulting fees that UNL has paid during the April 13 Executive Committee meeting.

#### 2.2 Attended IChange Committee Meeting

Buan reported that she attended the ongoing IChange Committee meeting which seeks to diversify our STEM faculty and has been co-hosted by VC Barker and AVC Walker and is now being chaired by Professor Susan Swearer. She noted that Professor Swearer will focus more directly on the effort to increase diversity in the STEM fields.

#### 2.3 Professor Schleck to Speak on Untenured Faculty Members and Academic Freedom

Buan announced that Professor Schleck will be speaking at a brown bag luncheon about untenured faculty members and whether they have academic freedom. She noted that the luncheon is through the Nebraska Ethics Center and will occur on April 16 from noon – 1:30 and the Zoom registration link is <https://unl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpcOqrrz8iHNykXVezjW7e4xBed9o-yc5G>.

#### 2.4 Virginia Tech's Program for Assisting Faculty

Buan noted that she forwarded to AVC Walker a twitter statement from Virginia Tech which stated that faculty members would be receiving merit raises this year plus course reductions and graduate research assistants, especially for those faculty members who are caregivers. She stated that AVC Walker responded and said that it is her understanding that we will be receiving merit increases this year and pointed out that EVC Spiller and VC Wilhelm set up a fund for Emergency Research Gap Grants. AVC Walker wrote in her response that she would like to know more about Virginia Tech's program and how they are able to fund both the graduate research assistants and provide course releases.

### **3.0 Approval of March 23, 2021 Minutes**

After discussion about the revisions to the minutes and a suggested change, Buan asked for approval of the revised minutes. The Executive Committee approved the minutes.

### **4.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **4.1 Academic Calendar Proposal for 2021-2022 Academic Year (Kolbe)**

Kolbe presented the proposed calendar changes for the spring 2022 semester. He noted that the contract date for when faculty are to report to work would be January 10<sup>th</sup> instead of January 3<sup>rd</sup> and classes would begin on January 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated that some of the proposed changes could impact some college schedules, but the proposal allows for colleges to make necessary changes. He pointed out that the change in the spring start date extends the winter holiday break by a week and ends the spring semester a week later.

Minter asked what the reasoning is behind the proposed change. Kolbe stated that the change is to allow for a two-week interim session before the spring semester. Hanrahan asked if faculty members who teach in the interim session would get overload pay. Kolbe stated that they would and noted that faculty who taught during this academic year's interim sessions received overload pay.

Weissling asked how the calendar change would affect the 12-month paid faculty. She asked if the courses being offered in the interim sessions have gone through curriculum committees. Kolbe stated that in the two recent interim sessions the courses that were offered already existed. Minter suggested that there be guidelines clarifying that any new class would need curriculum committee approval. She questioned whether there could be variable credit hour classes that could be offered for 2-4 credit hours and noted that these kinds of courses already exist. Weissling stated that she thought some of the interim session courses this year were only approved by the EVC office. Kolbe stated that AVC Goodburn said that to her knowledge the courses offered were already approved and Special Topics courses were used for some of the interim session classes. Minter pointed out that the Registrar's Office will not put a course up for registration unless it has been approved by the curriculum committee.

Eklund noted that 3-credit hour courses must meet for 45 hours during a session. Weissling stated that this is required for us to receive federal financial aid funding. Eklund questioned whether there would be a restriction on the number of credit hours a student could take during the interim session. Kolbe noted that the calendar proposal is strictly a calendar change and does not address the courses. Buan pointed out that we need to address the implementation of the courses during the interim session with our administration. Minter reported that when she served on her college curriculum committee it addressed the concerns being raised by Eklund and Weissling. She stated that it needs to be clear who will be checking on the courses being offered during the interim session and she believes that the college curriculum committee should be the group that would be responsible. Buan stated that there needs to be guidance on the approval process for new courses being offered in the interim session and there should be

oversight on how many courses students are taking during the session. Minter reported that in CAS students are limited to taking a certain number of special topics courses.

Kolbe stated that he will remit the concerns of the Executive Committee to AVC Goodburn and will ask if her office can provide some best practices to plan for courses during the interim session.

Hanrahan stated that if the proposal is approved, department chairs/heads need to clearly understand that faculty members are not required to be on campus or attend department meetings prior to January 10.

Buan asked if the Executive Committee was in favor of endorsing the calendar proposal. The Committee approved endorsing the proposal unanimously.

Buan stated that she will contact AVC Goodburn to say that there needs to be oversight on course expectation, even for existing courses, and a curriculum committee needs to review and approve any new courses. She noted that faculty also need guidance on how to route the interim session courses through the appropriate process.

#### **4.2 AAUP Censure Redress List**

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft AAUP Censure Redress proposal. The discussion focused on what improvements could be made for Lecturers. There was also the suggestion that contract faculty members have voting rights in a department, although it was pointed out that this could conflict with department or college bylaws. Buan stated that she will share the draft proposal with Chancellor Green when she meets with him later this week.

#### **4.3 Faculty Senate Handbook**

The Executive Committee considered the draft of a Faculty Senate Handbook which would be given to new faculty members so they can become familiar with the work of the Senate. The Committee agreed to continue to work on the Handbook. Buan noted that she would like to have the Handbook completed by the end of this semester for it to be ready for distribution to new faculty members in the summer.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 State in Support of LGBTQ+**

Buan reported that a Senator was asked by a student if the Executive Committee would issue a statement in support of the LGBTQ+ community, similar to what was done recently for the Asian and AAPI community. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee decided that if ASUN were to release a statement, then the Executive Committee could endorse it.

#### **5.2 Recommendations for Administrative Search Committee**

Buan noted that she sent the Executive Committee a letter from EVC Spiller regarding the need to have faculty members serve on a search committee for an administrative position. She asked that Committee members forward names of faculty members as quickly as possible because the EVC is wanting to get the search committee formed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 immediately following the Faculty Senate meeting. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.