

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Baesu, Bearnes, Billesbach, Boudreau, Eklund, Kolbe, Minter, Paul, Weissling

Absent: Kopocis, Krehbiel, Lott, Zuckerman

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Location: Nebraska Union, Big Ten Conference Room

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 (*Minter*)

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

2.0 Proposed Changes to ACE Program (Director of Undergraduate Education Programs Sollars and UCC Chair Professor Jones)

Sollars reported that last year was the 10-year ACE program review and there were two groups of faculty members who reviewed the outcomes. The first group worked on outcomes 4-7 and the second group worked on outcomes 8-9. Out of their work two proposals came forward: one was to better explain to students why they needed to take ACE courses and the second was to reconfigure ACE 9 by splitting it into two separate components one that would focus on awareness of global issues, and the other would focus on the impact of human diversity within the United States.

Sollars stated that a special meeting of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee was called in August to review the proposals and it was felt that the first proposal needed further work before it would be presented to the colleges. She stated that the only proposal going to the colleges at this time is to split ACE 9. The proposal states “to separate ACE 9 into its component parts – a) global awareness and b) knowledge of human diversity – so that our general education program requires achievement in both outcomes, and, in order to hold ACE to a 30-credit limit following that separation, to repurpose ACE 10 for the human diversity outcome. The ACE 9 outcome is then “Exhibit global awareness through analysis of an issue.” The new ACE 10 outcome becomes “Exhibit knowledge of human diversity in the U.S. through analysis of an issue.” She pointed out that it will take the approval of each college for this change to be made. Jones noted that there will be two separate proposals for the colleges to consider.

Minter asked what the timeline is for the proposals. Sollars stated that hopefully the proposal to split ACE 9 will be done by the end of the fall semester. She reported that she has not heard back from any of the colleges yet and knows that the College of Arts and Sciences will not be voting until December. She stated that hopefully the second proposal will be approved during the spring semester and the language of both proposals can be made to the ACE program.

Billesbach asked if the recently approved requirement for experiential learning impacts ACE certification. Sollars stated that it does not.

Eklund asked if there is any interest in expanding the offerings of ACE courses. He noted that there are some administrators who are interested in offering one or two-hour credit ACE courses. Sollars stated that if we are able to shift the language and the focus of ACE an argument for more high impact courses could be made. She noted that for some students a particular type of ACE course might be the only time in their college career that they would encounter that type of course. She stated that she wished there were more 300-400 level courses which could really gauge how well the students are doing over the course of their years at UNL. She stated that one or two-credit hour classes would probably need to be tied together to be approved. She pointed out that keeping track of the different number of credit hours could be problematic. Kolbe stated that some upper-level ACE courses have prerequisites and suggested that these could be the one or two-credit hour classes. Sollars stated that a prerequisite is not typically certified as an ACE course if both the prerequisite and the upper-level course have the same ACE outcome. Minter reported that in conversations with some academic advisors they have stated that allowing students to pick up a one or two-hour credit course would fit much better into students' schedule.

Minter noted that the Executive Committee is drafting a memo that expresses a concern that too many curriculum changes, other than ACE, are not coming to the Faculty Senate for consideration. She pointed out that the Regents Bylaws, Section 2.12.1 states that the faculty governing body is to act on academic matters that affect more than one college and bypassing the Senate undermines its purview. She noted that ACE has its own governing documents, and she appreciates Sollars keeping the Senate in the loop on proposed changes and other academic matters. Kolbe reported that there are faculty members asking why the ACE changes have not gone to the Faculty Senate for a vote.

Minter noted that the experiential learning requirement has been framed as a university requirement although it was never given to the Senate for consideration. Sollars reported that the idea of requiring experiential learning came from the N2025 strategic plan. She noted that it was not voted on by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee although they were informed. She stated that the decision was left to the colleges because it was unclear whether each college would approve it and if they did, they could adopt different language. She noted that in the end, each of the colleges approved the requirement.

Minter asked if a student meets the experiential requirement in one college but then transfers to another college if it would transfer to the new college. Sollars stated that it would and noted that the experiential learning requirement is meant to help equip students for their future.

Minter asked if faculty should be looking for communication from their colleges about the proposed ACE revisions. Sollars stated yes and if anyone is not getting information, they should contact her (patricia.sollars@unl.edu).

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Clarification on Co-Chairs of the Budget Model Advisory Committee

Minter reported that Professor Ken Bloom is still co-chair of the Budget Model Advisory Committee, along with Interim VCBF LaGrange, however, he is no longer serving as Faculty Associate to the Chancellor. She stated that once a new VCBF is hired, he/she will replace Interim VCBF LaGrange on the Committee.

Eklund asked if people feel that the budget model is working. He noted that some other universities that instituted it are now backing away from it. Minter, who served on the

BMAC and will now be replaced by Kopocis on the committee, stated that the BMAC has paid a lot of attention to colleagues at other universities about an incentive-based budget model and whether it was successful.

Eklund stated that he has heard from colleagues at other universities that have an incentive-based budget model that when tenured professors retire or leave, they are being replaced by non-tenure track faculty. Minter pointed out that the potential for the budget model is to drive towards short-term efficiencies that could be detrimental long-term. She noted that when colleges are looking to balance the budget, they have a tendency to hire lower paid faculty members. She noted that this is why the BMAC, and Faculty Senate pushed hard to have college-level budget committees. She stated that some colleges have a separate budget advisory committee while others are using their Executive Committee. She pointed out that we are in year one of the budget model and what the colleges do this year will impact the budget for next year, but she stated that many administrators have described a process of “holding units harmless” which suggests that the university is hoping to avoid really dire outcomes. Kolbe stated that subvention is a key issue to the budget model because colleges that bring in substantial revenue would help offset those colleges that do not.

3.2 Update on Correspondence

Minter reported that GSA President Donesky is tentatively scheduled to meet with us on October 11. She noted that the GSA is working to improve graduate student stipends and health insurance and is gathering data and information on graduate student experiences.

Minter reported that she had a meeting with CIO Tuttle recently concerning Executive Memorandum 16. She noted that he understands the complexity of the issue and is trying to keep people informed when IT changes are going to be made. She reported that on January 1, 2023, UNL employees will be required to use UNL email noting that the University has a list of employees whose primary address is not unl.edu. She stated that a targeted outreach to these employees will be conducted telling them that they need to switch to unl.edu when conducting university business. Billesbach noted that people communicate with colleagues or people at other institutions or federal agencies and asked if communications from these people can still go to the old primary email address of a faculty member. Minter stated that she does not know the answer to this question, but it would be good to point this out to CIO Tuttle. She stated that CIO Tuttle told her that all new UNL devices purchased after January 1, 2023, will have to be enrolled in UNL’s endpoint management system. She stated that the purpose is to make phishing attempts more easily identifiable.

Minter pointed out that the Faculty Senate’s Policy on the Acceptable Use of Software Systems Management and Deployment, approved by the Senate March 4, 2014, is in opposition to what is on the University’s website and EM 16 would supersede Senate policy. She stated that we will need to look at the Senate’s policy to see about amending it.

Weissling asked if she can still use unl.edu email on her personal laptop. Minter stated that the university guidelines state that endpoint management systems need to be installed on new devices that are used to share data with others. Kolbe pointed out that people can still use their personal email on their own laptop.

Minter reported that UNL has a subcommittee of the University-wide Calendar committee that is looking at data to develop an opportune calendar for UNL. She stated that the subcommittee is looking at possible calendars, one with a winter interim session and without a winter interim session, and stated that the subcommittee is consulting with deans, associate deans and others about what the impacts would be if there was a permanent winter interim session. She stated that she is co-chairing the subcommittee along with AVC Walker. Weissling pointed out that when UNL makes these changes to its calendars it negatively impacts the Lincoln Public Schools and people from the university that work with LPS.

4.0 Approval of September 20, 2022 Minutes

Minter asked if there were any further revisions for the minutes. There was discussion on clarifying revisions from Associate to the Chancellor Pearce. Eklund moved for approval of the minutes, motion seconded by Billesbach and approved by the Executive Committee.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Professional Code of Conduct

Minter stated that she met with Andrew Donesky, President of the Graduate Student Assembly, and asked him to review the section of the Code that applies to graduate students. She noted that she is waiting for his feedback.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Questions for President Carter

Minter stated that the Executive Committee will be meeting with President Carter on October 18th and asked the Committee to identify questions for him.

How can the faculty learn more about the NU Foundation in order to help it meet its fundraising goals. More transparency is needed with how the Foundation uses its funds and how can he educate the general population about how the Foundation works and what kinds of things those funds can be used for.

Problems with Information Technology Services – faculty cannot deliver classes to students with the outdated technology in many classrooms. Faculty need the tools to be able to teach and not having the proper tools is one of biggest frustrations for faculty members. There are not enough IT staff at the local level.

Are we really saving money by the changes that were made by the budget reduction taskforces. How can the red tape that faculty have to go through with travel reimbursement, purchasing, and information technology be reduced?

If out-of-state students are given a tuition discount, who pays for it, the college or the department or the NU system?

Is One Nebraska bleeding UNL and what is his vision for UNL? How is the NU system supporting UNL's research mission or visibility?

6.2 Faculty Senate Meeting

The Executive Committee discussed agenda items for the October 4th Senate meeting.

6.2 Dave Billesbach's Last Hurrah!

The Executive Committee thanked Billesbach for his service on the Executive Committee and for his many years of service on other committees as well and wished him a happy, healthy retirement.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, immediately following the Faculty Senate meeting. The meeting will be held in the Nebraska Union, Regency Suite. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.