

**UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 7, 2023**  
**Presidents Deb Minter, Kelli Kopocis, and Steve Kolbe, Presiding**  
**East Campus Union, Great Plains Room A**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**1.0 Call to Order**

President Minter called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

**2.0 Announcements**

**2.1 Faculty Senate Executive Committee Nominations Needed**

President Minter reminded the Senate that nominations are needed to fill seats on the Executive Committee. Nominations are being sought for President-Elect, Secretary, one Extension Educator, and four Executive Committee members. She stated that anyone interested in serving on the Executive Committee should contact Coordinator Griffin. She pointed out that serving on the Executive Committee is an eye-opening experience for faculty and the Committee meets with the Chancellor, Executive Vice Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor of IANR, and other administrators.

**3.0 Emergency Preparedness (Director Mark Robertson)**

Director Robertson stated that he works as UNL's Emergency Management Director, which is housed in the Police Department, and he works, not only with UNL, but teaches other college campuses on how to prepare for large events should there be any emergencies.

Director Robertson noted that recently there was an active violence situation at Michigan State University, but pointed out that active violence does not always involve weapons and is defined as any event that is violent. He stated that the three things to remember in an active violent situation is first to try and get away, but if that isn't possible, people should try to hide which could buy you time to be away from the danger. He stated that the last reaction would be to fight, but there is also a fourth approach which is to avoid a situation altogether through preparedness.

Director Robertson reported that one common thing with an active violent perpetrator is that someone knew something about that person that would indicate that there was the potential for violence. He noted that sometimes the person will talk about acts of violence or show signs of mental illness. He stated that if these concerns are reported to the Police, the Threat Assessment Team can step in and assess the situation and can take actions to prevent a violent situation from occurring. He stated that emergency preparedness would also assess whether we are more vulnerable in certain areas than others. He pointed out that we are more likely to experience the threat of a tornado than any other threat risks.

Professor Weissling, Special Education and Communication Disorders, asked what the university is doing to try to decrease our vulnerability. Director Robertson reported that there are trained officers on campus to deal with violent threats and UNL alert is activated to make people aware of a situation and to inform them that they should avoid the area where the incident is occurring. He pointed out that students have had more training in what to do in an active violent situation than many of the employees on campus.

Professor Weissling noted that with all of the new construction taking place on campus there is a lot of glass being used in the buildings which does not allow people to hide and there is also a lack of locks on doors. She asked what is being done in a proactive way to ensure safety in case of a violent situation occurring in these new buildings. Director Robertson stated that universities need to be somewhere between having an open campus but also having a safe campus. He noted that when we have a tornado warning most people have a plan of where to go for shelter. He stated that a downside to having a plan of where to hide if there is an active shooter is that oftentimes the

active shooter is someone who people know and has frequented the building and who is often aware of the places to hide. He stated that having card access to buildings can help with security, but training is very important for everyone. Professor Weissling asked about having locks on classroom doors. Director Robertson reported that with the Clery Act locks started being removed from classroom doors out of concern that sexual assaults could occur more easily in a locked classroom. He noted that law enforcement can get into a locked room, but it does take them a few minutes to get to a location. Professor Gailey, English, pointed out that most sexual assaults happen amongst people who know each other and occur in places like dorms and other areas frequented by people. She stated that she hoped that the UNL Police would look at the data on sexual assaults and make plans to ensure people's safety. Director Robertson pointed out that there were some high-profile sexual assault cases that occurred in classrooms which precipitated the removal of locks from classroom doors but noted that this is something that could certainly be revisited. He reported that there are ways to lock doors by putting chairs through the handles and if people are hiding, they should turn off the lights and get behind things to make it look as if no one is in the room. He noted that people need to determine quickly what actions they should take to protect themselves and others from any kind of threat.

Professor Krehbiel, 4-H Youth Development, asked if Director Robertson also works with the Extension offices and facilities. Director Robertson reported that he works closely with Extension Educator Soni Cochran and emergency access plans have been developed for each of their buildings. He pointed out that people should seek shelter wherever they can find it in a building and noted that if a person receives a UNL alert message that person should share that information with others in the building so they can take appropriate action.

President Minter asked if there was any thought to equipping teachers to lock doors. Director Robertson stated that it is allowable to put locks on doors, but Facilities would have to install lock mechanisms and in the past, there were a lot of instructors who did not want to be responsible for locking doors. President Minter asked if steps have been taken to allow only key card access. Director Robertson pointed out that some of our buildings are required public buildings and we could not limit them to key card access only.

Professor Tschetter, History, asked if there has been additional training regarding terrorist attacks. Director Robertson reported that he has been doing some tabletop exercises with colleges and departments where discussions on this issue have taken place. He pointed out that tabletop discussions are less stressful than conducting an enactment of an attack. He noted that one question is what people should do if a terrorist act is occurring elsewhere on campus and pointed out that communicating with people to warn them of the danger is crucial. He stated that he would be happy to conduct a training session whether it is for a department or a college.

#### **4.0 Approval of February 7, 2023, Minutes**

President Minter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Professor Peterson, Agricultural Economics, moved for approval. Motion was then seconded by Professor Eklund, Glenn Korff School of Music and approved by the Faculty Senate.

#### **5.0 Committee Reports**

##### **5.1 Graduate Council (Dean Hope)**

Dean Hope noted that the report found in the Senators' packet reflects her first 18 months as Dean of Graduate Studies. She stated that a major part of her effort was dealing with changes to the system-wide handbook of the Graduate College which included changes to the non-graduate faculty rules for teaching graduate courses.

President Minter noted that concerns had previously been raised about the length of time it took graduate certificate proposals to be processed by Graduate Studies. Dean Hope reported that during her first year she looked at the process that was being used by Graduate Studies to review and

approve proposals for graduate certificates and it was determined that there were some inefficiencies in the process which have now been fixed. She stated that the hope is that the process will now move more quickly. She stated that her goal is to have the proposals processed and out of her office within a month. She stated that if anyone feels that the proposals are not moving quickly enough, they should contact her.

### **5.2 University Conduct Board (Assistant Vice Chancellor King, Director Barefield)**

Director Barefield noted that the report was distributed to the Senators previously. She stated that the report included the number of violations and the kinds of violations that the Board has dealt with over the past year. She stated that violations include substance abuse, alcohol abuse, academic integrity or Title IX violations. She pointed out that any incident that involves faculty and staff are handled outside of Student Affairs.

Director Barefield reported that in August 2020 a new policy was implemented which allowed students to just accept the outcome result of their violation, although they still have the option to appeal a decision. She noted that the new policy has reduced the workload for the University Conduct Board by reducing the number of hearings.

Director Barefield pointed out that a number of the faculty members on the University Conduct Board have terms that will be ending this summer and she encouraged faculty members to apply to serve on the Board because faculty are needed to conduct hearings. She noted that the term on the Board would be for three years.

President Minter pointed out that the report did not provide any comparative numbers to previous years and asked if the amount of substance abuse violations, which was the most highly reported violation, has increased over recent years or is it consistent with previous years. Director Barefield stated that all violations decreased during the pandemic, and they have not returned to the level they were previous to the pandemic, although she noted that the number of academic integrity violations had increased during the pandemic. She stated that she does not believe there is a higher number of violations with substance abuse in comparison to previous years. She stated that the Student Affairs office did look to see if there were repetitive abuses and investigated alcohol violations during football games. She noted that some students at universities, including ours, are throwing shooter bottles during the games and Student Affairs is working to address this problem. She reported that academic integrity violations are lower at UNL compared to some other universities.

### **5.3 Parking Advisory Committee (Director Shippen, Professor Zeleny, Director Carpenter)**

Professor Zeleny noted that the Committee's responsibilities include reviewing and making recommendations on all policies pertaining to parking and transit services to the Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance. She reported that the Committee meets monthly from September through April.

Director Shippen stated that Parking and Transit Services are performing well and as a result, there will be no increase in fees. He stated that the City of Lincoln has increased the operating costs for the city buses operating between the campuses and Parking and Transit Services is requesting that student fees cover more of the transit fees.

Director Shippen reported that there are a number of parking spaces that have been displaced due to the volume of construction occurring on campus. He stated that 70 temporary displacements have occurred with the Scott Engineering renovation and Link replacement, the construction of Kiewit Hall displaced 79 Area A parking spaces although 35 have been replaced on 17<sup>th</sup> street south of Vine street, and the Westbrook Music building replacement construction has displaced 139 parking spaces. He noted that 80 Area A permits were moved north to the underutilized parking spaces at 10<sup>th</sup> & U streets and the NE Champions Club. He reported that the reserved permits were moved into the Stadium Drive Garage.

Professor Weissling pointed out that as parking is moved to the perimeter of campus, there is concern for the condition of the sidewalks, particularly in inclement weather. Director Carpenter stated that he could forward this concern to Landscape Services which maintains the condition of the sidewalks.

President-Elect Kopocis reported that the handicap parking spaces next to the Scott Engineering and Link construction are being occupied by construction employees who are not disabled. She asked what could be done about this. Director Carpenter stated that the handicap parking spaces have not been relocated and if they are occupied by people who do not have a disabled parking tag this should be reported to his office so they can contact the construction company to make sure these spaces are left open. He pointed out that his office wants to know about these kinds of violations so they can be corrected.

Professor Seymour, Extension Engagement Zone 10, asked with all of the displacements if there are plans to add more parking spaces. Director Carpenter reported that there are no plans to build any additional spaces but there are plans to shift parking. He noted that there is an under-utilized student parking area with 120 spaces available which will become available for faculty and staff in the Champions Club parking area.

President Minter reported that the new electronic monitoring system does not seem to be working for parking violations. Director Carpenter stated that the technology is working but there is a lack of staff to monitor the lots and his office is working to try to get more staff to monitor parking on campus.

Professor Turkman, College of Architecture, noted that she is one of those that have been displaced due to the Westbrook construction. She pointed out that it was not clearly articulated to the faculty and staff how they would be affected by the construction and asked if in the future there would be more equitable and inclusive process when construction will displace parking. Director Carpenter stated that it is difficult getting our planning and construction people to consider the impacts of the loss of parking for faculty, staff, and students. He stated that there is a focus on announcing the benefits of a new building and why it is good for the campus, but it is a challenge to get ahead of the announcement so people can be informed of how it will impact them.

Professor Turkman asked who should be called if someone sees a construction vehicle parked in a handicapped parking stall. Director Carpenter stated that people should call (402) 472-1800 and Parking and Transit dispatch will get someone out there.

#### **5.4 University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Professor Jones, Director Sollars)**

Professor Jones reported that the UUCC has nearly finished the ten-year review of the ACE program and the Committee had two proposals to improve the program. The first was to provide better language to help students better understand why they are taking the ACE courses, and the second was to split ACE 9 into two separate outcomes. She noted that this would be accomplished by removing ACE 10 which is the capstone course for majors. She pointed out that in order to make any changes to the ACE program, there needs to be unanimous approval by the colleges. However, this did not occur because the College of Business and CASNR rejected the proposal. She stated that the moratorium of ACE certification courses was put in place due to the implementation of the new budget model and the ACE review. She reported that the moratorium is expected to be lifted starting with the fall semester. She noted that the UUCC continues to encourage units to decertify classes that are rarely or not being taught at all. Professor Gailey asked if the moratorium is on new ACE courses or recertification. Professor Jones stated that the moratorium was on new courses only.

#### **5.5 Academic Planning Committee (Professor Tschetter)**

Professor Tschetter reported that it has been a very quiet year so far for the APC. The Committee only met once in the fall and conducted some work through email. She noted that last spring the

APC approved the formation of the School of Computing, approved graduate certificate proposals, and members served on academic program reviews. She stated that the Committee is working on developing guidelines for reviewing program proposals and discussing Memorandums of Understanding between colleges. President Minter asked what the impetus is for having the MOUs. Professor Tschetter pointed out that there has been a real push to have departments and colleges to have joint programs, such as the Data Science program that involves multiple departments. She noted that having MOUs would help clarify what the responsibilities are for each of the departments involved in the program. President Minter asked if the MOUs would include budgets. Professor Tschetter stated that anything that would be shared, including budget, would be defined in the MOU.

Professor Seymour asked about the deletion of the B.S. degree in Agronomy and Horticulture. President Minter noted that the program was a duplicate to a Plant Science program which is a more viable program. She noted that there were only two students enrolled in the Agronomy and Horticulture program.

## **6.0 Unfinished Business**

### **6.1 Motion to Approve the Ballot for Elections to the Academic Planning Committee, Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee, and the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panel**

President Minter noted that the ballot and motion to approve it were presented at the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. She asked if there was any further discussion on the ballot. Hearing none she asked the Senate to vote on the motion. The motion passed.

### **6.2 Motion to Create an Ad Hoc Committee to Review Impacts of EM 16**

President Minter reported that the motion to create an ad hoc committee to look at the impacts of EM 16 on teaching and research was made and seconded at the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. She asked if there was further discussion. Hearing none, she asked for the Senate to vote on the motion. The motion was approved.

### **6.3 Motion to Have the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Impacts of EM 16 Report to the Board of Regents and/or the President's Office**

President Minter stated that the motion to have the EM 16 ad hoc committee report presented to the Board of Regents and/or the President's Office was presented at the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. She asked if there was further discussion on the motion. Hearing none she asked for the Senate to vote on the motion. The motion was approved.

## **7.0 New Business**

### **7.1 Open Mic**

No discussion occurred during the Open Mic session.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union, Regency Suite and via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.