

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Baesu, Bearnese, Boudreau, Dawes, Eklund, Kopocis, Lott, Minter, Paul, Tschetter, Vakilzadian, Zuckerman

Absent: Shrader

Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Location: 203 Alexander Building

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 (*Kopocis*)

Kopocis called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

3.0 Approval of May 17, 2023 Minutes

Kopocis asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes, hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tschetter moved and Dawes seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion then approved by the Executive Committee.

4.0 Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Changes to Health, Dental, and Prescription Plans

Kopocis reported that an announcement from President Carter’s office recently was sent to employees stating that the University’s health insurance will once again be managed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the dental plan will change to Delta Dental of Nebraska, and the pharmacy insurance will move to EmpirRx Health. She noted that the change will be effective beginning January 1, 2024. She stated that Assistant Vice Chancellor Steve Beck, Human Resources, and Assistant Vice President Brian Schlichting will be meeting with the Executive Committee on August 8th to discuss the changes.

Zuckerman asked why these kinds of significant changes do not come to the Faculty Senate prior to decisions being made. Minter pointed out that the administration had mentioned that the UMR contract was coming to an end and that there would be a review to determine whether it adequately meets the needs of the employees or whether the university should have a contract with someone else. She pointed out that a university-wide committee of faculty and staff reviewed and carefully evaluated the bids, and noted that these types of changes are made at the central administration level.

5.2 Proposed Amendment to BOR Bylaws Impacting UNL Athletics and Chancellors

The Executive Committee discussed its concerns regarding the proposed amendment to place UNL's Athletics under the management of the President rather than the UNL Chancellor, and to change the designation of the Chancellor from the chief executive officer to the chief administrative officer.

The Executive Committee agreed that Kopocis should speak at the special Board of Regents meeting to present the concerns regarding these changes and the impacts they could have for UNL.

5.3 Questions for Chancellor-Elect

The Executive Committee developed questions to ask Dr. Rodney Bennett when the Executive Committee meets with him on Tuesday, June 6.

5.4 Cancellation of In-person Classes on August 30th

Kopocis stated that there is discussion about whether to cancel classes, either for the full day or for half day, on August 30th when the volleyball match in the stadium is to take place. She noted that 88,000 tickets have already been sold for the game and there is concern for the safety and welfare of the faculty, staff, and students that day with so many extra people coming to campus. She stated that there have been suggestions that classes could be moved to an online format. Vakilzadian pointed out that cancelling classes would impact lab classes which cannot be taught remotely and that academics should take priority over athletics. Kopocis suggested that the cancellation could be for lecture classes only. She stated that the issue will be an agenda item for when the Executive Committee meets with the Executive Vice Chancellor, but she will notify the Committee if she hears any further information.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 203 Alexander Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.