

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Baesu, Bearnes, Boudreau, Bouma, Dawes, Eklund, Kopocis, Lott, Minter, Shrader, Tschetter, Zuckerman

Absent: Vakilzadian

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

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 2:30 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Attendance at Legislative Hearing on LB 1064

Kopocis reported that she attended the legislative hearing of LB 1064 about removing tenure. She noted that Interim President Kabourek spoke against the bill as well as UNK Faculty Senate President Chris Exstrom and others, and according to the Nebraska Examiner, it is unlikely that either LB 1064 or LB 1330, the bill impacting diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, will come out of committee. She pointed out that there were many people in attendance, particularly for LB 1330 and their testimonies went through until late in the evening.

Eklund wondered whether the cuts to UNL's Office of Diversity and Inclusion were politically motivated and pointed out that many of the ODI's services will be farmed out to the colleges. Shrader and Zuckerman stated that some of the colleges do not have the resources to be able to provide the services and help that the ODI office provides. Tschetter reported that the issue came up in the Academic Planning Committee meetings where the same concerns were raised. She stated that some colleges may have structures in place to provide diversity and inclusion services while others do not.

Kopocis noted that she had a very good conversation with Interim President Kabourek who later sent her an email saying he would like to meet with the Executive Committee. She noted that he is now on the Committee's schedule to meet with him on April 16. She reported that Provost Gold stated that he would like to speak to the Executive Committee as well.

2.2 Parental Leave Policy Status

Kopocis stated that she asked Corporation Secretary Bakken and Interim President Kabourek about the status of the Parental Leave Policy. She noted that Interim President Kabourek stated that the delay with the Policy was due to the changeover with the Board of Regents and new Board members not having the opportunity to review and consider

the Policy, but he does want the University to move forward on this Policy and it will be on a future Board of Regents agenda.

2.3 Charter Day Leadership Meeting

Kopocis reported that she attended the Charter Day Leadership meeting held by the Chancellor in the Nebraska Union. She noted that EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, and VC Zeleny were all on stage and the Chancellor stated that he wants to look at strategic planning for the campus. He was then asked if budget reductions would come first or after the strategic planning was completed. She reported that a number of faculty and administrators spoke out and overall, the meeting was fairly contentious.

Minter stated that she has heard concerns from people that during the meeting there was no acknowledgement of the roles that colleges such as Architecture, Fine Arts, Journalism, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Education and Human Sciences make in educating our students and conducting research. She stated that the focus was on agriculture, engineering, military, athletics, and health care.

Shrader questioned if the Chancellor's vision aligns us with the metrics needed for us to regain entry into the AAU. Kopocis stated that there was talk about grants and research expenditures and how an increase in citations would help us enter the AAU. Zuckerman pointed out that rural education is extremely important for the state, however, rural education is a small field in education and often researchers do not get many citations of their work.

Minter noted that one of the tricky things about AAU metrics is it is essentially divided per capita, and they can look at data as to how the colleges or the units are doing. She pointed out that strangely, UNMC works in some ways to help us to meet the AAU metrics but in other ways it works against us. Zuckerman noted that we still have proportionally more tenured line faculty members here at UNL than at other universities.

3.0 Approval of February 13, 2024 Minutes

Kopocis asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Eklund asked for a correction in a word he used during the meeting. Eklund then moved and Tschetter seconded approving the minutes. Motion approved by the Executive Committee.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Faculty Senate Meeting Format

The Executive Committee discussed two draft statements. One that would go into the Faculty Senate Handbook which strongly encourages Senators to be physically present at the Senate meetings, and if they cannot be present, those participating by Zoom must have their camera on throughout the meeting. Lott moved to approve the language to the Handbook and Tschetter seconded the motion. The Executive Committee then approved the motion. There was one vote against the motion.

The Executive Committee reviewed the statement from Eklund that stated the reasons a strong physical presence is needed at the Senate meetings. The Committee agreed that the statement should be sent out to the Senators.

The Executive Committee then discussed possible ways to improve the quality of the Senate meetings. Griffin noted that in the past the Executive Committee selected a specific topic for discussion. She stated that Kopocis should remind Senators during the announcements that they can bring agenda items forward to the Executive Committee and the Senate meetings. Zuckerman suggested asking Senators what is going on in their units.

Griffin reported that she is working with Assistant Director Jackson of the Nebraska Union to see if the rooms for the Senate meetings could be arranged differently so everyone can view the screen to see those that are attending by Zoom.

4.2 Faculty Senate Newsletter

The Executive Committee discussed reviving the President's Newsletter and talked about news that can be provided such as a brief update on the search for the President of the university, information on the search for a Vice Chancellor for the Office of Research and Economic Development, update on the proposed Legislative bills, and other pertinent information.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Agenda Items for Chancellor Bennett/EVC Ankerson

The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for the Chancellor and EVC:

- In light of the recent Title IX lawsuit against the university involving a former UNL student athlete and the fact that Athletics now reports to the system President, would UNL's Office of Equity and Compliance be responsible for taking action on similar incidents involving UNL student athletes?
- When will the search for the Vice Chancellor of the Office of Research and Economic Development begin?
- Do you know what the timeline is for the President's search?
- What are your plans for working on a new strategy for UNL given that we will more than likely be dealing with further budget reductions?
- How do you plan to lead and encourage faculty during rough budget reductions and extremely low morale while retaining quality teaching and research faculty?
- How are you going to work with the Faculty Senate in shared governance to address ongoing university academic and faculty concerns in the future and what actions you will take to ensure this?

- Update on current enrollment figures for Fall semester.
- How have summer enrollment numbers been over the past few years? Is the summer pre-session still needed?
- What are the requirements for a program to add differential tuition given that some programs require individual instruction making them more costly to deliver?
- Upcoming Issues Chancellor Bennett and EVC Ankerson May Have

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.