

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Bearnes, Bouma, Boudreau, Dawes, Eklund, Kopocis, Leiter, Shrader, Tschetter, VanderPlas

**Absent:** Baesu, Lott, Vakilzadian

**Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024

**Location:** Nebraska Union, Room 213

**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 (*Eklund*)

Eklund called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

### 2.0 EVC Ankerson

#### 2.1 Summer Enrollment Numbers

EVC Ankerson reported that enrollment numbers for summer are up about 0.8% this year, noting that 7800 people are enrolled for summer courses. Eklund asked whether the summer enrollment figures are factored in at the end of the current academic year or whether they are factored in for the beginning of the upcoming academic year. EVC Ankerson stated that the summer enrollment numbers count with the upcoming academic year. Eklund asked if there is a master's summer program whether it gets included in the academic year total. EVC Ankerson stated there is the fall census date which indicates the number of students enrolled for the fall semester, but when the total number of students are reported for the year, enrollment numbers are for summer, fall, and spring.

#### 2.2 Fall Semester Enrollment Numbers

EVC Ankerson stated that we are cautiously optimistic about the fall enrollment. She noted that for first-time freshmen, we expect to be up by 2.5%, and for undergraduate enrollment we believe we will be up 1.6%. She stated that currently the thinking is that we will be flat in professional and graduate enrollment numbers but noted that these numbers can be a little more difficult to predict. She noted that in terms of international graduate students, we are up in acceptances although less Ph.D. admittances were offered, and we are predicting that total enrollment growth will be 1.2%. Shrader asked what the baseline number is for determining the increase in enrollment. EVC Ankerson that it is based on the number of students enrolled Fall 2023 which was 23,600.

VanderPlas asked how the problems with FAFSA are affecting our enrollment numbers. EVC Ankerson noted that our staff has done a great job in quickly getting the packets out to students when the university has received the information from the federal government, but it remains to be seen as to how the problems with FAFSA have affected our enrollment. She stated that our enrollment projections are based on a sophisticated model. She is concerned that those that need the funding the most have not been able to

submit the application. She reported that the University developed webinars to provide some assistance to people filling out the FAFSA application, and we have been very proactive to offer as much assistance as possible. She stated that everyone at UNL has been doing a great job and noted that the care that faculty and staff have put into existing students and assisting visitors to campus help our enrollment numbers.

### **2.3 Status of Google Courses**

EVC Ankerson reported that Interim President Chris Kabourek approved a partial FTE role to support the Google project he recently announced through the NU Office of the President (NUOP). She noted that this role will do things like engage partners, field questions, coordinate marketing/outreach, nudge learners, transition seats, and award badges for completion to ensure success of this initiative. She stated that Ana Lopez Shalla will be transitioning out of her role as UNO's Director of Strategic Partnerships and New Market and stepping into this new role leading the Google partnership in NUOP. She began May 15, and her last day in her current UNO role with the Division of Innovative & Learning-Centric Initiatives will be June 30.

Shrader asked what the advantages are in supporting the Goggle project. Leiter noted that there is a name association with Google. EVC Ankerson stated that she thinks that the President's office was looking at providing opportunities for greater job readiness for Nebraskans which in turn would help Nebraska businesses.

VanderPlas noted that she teaches Statistics and is concerned about the impact the Google courses would have on enrollment of Statistics courses. She questioned where the shared governance was when the Google project was being considered. She pointed out that the Academic Planning Committee, which approves new programs for UNL, did not have the opportunity to consider or provide feedback on the project. EVC Ankerson stated that the APC did express the same concerns after the announcement of the Google courses, and she raised these concerns at the CAO's meeting.

Tschetter stated that she does not think the credentials from the Google courses would be highly regarded, certainly not compared to an actual degree. Leiter questioned whether there is an enrollment cap on the Google courses. EVC Ankerson reported that there are only a certain number of licenses that will be awarded. Tschetter questioned whether this cap could actually help increase enrollment noting that there may be some people who would be interested in having more serious credentials.

Eklund stated that the faculty were never told about the Google courses and he and others believe there are negative consequences to this decision. He pointed out that we do not want a precedent to be set where the President sets up a private arrangement which involves curriculum with a company. VanderPlas questioned what policies are in place to prevent this from happening again. Shrader pointed out that it was just not the partnership with a private company that was concerning, it was the fact that it was a curriculum matter that was just handed down to the faculty without any consultative process. Leiter noted that if it had come to the faculty in advance the faculty could have come up with a better marketing strategy.

**2.4 What is the hiring situation on campus? Is there still a hiring freeze?**

EVC Ankerson noted that a hiring freeze has been in place at UNL effective July 1, 2023, with exceptions only for urgent mission-critical positions. This hiring freeze applies to all staff regular positions regardless of the funding source. It also applies to all administrative positions (M1 and N1) both temporary and regular, including split appointments, regardless of funding source. She stated that the 2023 Hiring Freeze does not apply to positions for faculty, including post-doctoral associates, graduate, and undergraduate students. She noted that although temporary staff and on-call positions are not included in the hiring freeze, managers should evaluate whether hiring these positions is urgent and/or mission-critical. Shrader asked if the hiring freeze is in place until further notice. EVC Ankerson this is correct.

**2.5 What proactive steps can colleges take to become more advanced in the metrics required for reentry into the AAU?**

EVC Ankerson stated that colleges can become more knowledgeable about the AAU metrics and understand the unique abilities of the units within the college to contribute to the metrics. She pointed out that this is not a one-size-fits-all situation, colleges and units will contribute in differing ways. She stated that Phase I indicators include 1) Federal Research Expenditures; 2) Books; 3) Citations; and 4) Highly Prestigious Awards. She noted that Phase II indicators include USDA, State, and Industry expenditures; number of PhDs awarded; and number of Post Docs.

Shrader asked if there are colleges that are already being proactive. EVC Ankerson stated that all of the colleges are already being proactive. VanderPlas stated that it was interesting that the number of post docs are one of the metrics. She pointed out that in her field most Ph.D. graduates go into business.

**2.6 What business centers fall under the EVC office and who oversees these centers?**

EVC Ankerson noted that in 2018 when the Service Delivery Initiative was implemented it was determined that each college/unit could implement the project in a way that reflected their culture. The result is that we currently have 23 campus business centers. She pointed out that of those 23 centers 10 (highlighted below in yellow) report to EVC units. She stated that CAS is the only EVC unit that has multiple business centers (CAS, Oldfather, BPAC and Pound) and she believes that IANR has 6 (green).

Big Red Business Center

Office of the Chancellor

Oldfather Business Center

Public Policy Center

BPAC Business Center

Pound Business Center

Heartland Business Center

Engineering Business Center

Office of Research & Economic Development Business Center

College of Business Business Center

College of Education and Human Science Business Center

Great Plains Business Center

Accounting Administrative Use

Nebraska Educational Television Business Center

Business & Finance Business Center

College of Arts and Sciences Business Center

IANR Business Center Group I

IANR Business Center Group II

IANR Business Center Group III

Student Affairs Business Center

Greater Nebraska Business Center

Athletics Business Center

Lied Center for Performing Arts

EVC Ankerson stated that in reply to the question regarding transaction cost, when the Big Red Business Center was set up, the governing body composed in part by business officers from each of those units, examined the number of “transactions”, including the most recent year, that were accomplished for each college. She noted that the number of transactions determined the overall contribution of each college or unit to support the business center as it was a reasonable and common element among all units. She reported that she was Dean of the College of Architecture at the time the college decided to enter the Big Red Business Center and it joined for many positive reasons. She pointed out that there is no “transaction cost” to faculty or units on an ongoing basis – it was a way to determine initial buy-in.

## **2.7 Friday Night Football Game – September 20**

EVC Ankerson reported that an email was sent to all instructors on Friday, as it was the last day that AY faculty were on contract, indicating the possibility of an instructional continuity day for September 20. She noted that we wanted to inform people so they can prepare their course syllabus accordingly. She pointed out that the parking lots close the night before a football game and stated that we need to consider access for faculty and students to parking and buildings which are often locked during game days.

## **3.0 Announcements**

### **3.1 Meeting with EVC Ankerson**

Eklund noted that he met with EVC Ankerson last week to discuss some of the agenda items identified by the Executive Committee, one of which was about problems with the P2P process. He reported that EVC Ankerson would like a list of specific problems that are occurring with business transactions and the business centers.

### **3.2 Meeting with Dr. Gold**

The Executive Committee discussed inviting Dr. Gold to meet with them. Eklund stated that he would contact Dr. Gold to see if a meeting time could be scheduled.

#### **4.0 Approval of May 14, 2024 Minutes**

Eklund asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tschetter moved and Shrader seconded, approving the minutes. Motion approved by the Executive Committee.

#### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was discussed.

#### **6.0 New Business**

##### **6.1 Agenda Items for Interim VC Jones, Office of Research and Economic Development**

The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for Interim VC Jones:

- Discussion about AAU metrics
- Is SAM an annual registration?
- What do you see as the future of the ORED office?

##### **6.2 Faculty Interest in Unionizing**

Eklund reported that some faculty members are asking about unionization efforts, and he suggested that the Senate could investigate how many faculty members are interested in joining a union. The Executive Committee discussed meeting with UNL's AAUP Chapter President Vazansky and Professor Schleck to discuss the pros and cons of joining a union.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 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.