

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Baesu, Bearnese, Billesbach, Buan, Eklund, Gay, Herstein, Kolbe, Krehbiel, Minter, Weissling, Woodman, Zuckerman

Absent:

Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Zoom Meeting

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 (*Kolbe*)

Kolbe called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

3.0 Approval of January 25, 2022 Minutes

Kolbe asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Billesbach moved and Bearnese seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved by the Executive Committee.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Continue Reviewing the Executive Committee Goals for 2021-2022

Item postponed until the next meeting.

4.2 Faculty Concern of Not Being Able to Switch to Remote Teaching Temporarily

Buan reported that she has heard from faculty members about their displeasure with the university's handling of the Covid protocols during the current surge the community is experiencing. She thinks the Senate should continue to push to enable faculty members to teach remotely, if they feel it is necessary to keep everyone safe, by just notifying their chair. Kolbe reported that he was informed that there was a small number of faculty members who were not accommodating students that were out sick.

The Executive Committee discussed the lack of communication from the EVC's office with the faculty about their ability to make a request to their chair to teach remotely temporarily. Eklund noted that the communications with Covid have been frustrating and varied and suggested the Executive Committee develop a solution of how the EVC can improve communications to the faculty. Billesbach pointed out that whenever policy decisions are made that are relevant to the faculty, they need to be communicated directly to the faculty rather than going to the deans and expecting the information to trickle down to the faculty.

Buan moved that the policy (<https://registrar.unl.edu/faculty-staff/CLSS/course-delivery/>) allowing faculty members to request their course(s) be taught remotely be sent to the full academic faculty email list. Motion seconded by Baesu. Minter pointed out that the form attached to the policy states that the department chair needs to approve a request to move a course online if it will be for less than two weeks, otherwise the dean's approval is needed if the course will be taught online longer than two weeks. Kolbe asked that the motion and voting be conducted by email since it was still in draft form.

Buan brought up the issue of new IANR faculty members having a zero percentage of service apportionment. Bearnese noted that Extension faculty had to rewrite their job descriptions and had the service apportionment removed. Buan pointed out that service provides professional development and advancement for faculty members. She recommended that the issue go to the IANR Liaison Committee for consideration.

5.0 New Business

5.1 ASUN Proposing a Resolution to Revise the Attendance Policy

Kolbe reported that ASUN is looking at the student attendance policy and wants to go back to the fall 2021 attendance policy which asked faculty members to build in some flexibility in the attendance and engagement expectations of the course. Woodman pointed out that AVC Goodburn issued a memo before the beginning of the spring semester stating that student absences would revert to the pre-Covid student absence policy when faculty members were not required to be so flexible with their attendance policy. He stated that faculty members are continually being forced to accommodate any new problems that students might encounter, and while he does not mind teaching online only, the hybrid model is exhausting for faculty. Weissling stated that the administration has told the faculty that courses are to be taught in person unless the instructor has an exemption. Kolbe stated that the Executive Committee will check to see what ASUN approves at its upcoming meeting.

5.2 Search Committee for Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Equity and Compliance

Kolbe stated that since a search was just conducted a couple of years ago, the Chancellor would like to have the same search committee members. However, one of the search committee members has assumed an administrative position and needs to be replaced by a faculty member. He nominated Weissling to serve on the search committee. Woodman suggested having Minter as an additional faculty member. Kolbe stated that he would submit the names to the Chancellor. The Executive Committee suggested a couple of Senators as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2022, at 2:30 pm via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Kelli Herstein, Secretary.