

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Absent: Krehbiel, Zuckerman

Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Location: Zoom

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 3:38 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 AAUP Censure Removal Update

Kolbe reported that Mark Criley from the National AAUP office has said that the vote to remove UNL from the AAUP censure list is still to take place this month, however we will probably not hear the results of the voting until after Thanksgiving.

3.0 Approval of October 26, 2021 Minutes

Kolbe asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none, Eklund moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Herstein and approved by the Executive Committee.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Feedback on Guidelines and Best Practices for Peer Evaluation of Teaching

Kolbe reported that he has now received a number of faculty names to serve on the committee that will work on updating the Guidelines, but he will continue to add names to the list if he receives additional names.

4.2 Draft Proposal on Incentivizing Service on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft proposal and suggested further revisions. It also discussed what the next steps in the process should be and Buan suggested sharing the final draft with AVC Walker and AVC Bischoff to get feedback and support prior to the proposal going to the Chancellor. Baesu raised the issue of the service apportionment being adjusted for those serving on the Executive Committee. Gay stated that the proposal does include this suggestion. Minter pointed out that changing apportionments can be more difficult than you would think and noted that the EVC needs to approve a change in apportionment.

Gay stated that if anyone on the Executive Committee has further revisions to send them to him. He stated that once the Committee agrees on a final draft it should be sent to AVC Walker and AVC Bischoff.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Spring Attendance Policy

Kolbe asked the Executive Committee whether the Senate's class attendance policy for the fall semester should remain the same for Spring 2022. Billesbach suggested that we should return to the pre-Covid attendance policy. Woodman suggested removing the preamble, but Weissling disagreed with this and noted that she would not want to see students unable to graduate on time because they may have been ill with Covid.

The Executive Committee then discussed whether faculty members treat students with Covid cases differently and whether a faculty member must honor a letter from the University Health Center indicating a student tested positive for Covid. Woodman pointed out that EVC Spiller stated that Covid absences would be treated like other absences and students are still expected to complete their coursework. Baesu pointed out that students who test positive would not be able to enter buildings because the Safer Community app would indicate a positive result.

Weissling stated that students have always been held responsible for their coursework and the previous temporary changes to the class attendance policy were to provide flexibility to class attendance and coursework due dates during the early stages of the pandemic. She did not think we should be going back to a stringent policy when there are still people who could become ill and spread a contagious disease. Buan stated that she has been hearing complaints from faculty members about the current class attendance policy and they have stated that having to conduct a class in a hybrid manner puts an additional burden on the faculty member. Kolbe pointed out that the EVC's message was that faculty members were not to double teach, they just needed to provide the course material in some other way.

The Executive Committee reviewed the preamble and revised it. Buan moved to accept the revised preamble, motion seconded by Herstein and approved by the Committee. ([Spring 2022 Class Attendance policy.](#))

5.2 Non-tenure Track Forum (Woodman)

Woodman suggested that the Executive Committee should consider conducting another non-tenure track faculty forum since the last one was in spring 2019 and it would be good to do given that non-tenure track faculty members are being excluded from getting the salary increases that tenure line faculty are getting from funds provided by Central Administration. He suggested that another survey be conducted using the same questions that were in the 2019 survey.

Buan stated that she thought UNO and UNK were wanting to address the non-tenure track issue as well. Kolbe stated that they have raised similar concerns and noted that it

would make a stronger case if the three campuses could work together to address non-tenure track faculty issues.

Woodman volunteered to work on the forum which has typically been held in the spring semester.

5.3 Apportionment Statement (Woodman)

Woodman suggested having a document about apportionments that would include Regents Bylaw 4.3 which includes language that a faculty member's responsibilities shall be reviewed periodically and either the faculty member or the responsible unit administrator may initiate discussion of changes in apportionments of teaching, extension, service, research, and administrative responsibilities. He noted that Bylaw 4.3 also states that if a mutual agreement cannot be reached it will be reviewed by an elected faculty committee of the faculty member's tenure home college or equivalent administrative unit. He suggested that the document could just be a one-page document which identifies a faculty member's right to ask for a change in their apportionment. He volunteered to work with someone to develop a statement. Weissling also volunteered.

5.4 Agenda Items for EVC Spiller and VC Boehm

Due to lack of time, Kolbe asked that the Executive Committee send their agenda items by email to either him or Griffin.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Kelli Herstein, Secretary.