

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Billesbach, Buan, Dam, Dawes, Eklund, Franco Cruz, Gay, Hanrahan, Kolbe, Krehbiel, Minter, Weissling, Woodman

Absent:

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Location: 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 (*Buan*)

Buan called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 New COVID-19 Committee

Buan reported that the COVID-19 Taskforce is requesting faculty feedback. She asked that anyone interested should contact her.

2.2 Secure Polling of Faculty

Buan stated that she contacted CIO Tuttle and Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny to inquire if the university has a secure polling program that the Senate could have access to in order to conduct its surveys. She noted that Chancellor Green is very supportive of the idea.

Woodman reported that the Information Technologies and Services Committee had discussed End Point management for university owned computers. He noted that the Senate passed a resolution in March 2014 of a policy on acceptable use of software systems management and deployment. He pointed out that the resolution was created because administrative changes to computers for installing and updating software were prohibiting faculty members from gaining access to computers in classrooms and labs. He asked that the issue be placed on the agenda for an upcoming Executive Committee's meeting.

3.0 Approval of September 29, 2020 Minutes

Buan asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none the Executive Committee approved the minutes.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Draft Letter from Ad Hoc Program Elimination Committee

Kolbe noted that Hanrahan did an enormous amount of work preparing to speak at the public hearing on the proposal to eliminate the Dance program, but this is now moot since the proposal to eliminate the program has been removed.

Hanrahan stated that he is thrilled that the Dance program has been saved, but there is concern with the realignment of the language in the Hixson-Lied Foundation fund agreement. He noted that the Glenn Korff School of Music had its faculty numbers reduced by 15% over the past five years while the administration of the College has grown considerably (50%) and there is a huge discrepancy between the number of administrators in the College versus that of the College of Engineering, Business, Arts & Sciences, and Education and Human Sciences which are all reducing the size of their administration. He stated that it does not make sense that the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, which is a small college, has such growth in administration. Billesbach stated that he believes all colleges have too many administrators. Buan noted that one of the reasons for increases in administration is due to the increased reporting that universities are required to do by federal and state governments. Franco Cruz stated that the increase in the number of administrators in the college needs to come to the attention of the Chancellor and EVC. He noted that the faculty of the College need to say that the increase in administration is unacceptable.

Billesbach asked if the Dance program funding is coming strictly from the endowment rather than funding from another program within the college. Hanrahan reported that the donor of the Hixson Endowment Fund, approved the realignment of the funds. He stated that the realignment will cover the student scholarship remissions of the College which then frees up funds to help support the Dance program. Minter stated that it is okay to support a temporary shortfall for an academic program from an endowment, but it should not be expected to support an academic program long term. Hanrahan noted that support for the Dance program is also coming from a commitment from the newly formed Friends of Dance group.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Agenda Items for Chancellor Green and EVC Spiller

Buan noted that the Executive Committee will be meeting with the Chancellor and EVC Spiller and asked for agenda items. The following agenda items were identified:

- Lecturer Proposal from CAS, why is it being put on hold?
- Spreadsheet on Proposed Budget Cuts Availability
- Is there a plan to get the Dance program back on State funds?
- Should endowments be changed to fund the mission of the university?
- Is there a Phase 3 budget cut coming?
- Title IX Collaborative Report – has it been received yet?
- How do you see the role of the UNL AAUP chapter?
- Update on the progress of getting information on consultant fees

It was suggested that a future agenda item for the Executive Committee would be to discuss how the AAUP and the Faculty Senate could exist together to help the faculty.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.