

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Billesbach, Buan, Dam, Eklund, Gay, Herstein, Kolbe, Krehbiel, Minter, Nicholas, Weissling, Woodman, Zuckerman

**Absent:**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021

**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.

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### **1.0 Call (*Kolbe*)**

Kolbe called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

### **2.0 Introduction of New Executive Committee Members**

Kolbe introduced new Executive Committee members Herstein, Nicholas, Zuckerman, and welcomed back Gay who was re-elected.

#### **2.1 Identify New Executive Committee Member Who Would Serve a One-Year Term**

Griffin noted that with Minter becoming President-Elect the remainder of her term (1 year) was open and one of the new members would need to serve for the remainder of that term. Gay volunteered to serve the one-year term.

### **3.0 Announcements**

#### **3.1 Faculty Handbook**

Buan reported that she charged the committee working on developing the Faculty Handbook which will be on the EVC's website. She noted that the committee includes Professors Franco Cruz and Herstein, AVC Walker, Faculty HR Specialist Gude, and Director of Communications Kundhi. She stated that the Faculty Senate Handbook would be included in the larger Faculty Handbook and the goal is to have it available before new faculty orientation this summer.

#### **3.2 Meeting with Chancellor Green**

Buan reported that she and Kolbe met with the Chancellor, and as she had indicated in an email to the Executive Committee, they spoke mostly about removal of the AAUP censure and the next step in the process to getting the censure removed. She reported that the Chancellor said that he and Mark Criley of the national AAUP office have been corresponding. She noted that at some point AAUP will bring some people to campus to interview faculty and administrators to gauge whether academic freedom has improved at UNL and afterwards a report will be made to the national AAUP Committee A. Kolbe stated that the earliest the national AAUP Committee could vote on removing the censure would be in June, but this is unlikely, and it would probably be considered in the fall.

Buan stated that getting the Regents Bylaws revised was a huge step forward and at some point, the AAUP might want some redresses made. To that end, the Executive Committee had created a wish list of things that would improve academic freedom and shared this with the Chancellor. She reported that the Chancellor was supportive of everything that was on the list, but some of the items have been long standing issues that require funds and time to be implemented. She pointed out that the Chancellor had indicated that we are not at the stage in the censure removal process with AAUP to talk about redresses yet.

### **3.3 COVID Saliva Testing**

Buan reported that the random saliva testing for COVID will continue through the remainder of the spring semester and will still be available during the summer, but on a volunteer basis. She stated that higher education is expecting the CDC to issue guidelines for rapid relaxation of restrictions this summer as more people become vaccinated and hospitalizations decrease.

## **4.0 Approval of April 20, 2021 Minutes**

Kolbe asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved.

## **5.0 Unfinished Business**

### **5.1 Faculty Senate Handbook (Franco Cruz)**

Franco Cruz stated that the Faculty Senate Handbook is being created as a guide for new Senators on how to participate in the Senate and what being a member of the Senate and the Executive Committee means. He noted that the Handbook will be placed on the Faculty Senate web page. Kolbe stated that the Handbook can also provide information for faculty members and others outside of the Senate body.

It was suggested that the new Executive Committee look at the Handbook and provide any suggestions for improvements by June 30.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Agenda Items for Chancellor Green, EVC Spiller, and VC Boehm**

The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for its meeting with the administration:

- How is the \$500,000 to improve Lecturer salaries being dispersed amongst the colleges and how is the effort progressing? What is the anticipated increase in salary going to be and will Lecturers get credit for time spent on service work?
- When will travel policies be changed, especially for in-state and to other states so people can conduct research?
- Update on hiring freeze

- Clarifications about hiring decisions for faculty members. Are these decisions being made on a strategic level?
- Now that the University budget has been approved by the Governor, what are some plans as we move forward?
- Mileage reimbursement rate – is there any movement to improve the rate? Our per diem rate is below the federal rate. Will improvements be made in the per diem rate?

**6.2 Attendance Policy for Fall Semester**

Item postponed due to lack of time.

**6.3 Mileage Reimbursement Rate**

Item postponed due to lack of time.

**6.4 Executive Committee/Administrator Retreat**

Kolbe reported that the Chancellor is interested in having another Executive Committee/Administrator Retreat. He noted that the retreat is typically held in August and stated that he would work with the administrators' office to see when they would be available to meet.

**6.5 Executive Committee Retreat**

Kolbe stated that the Executive Committee retreat will be held on a date after the retreat with the administrators.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Kelli Herstein, Secretary.