

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Billesbach, Boudreau, Eklund, Kopocis, Lott, Minter, Weissling, Zuckerman

**Absent:** Baesu, Bearnese, Kolbe, Krehbiel

**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022

**Location:** 201 Canfield Administration Building

**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 (*Minter*)

Minter called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

### 2.0 EVC Ankerson

#### 2.1 Presentation on the Incentive-based Budget (IBB)

EVC Ankerson stated that the IBB identifies three main sources of funding: state aided, tuition, and grants. She noted that other sources of funding come from auxiliary generated funds and philanthropy. She pointed out that enrollment is vital because it is our largest lever and the engine of the university, and collectively if we work together to grow enrollment it will move UNL forward. She reported that the state-aided funds are budgeted by the State Legislature, tuition is set by the Board of Regents, and grants are usually restricted by the purpose of the grant and noted that auxiliary funds are from fees generated by the auxiliary units such as Parking, Athletics, Housing, and Food Services. She reported that philanthropy gifts or endowments may be expendable or non-renewable.

EVC Ankerson stated that the three main reasons for the new budget model are to incentivize activities, to provide transparency of the budget, and to have a more rational budget which allows units to respond to changes over time. She noted that the guiding principles of IBB are to support the values, mission, and strategic vision of the university in the advancement of excellence in teaching and research and stated that the IBB allows for investment and strategic priorities based on data-driven decisions noting that the amount of our data has increased significantly over the past few years.

EVC Ankerson reported that there are three types of units identified in the IBB: primary units (the colleges), support units (such as Academic Affairs, Office of Research and Economic Development), and auxiliary units. She stated that support groups are funded through cost pools which are generated by contributions from each of the primary units.

EVC Ankerson stated that for undergraduate courses 75% of the tuition goes to the college of the instructor on record, and 25% goes to the college of the student's major. She noted that students with double majors will only have one college defined in the budget model and an analysis conducted previously demonstrated that the impact of a

secondary major is irrelevant between colleges. Billesbach asked if there was any data available for students who are minors and take courses outside of their major. EVC Ankerson stated that the budget model just identifies majors. She noted that for graduate and professional courses, 100% of the tuition goes to the student's major because that is where most of the courses are located. She pointed out that if a significant number of graduate students are taking particular courses in another college there can be a Memorandum of Understanding agreement between the colleges to fairly distribute tuition.

Eklund asked if the additional tuition from out-of-state or international students, or for colleges with differential tuition rates, go into the college's pool of funds. EVC Ankerson pointed out that regardless the amount that a student is paying in tuition, the percentages she mentioned apply. She noted that funds can also be generated by a college through approved lab fees and workshop/clinic fees to support costs incurred. She reported that online courses follow the same distribution rules, and tuition from Nebraska Now students, which are courses that students in high school can take, goes into a central pool which is then distributed.

EVC Ankerson reported that remissions are a cost in the budget and there are tuition remissions at all levels. Some discounted tuition is funded or discounted tuition through scholarships, while unfunded scholarships, such as the Regents Scholars, need to be absorbed. She stated that in FY23, undergraduate remissions will be assigned to the college of the student's major, and the colleges will be responsible 100% of the remission. She noted that the same will be true for graduate and professional student remissions. Eklund stated that in the past his department used to get several Edgren Graduate Tuition Fellowships which provides reduced tuition remission for unfunded, domestic, non-resident graduate students, but recently there seems to be a limit on these Fellowships. He asked if the college would have to pay for these remissions and why there seems to be a limit on them. EVC Ankerson noted that the Edgren Fellowships come from Graduate Studies, and the scholarships reduce the tuition from out-of-state to in-state tuition, but she would need to check to see which unit is expected to cover these remissions. She stated that she would also need to check with Dean Hope to see if there are limitations on the number of the Fellowships that can be awarded.

EVC Ankerson noted that F&A funding comes from grants and with the budget model, 100% of the F&A will be allocated back to the primary units that earned the grant, and in the case of research centers, the centers will receive 67% of the F&A on their grants and contracts. She pointed out that F&A expenses generated in support units will be allocated back to the primary units via cost pool allocation. The colleges and IANR will determine how F&A will be distributed within their structure to the department units and investigators.

EVC Ankerson stated that the current process for funding summer instruction will remain in place for FY23. She noted that summer budgets are given in the same proportion as previous years and pointed out that summer tuition does not go back to the

EVC office but rather to the colleges. She reported that the current process of funding for the J-term will continue.

EVC Ankerson reported that the Budget Model Advisory Committee is an advisory committee to the Chancellor that makes recommendations on how the IBB can be refined for further enhancements and improvements. She pointed out that the Committee does not make budget decisions. She stated that the Academic Planning Committee will have a role in the governance of the IBB because program proposals go to the APC for approval and each proposal has to provide support evidence of how the program will be budgeted. The APC will also be looking to see if there is potential duplication of the programs. She noted that some of the colleges have established a governance body to oversee their college budget.

Zuckerman asked how programs would be funded in the coming years. EVC Ankerson stated that tuition will be the key. She stated that distribution of the tuition goes to the college and each of the colleges will have strategies to distribute the funds to the departments. Zuckerman pointed out that some departments have large classes while other departments have smaller classes and asked how the funds will be distributed fairly. EVC Ankerson noted that the university is a not-for-profit business and pointed out that we are not each generating our own paychecks. She reported that each college has defined what is a typical teaching and research load. She stated that the state appropriations are a huge part of each primary unit's budget. Zuckerman asked if there is a formula for how the state funds will be distributed because currently her department does not have enough faculty to teach the courses being requested by students. EVC Ankerson stated that it would be good to have this kind of discussion within the primary unit. She pointed out that the IBB is a way to distribute resources and support the priorities of the university, it does not make academic decisions and the deans will be responsible for distributing funds in the colleges.

Billesbach noted that 75% of tuition does not cover the full cost of a course and asked what will be done if there are wild swings in enrollment for some courses. He asked if there will be a mechanism to help those colleges that have a lot of service courses. EVC Ankerson stated that the 75% tuition revenue would cover the cost of larger classes but may not cover the cost of small classes. She stated that the Deans will need to determine how to cover the smaller courses. She noted that this first year of using the IBB will be a learning experience and stated that a review will be conducted at the end of the fiscal year to see how the IBB operated and functioned, and if necessary, adjustments will be made.

Minter, who has served on the BMAC, reported that the Committee had discussions about whether it would be good to have some strategic funds set aside that could be used for initiatives or to address any unexpected problems.

Minter noted that she has been meeting individually with the Deans and asked if their college has considered having a form of shared governance of the IBB at the college level. She reported that some deans have turned the governance over to their Executive Committee while others have created a specific committee, but she said it is important

that faculty and staff in the colleges know how the governance will work. EVC Ankerson stated that deans have various mechanisms in place to inform and engage the faculty in their colleges.

Eklund pointed out that in his department and college, many faculty teach one-on-one with a student and asked how the department will get funded given that it does not produce a high number of credit hours. EVC Ankerson stated that Dean Belser will be able to handle the distribution of funds and noted that there may be larger classes in other units within the college that help contribute to the budget. She pointed out that each college is different in terms of structure and composition and conversations need to happen within the colleges where the leadership team shares how they are approaching the budget and distribution to the departments.

Kopocis stated that she appreciated EVC Ankerson's presentation and asked if the budget model might encourage departments to require their majors to take more classes within the department rather than taking courses in other disciplines. EVC Ankerson pointed out that one of the unique things about UNL is our ability to work across disciplines and colleges and this makes us stronger as a university. She noted that it has been a resounding sentiment throughout the work on the development of the budget model that this interdisciplinary factor continues and pointed out the recent creation of the Data Science program which involves three different units as an example of how cross-disciplinary units can work together.

Eklund asked if there is any flexibility with the scholarships. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny reported that a lot of our scholarships are unfunded. He stated that the IBB has to look at the net budget, and the scholarships Eklund previously mentioned are decided on a case-by-case basis. He stated that the transparency of the budget model will enable everyone to see what our enrollment is which will allow us to better manage our own future. He pointed out that our campus is not at full capacity so anything we can do to increase enrollment would be helpful. Eklund asked if there is any wisdom in us pursuing a reciprocity tuition program to get more students from out-of-state. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny stated that there are some pilot programs like Eklund suggested that are currently occurring being worked on with a few other states.

### **3.0 Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny**

#### **3.1 Covid Protocols for the Fall Semester**

Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny reported that based on recommendations made in conjunction with the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, the plans for fall are focused on a targeted strategy. He noted that increasingly, the expectations are that individual people will have primary responsibility for their decisions and behaviors regarding Covid. He stated that voluntary testing will still be conducted at the Nebraska Unions and there will be opportunities for UNL people around the state to do testing. He reported that the university is procuring home test kits, and these can be done independently or proctored noting that if the test is proctored the result will be reported to the health department. He stated that home testing kits will be distributed to all residence halls, Greek houses, and to employees. Zuckerman asked if people will be encouraged to

do a proctored exam to maintain data on the number of cases. Associate to the Chancellor said that both the Health Department and the university will encourage doing a proctored exam.

Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny reported that the University has stopped doing contact tracing. He stated that the university will send automated emails out to the campus community telling them what actions they need to take if they test positive. He pointed out that the Safer Community app will no longer be used. He noted that Information Technology Services has developed a program that will notify people of their test results through a duo factored website if they are tested at a university facility.

Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny reported that students will be encouraged to develop an isolation plan with their roommate(s) should one of them test positive for Covid. He noted that dealing with Covid has evolved into a more individual strategy with medication now being available and the university will encourage people to follow the CDC's strategy. He stated that the university will continue to provide isolation housing for those that need it.

Concerning vaccinations, Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny reported that a decision will be made about whether to have another mass vaccination clinic once more information is available about when a new booster will be coming out. He noted that students, faculty, staff, and university associates will all be able to get vaccinations through the clinic.

Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny stated that information about the fall Covid protocols will be communicated before classes begin on August 22. He noted that Lancaster County is still in the low orange stage and the number of hospitalizations and case loads are decreasing. He stated that many large universities are winding down with their Covid protocols, but the university reserves the right for mass testing if clusters of cases emerge. He noted that we could possibly see a surge in cases in late September/early October. He pointed out that we will wait to see if a mask mandate will be needed if there is a surge on campus.

Associate to the Chancellor reported that the Covid relief funds have run out as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and while our lab is still open for testing, there may be slower testing result times.

Minter asked if the information will be on the Covid website. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny stated that the website is scaling down, but the site is still functioning. Weissling pointed out that for faculty teaching and Zooming at the same time is exhausting and not effective and not having guidance on class attendance is a problem. Minter noted that the [Faculty Senate's attendance policy](#), which was revised by the Faculty Senate prior to the pandemic, is still in effect. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny reported that the University of Iowa is now treating Covid cases as a typical sick day and Creighton University has removed Covid from their policy language entirely. He stated that the only Big Ten school still doing mass testing is Rutgers.

Minter pointed out that there needs to be clear messaging to the students about what they need to do if they test positive for Covid. She stated that students who may have been exposed should get tested, if they are positive, they need to quarantine, but if not, they would need to come to class. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny agreed and stated that the messaging needs to be simple and clear.

Billesbach asked if monkeypox is a concern. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny stated that the Health Department did have a briefing on it and noted that the biggest concern is the lack of vaccines for it. He stated that the campus is on top of the situation and there are some vaccines in the County. He reported that the Office of Student Affairs will be sending out a message to students on how to identify symptoms and how students should move forward if they have symptoms.

#### **4.0 Approval of July 12, 2022 Minutes**

Griffin noted that she has not heard back from VC Boehm about his revisions to the minutes but noted that he has been on vacation. Billesbach moved for approval of the minutes pending VC Boehm's response. Zuckerman seconded the motion. Motion approved by the Executive Committee.

#### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

##### **5.1 Professional Code of Conduct (Minter)**

Minter reported that she met with several Senators who are also members of the local AAUP chapter to get their feedback on the Code noting that refining the Code is a continuing effort.

##### **5.2 Draft of Executive Committee Goals**

Minter stated that she would revise the draft Executive Committee goals based on the discussions held at the Executive Committee retreat and would send a draft to the Committee for further consideration at its next meeting.

#### **6.0 New Business**

##### **6.1 Correspondence Update**

###### **6.1.A. Service Incentive Proposal Discussion Update**

Minter reported that she met with EVC Ankerson to discuss the service incentive proposal for serving on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. She stated that EVC Ankerson is in favor of Executive Committee members who have a 9-month appointment receiving some kind of compensation if they are working over the summer, but she wants to review the proposal more carefully. Minter noted that EVC Ankerson is concerned that faculty members may not realize they can negotiate changes in their apportionments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the Nebraska Union, Big Ten Conference Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.