

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Baesu, Bearnese, Billesbach, Boudreau, Eklund, Kolbe, Kopocis, Krehbiel, Lott, Minter, Weissling, Zuckerman

**Absent:** Boudreau, Kolbe, Krehbiel, Lott

**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022

**Location:** Nebraska Union, Platte River Room

**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 2:32 p.m.

### 2.0 Endorsement on shifting the start and end dates for 9-month faculty appointment contracts due to the academic calendar change. (AVC Walker)

AVC Walker noted that the University-wide Calendar Committee recommended modifying 2022-2023 academic calendar to accommodate an interim session in early January. She stated that the modification, which received Board of Regents approval on April 8, 2022, inserts a 3-week session on January 3-20 and pushes the start date of classes for the regular spring semester to January 23<sup>rd</sup> with May 13<sup>th</sup> being the last day of classes followed by finals. She pointed out that 9-month faculty members are to report to campus on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, noting that Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> is on Martin Luther King Day which is a federal holiday. She stated that departments/units cannot have required meetings or hold department retreats before January 17<sup>th</sup>. Billesbach asked if this policy applies to faculty on 12-month contracts. AVC Walker stated that it would only apply to the 9-month faculty members, and she asked for the Executive Committee's endorsement of the shift in expected working days for faculty on 9-month appointments.

Kopocis asked if the shift in appointment dates will impact summer pay for 9-month faculty members. AVC Walker reported that there will be a temporary agreement to allow faculty members to receive an overlap of their regular pay and summer pay. Kopocis asked whether research funds could be paid out during January rather than summer. AVC Walker stated that she thinks some of the funding agencies would not agree to this arrangement. She pointed out that another option is to shorten the semester noting that many of our peers have a 14-week semester. She stated that this idea is still on the table for consideration at the system level.

Eklund reported that the modification of the academic calendar can really impact departments in the performing arts who typically have performances in mid to late January. He stated that the departments have to schedule these performances months in advance and noted that previously he had a choral performance coinciding with MLK day which sold out the Lied Center, but he, and the Director of the Lied Center, now have

concerns whether this will happen. He asked when will the online academic calendar be changed to reflect the modified schedule. AVC Walker reported that Registration is working on adjusting the drop/add dates and other deadline dates.

Eklund pointed out that teaching a three-hour class during an interim session can be difficult and noted that the current number of days in the fall and spring semester do not match. AVC Walker reported that there is just a one-day difference between the two semesters. She noted that any shortening of the semester would have to be a system-wide change because keeping the calendar consistent with all the campuses is very important, especially for those faculty members whose appointments are housed at one campus, but also teach at another campus. She reported that a committee at the system level is looking at re-envisioning the academic calendar for the future. Minter asked if the Calendar Committee usually sets the academic calendar for ten years. AVC Walker stated that this is correct, but the pandemic made changes necessary. She noted that there are enormous opportunities with having a January interim session, but it does require a lot of work to make it to happen.

Minter suggested the Executive Committee endorse an adjustment to the working days for academic-year faculty to accommodate the January interim session. The Executive Committee crafted the following motion, “in light of the shifted academic calendar, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee votes to endorse an adjustment to the required working days for academic-year faculty in order to account for the January interim session. Faculty on academic year appointments are required to return to work on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 (recognizing that Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> is MLK holiday) and are on contract through May 26, 2023, which is one week after finals. Thus, academic-year faculty should not be required or expected to attend meetings in advance of January 17, 2022 or after May 26, 2023.” Billesbach moved to accept the motion. Zuckerman seconded the motion which was then approved by the Executive Committee.

### **3.0 Announcements**

#### **3.1 Summer Executive Committee Schedule**

Minter reported that the Executive Committee will begin its summer schedule of meeting every other week and the next meeting will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **4.0 Approval of April 19, 2022 Minutes**

Minter asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Billesbach moved for approval of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Zuckerman and approved by the Executive Committee.

### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

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

Minter reported that she will be meeting with AVC Walker and Director of Faculty Development Hanrahan to get their feedback on the draft Professional Code of Conduct. She noted that one of the committee members who worked on developing the Code proposed some revisions and the committee is interested in having the draft document move forward. She stated that she would report back to the Executive Committee

regarding the proposed revisions and noted that she hopes that the document can be presented to the Faculty Senate in the fall.

## **5.2 Information and Technologies Service Committee (ITSC) Survey**

The Executive Committee wanted to review Past President Kolbe's charge to the ITSC to create a survey about IT at UNL. The Committee thought there may need to be changes to the survey given the recent announcement of changes to Executive Memorandum 16 and cybersecurity policies. The agenda item will be discussed in further detail at the May 17<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, and she suggested inviting CIO Tuttle to a meeting. There will also be discussion on whether the Committee wants to respond to the proposed changes to Executive Memorandum 16 in a more formal way.

## **5.3 Peer Observation Guidelines**

Minter noted that the Executive Committee seemed hesitant to endorse the peer observation process which was discussed with Director Monk and Professor Balschweid at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. She stated that she will be discussing the Executive Committee's concerns of the proposed process with AVC Walker, and Director Hanrahan and she will report back to the Committee about the discussion. Billesbach pointed out that if the Executive Committee should decide to make a motion that it should state that the process is a tool that can be used but is not a requirement.

Zuckerman stated that the process is still underdeveloped and the question of who will be the peer observer still needs to be defined. She noted that faculty members should be able to have a peer observer who they respect and whose opinion they value. Minter stated that the Executive Committee supports the broader principles and concepts of the evaluations but doesn't develop the tool. Billesbach pointed out that the Committee does not have the expertise to evaluate whether this is an effective or ineffective tool. Weissling stated that the Committee might endorse the principle of peer evaluation but does not want to endorse the tool. Minter stated that she would contact Director Monk to tell him that the Committee does not need to endorse the tool.

## **5.4 Graduate Faculty Fellow Status Update**

Weissling noted that the term expiration for a number of Graduate Faculty Associates is expiring soon and asked what the latest is with the Graduate Faculty status situation. Minter stated that Kolbe did talk to Dean Hope who said she is going to meet with the Graduate Council to explore why they turned down the proposed revisions and that she hoped that the Council would vote to approve the revisions in the fall. She noted that Dean Hope had stated in the March 22 meeting with the Executive Committee that extensions would be given for those whose terms were set to expire this year.

# **6.0 New Business**

## **6.1 Faculty Senate Meetings for 2022-2023**

Weissling asked how the Faculty Senate meetings for the next upcoming year will be conducted. Minter stated that the idea is to have the first and last meetings in person in order to present awards and to conduct elections to the Executive Committee, but nothing has been decided for the remainder of the meetings. Griffin suggested that a quick

survey be sent to the Senators asking them to rank their preference for whether to meet in person, hybrid, or strictly by Zoom. The Executive Committee agreed.

## **6.2 Executive Committee Summer Agenda Items**

Minter stated that she hopes to meet with the Deans of each college to discuss the Senate and key discussion items would be service and communications. Zuckerman suggested contacting the Faculty Senates at our sister campuses to see if they have similar concerns about the proposed revisions to Executive Memorandum 16. Minter agreed and noted that there are other groups on campus that also have concerns about the revisions.

Weissling suggested that there needs to be some follow-up on sexual harassment education training on campus and whether all of the promised changes have been made.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the Nebraska Union, Platte River Room north. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.