

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Boudreau, Kolbe, Kopocis, Krehbiel, Lott, Minter, Paul

Absent: Baesu, Bearnese, Billesbach, Eklund, Kopocis, Weissling, Zuckerman

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Location: Nebraska Union, Big Ten Conference Room

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 (*Minter*)

Minter called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

2.0 UNL Police Chief Ramzah

2.1 Data on Campus Crimes

Chief Ramzah reported that the crime statistics are distributed to the campus community through the UNL Police Department website (<https://police.unl.edu/safety-reports-and-statistics>). He noted that the Clery Act requires all universities and colleges that receive federal student-aid funding to report crime statistics annually and stated that the yearly report is based on information from the previous year, but a daily report can be found under the Daily Crime and Fire Log. He reported that there was a decrease in alcohol and drug offenses in 2020 but an increase in the rapes/dating violence number due to a report made by a person involved in a long-term relationship pointing out that each act of violence that occurred during this relationship is recorded as a separate incident.

Minter asked what the distinction was between the categories on campus and on-campus housing and whether on-campus housing includes the Greek houses. Chief Ramzah explained that any crimes committed in Greek houses are recorded under on campus rather than on-campus housing because the Greek houses are not owned by the University, but they do have to adhere to university rules and policies.

2.2 Based on the crime statistics, who are considered the most vulnerable, and when and where are they most vulnerable?

Chief Ramzah pointed out that it is difficult to provide specific demographics on who is most vulnerable but said that students are a larger portion of the campus population, so crimes usually happen more often to students. He noted that the software that the Police Department has does not allow them to delve deep into the types of specifics that would provide information on demographics. He pointed out that most incidents are calls involving alcohol and petty/minor thefts. He stated that sexual assault/dating violence cases occur from time to time, although he noted that not all crimes are reported to university police, particularly sexual assault cases because there are other resources that a victim can go to such as Title IX, the Care office, or CAPS. He stated that UNLPD does not see crime trends, particularly violent crimes similar to those occurring in larger

communities, or many incidents of continued victimization. He pointed out that if there are any indications of a pattern the Police Department puts resources on it promptly.

Kolbe asked if the Faculty Senate can advocate for the UNL Police Department to get software that would provide demographic information. Chief Ramzah stated that there are many different variables to consider, and the records management system need to match with dispatch services. He pointed out that the UNL Police Department is not a primary dispatch center and that it relies on the Lincoln dispatch center, and this would require that UNL's technology and software would need to match Lincoln's. He stated that while the UNL Police Department continues to work towards and look for other software options, we do not have the level of concerns that would necessitate that we have the capability to obtain the granular data that is being asked for by the Executive Committee.

2.3 Are programs like Safewalk and Saferide utilized?

Chief Ramzah stated that the Safewalk program is being utilized by the campus noting that 27 Safewalks were utilized since the current semester began. He noted that there were 7 Safewalks performed during the spring 2022 semester and 34 during the 2021 calendar year. He stated that we do not have a Saferide program although a student on the Police Advisory Board has discussed and is researching similar services on other campuses. He noted that some other universities offer it for both on and off campus.

Minter asked if there is an advocacy role for the Faculty Senate to help support the police on campus. She noted that only 1-3 hate crimes a year are reported and asked if this matches his sense of what he sees while walking on campus. Chief Ramzah stated that the few hate crimes received are reported through a phone call and usually occur in a residence hall. He stated that his staff does a thorough follow up when an incident is reported and speaks to all parties involved and there might be discussion with the Threat Assessment Team, especially if there is the possibility of potential threats. He stated that we are fortunate that we don't see incidents like other universities, but the police continue to work on campus to ensure that these incidents don't happen. He stated that he and his staff want to network with our underserved populations on campus to let them know that the police are there to help them and to encourage them to report any incidents to the police. Minter asked if a hate crime is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Chief Ramzah stated that it is a violation and the UNL Police work closely with Student Affairs on incidents and noted that the Title IX office could also be involved.

Kolbe pointed out that some of the crime statistics include areas other than City and East campuses Chief Ramzah stated that this is correct and that there are a number of different reporting areas that UNL Police have to report about. He noted that the satellite locations are contacted to see what crimes have occurred and sometimes the local police or sheriff are involved.

Boudreau asked if we do a comparison with other universities that are similar in size to us. Chief Ramzah stated that we do but pointed out that every community is different, although we look at how other universities report certain incidents. He noted that the

UNL community is unique with being an urban campus located in the downtown section of the city.

Lott noted that he works out of the North Platte Research and Extension Center, and there are other Extension offices throughout the state, some of which have graduate students working there and it is important to know that if they any incidents occur against them that actions can be taken on their behalf. He asked if there is an existing channel of communication with Student Affairs to report an incident or violation of the Student Code of Conduct. He also asked if there is a way to communicate with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee if there is an opportunity for the Committee to advocate for the UNL Police Department. Chief Hassan stated that it depends on what the incident entails. He pointed out that if it is a criminal matter, they could not discuss particulars of a case. He noted that from a procedural standpoint there is not a process in place that requires the Police Department to contact the Faculty Senate and pointed out that there are some other avenues for communication such as the Police Advisory Board and he noted that for Extension offices and other distant locations of the university, conversations occur with local law enforcement about any incidents that occur. Minter stated that if there is anything that the Executive Committee can do to help with communications to please let us know.

Griffin asked if the Threat Assessment Team is still active. Chief Ramzah stated that it is but has a lower level of activity during the summer months but once the fall semester begins, the work of the Team increases. Minter stated that she is concerned with the pressure students face and the different ways students respond to the pressure. Chief Ramzah stated that mental health is a major issue and the UNL Police go through a regional training program to help de-escalate situations and the department reviews best practices for officer training nationwide. He noted that the campus and the Police Department make sure we have a network in place with service providers both on and off campus to help with the mental health for members of the campus community.

Chief Ramzah reported that the UNL Police provide safety tips both for on and off campus. Some of these include being alert and aware of your surroundings, traveling in numbers, varying your routine or the route you take, keeping valuables secure, using well-lit populated areas, keeping doors and windows locked, reporting suspicious activity to the police, and continuing to be proactive practicing crime prevention and personal safety and responsibility.

Chief Ramzah stated that the UNL Police department has a close, working relationship sharing information with the Lincoln City Police, particularly sharing information about incidents that occur on the boundaries of campus. He noted that if there is an incident occurring 4 blocks away from the edge of campus a UNL Alert would not be generated, however, if an incident occurs on the border of campus, or if a suspect is running towards campus, an Alert will be issued.

Chief Ramzah stated that one of the challenges for the Police Department right now is the recruitment of police officers and he noted that this is a problem occurring across the

country. He pointed out that people are not interested in serving as there were ten years ago and there is a lack of qualified candidates for police officer positions. He reported that currently the UNL Police Department is down by six police officers which puts greater stress on the current police officers. He stated that not every candidate is conducive to the campus environment and efforts are made to find candidates who can not only do the police work, but who can adapt to the needs of the UNL community.

Paul asked if retired or part-time officers would be an option for filling the police vacancies. Chief Ramzah noted that UNO has had some success in hiring retired police officers, but we haven't been as successful, although we do encourage officers certified from other police departments to apply. He pointed out that most officers who retire leave policing entirely and the profession is seeing officers retiring earlier. He reported that part-time officers don't really work well for UNL's needs. He noted that the state has requirements for part-time officers and UNL requires different training and certification.

Minter pointed out that the report states that referrals were made for alcohol or drug violations or other incidents and asked if this means the police received a call, but an arrest was not made. Chief Ramzah stated that this is correct. For instance, an RA may locate a student who has an illegal substance in the dorm and the RA may refer the student to the Student Conduct Office rather than call the police. Minter asked if all campus arrests go through the UNL Police Department. Chief Ramzah stated that the violations listed in the statistics represent UNL cases. He noted that some alcohol and drug referrals could include the Lincoln City Police Department.

Minter asked if the alcohol incidents are difficult to control. Chief Ramzah stated that The Bridge here in Lincoln is no longer accepting admittances for involuntary services, which is where students who were a minor-in-possession were taken for detox. He stated that currently there is no place to take students for detoxification other than a hospital or to jail. He noted that the plan is for the city and county to work together to come up with a solution to the problem and a new facility is slated for construction this fall. Griffin asked what determines whether a student would be taken to detox. Chief Ramzah stated that if the student is unable to physically take care of themselves, they would be taken to either a hospital or jail. Minter asked what would happen if the student was driving while under the influence. Chief Ramzah stated that they would go to jail. He noted that more non-students than students have been taken to The Bridge by the UNL Police.

Chief Ramzah stated that the goal of the UNL Police is to keep the campus safe and we have a very good team that is focused on campus safety and with working with everyone on campus.

Minter thanked Chief Ramzah and reiterated that he should feel free to contact the Executive Committee if it can be of help advocating for his department.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Meeting with Associate to the Chancellor Marc Pearce

Minter reported that the Executive Committee is meeting with Marc Pearce next week to get updates on what is occurring with Title IX, if annual reporting has been conducted, and if suggestions made in the Collaborative on Sexual Misconduct Committee report have been enacted.

4.0 Approval of August 30, 2022 Minutes

Minter asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes, hearing none she asked for a motion to approve. Kolbe moved for approval, Krehbiel seconded the motion which was then approved by the Executive Committee.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Professional Code of Conduct (Minter)

Minter reported that she received feedback from the Senators she consulted with on the draft Code, and she will include the comments in the document and suggested that the Executive Committee members review it. She noted that once finalized she will give the final Code to Associate Vice Chancellor Walker who will run it by the university's legal counsel.

5.2 Draft Email Messages Regarding the Faculty Senate's Responsibility to Act on Academic Matters that Affect More Than One College

Minter reported that she is drafting a memo to remind administrators that when it comes to academic matters that affect more than one college the Regents Bylaws states that the faculty governing body is to act on these matters. She said the Faculty Senate should at least be consulted with and should have a clear presence when decisions such as the experiential learning requirement are made. She noted that she will share the memo with the Executive Committee for feedback.

5.3 Executive Committee Incentive Proposal

Minter reported that she has been speaking with the deans about valuing service and recognizing the service work that faculty members do, particularly those serving on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. She pointed out that there is a significant time commitment to serving on the Committee and a proposal was drafted by Professor Gay, a previous member of the committee, to provide some compensation for the Executive Committee members.

Minter noted that she presented the proposal to EVC Ankerson who said she could imagine people serving over the summer to receive pay, but Minter pointed out that service on the Executive Committee is a clear commitment of time and is additional work for the members. The Executive Committee agreed that it should continue to push for a small stipend for each of the members.

Kolbe stated that at a minimum, a letter should be sent from the EVC or VCIANR stating that departments should adjust the service apportionment for those faculty members serving on the Executive Committee.

Minter stated that she would take the Executive Committee's comments to EVC Ankerson to discuss further.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Correspondence Update

Minter stated that she received several emails regarding the funding former Coach Frost received when he was recently fired. She noted that faculty will be watching the administration to see how strongly they advocate for funding and donations for the academic side of the university. Kolbe pointed out that the funding for Frost's contract buyout came strictly from Athletics and did not take any funds from the academic side of the university. Krehbiel questioned whether these kinds of buyouts impact fundraising for the university. Minter noted that this would probably be difficult information to obtain. She pointed out that these kinds of buyouts can impact faculty morale when faculty salaries are low.

Minter reported that the University-wide Calendar Committee is working on getting information on the January interim. She stated that the academic calendar has been routinized through 2024-2025 and this has been done to allow the campuses to make planning arrangements for future events. She stated that UNL's spring break is currently aligned with LPS' spring break for Spring 2023 and Spring 2024.

Minter reported that she received an email message from a faculty member who reported that he continually has problems with the computer equipment and network in a Henzlik classroom. She noted that ITS has been contacted and they have said that they are working on the problem, but she is unsure whether the problem has been resolved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, September 20, 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.