

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Baesu, Dawes, Eklund, Kopocis, Lott, Paul, Shrader, Tschetter, Vakilzadian

Absent: Bearnese, Boudreau, Minter, Zuckerman

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023

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 (*Kopocis*)

Kopocis called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2.0 EVC Ankerson

2.1 Summer Sessions Enrollment and Update on Fall Enrollment. Have we seen impacts on the summer session courses and on-campus activities from the January term?

EVC Ankerson noted that we are amid the summer sessions, and it is too early to tell what the final enrollment numbers are and how they might be affected by the spring pre-session.

Vakilzadian asked if any trends can be identified with the January pre-session. EVC Ankerson stated that we don't yet have good comparatives; 2020-2021 was the Covid year and the January pre-session was very successful; the following year we offered a two-week pre-session which was less successful. She noted that a student survey occurred this past spring to gain a perspective of what the students thought of the pre-session and there were favorable responses both from students who were enrolled and those who weren't. She stated that a survey will be conducted this fall of students/faculty/staff to gather broader perceptions of impact from the spring 2023 pre-session. Vakilzadian asked if graduation numbers increased due to the pre-session. EVC Ankerson stated that graduation numbers have been setting records during the past few years.

EVC Ankerson reported that first-time freshmen and transfer student numbers are looking good compared to last year and international student enrollment is up slightly. Summer melt is low and overall, our enrollment numbers will still be down slightly this fall (as projected) due to the large graduating classes. She stated that we are carefully monitoring graduate student enrollment noting that Dean Hope is working with Global Affairs to be aware of any difficulties for students to obtain visas. She stated that it is possible additional offers may be made to other graduate students but noted that it is more challenging to predict graduate student enrollment until the students actually enroll.

Eklund asked if master students who only take classes during the summer are counted in the summer session enrollment or the spring or fall semester. EVC Ankerson stated that

they would be included in the summer enrollment figures. Eklund asked if summer enrollment is included in our enrollment reports. EVC Ankerson stated that the leading summer enrollment is included in our overall enrollment numbers. Eklund asked if many people take class during the second five-week session. EVC Ankerson stated that many students do, and noted that during summer, we offer a 3-week pre-session, two five-week sessions, and an eight-week session. Kopocis pointed out that Engineering has a 10-week session during the summer. Eklund asked if someone can get more than 10 credit-hours during the summer. EVC Ankerson reported that there are rules about how many credit-hours can be taken during the summer, although she does not have that information directly in front of her. Kopocis asked if there is a difference in the rules for undergraduates and graduates. Tschetter stated that the rules differ for graduate and undergraduate students.

EVC Ankerson reported that there was a University-Wide Calendar Committee meeting a few weeks ago and AVC Walker had prepared an Excel file showing the number of calendar days this year between the last day of finals in the spring semester and the first of the fall semester. She pointed out that this summer there are only 94 calendar days separating the two dates, while the average of our Big Ten peers is 110, and for our Regents peers it is 105. She noted that many of our peers have a 14-week semester, and the Calendar Committee has agreed to look at different scenarios including a 14-week semester and a 15-week semester with no pre-session. She stated that any academic calendar will be synchronized across UNL, UNO, and UNK.

2.2 What are your strategies for dealing with President Carter's 5-point plan and his idea of a zero-based budget?

EVC Ankerson reported that enrollment is a big item in President Carter's 5-point plan because the campuses' budgets are based on enrollment projections. She pointed out that UNL's administration tries to be as accurate as possible with enrollment projection numbers but due to the changing landscape over the last five years, enrollment can be difficult to predict. She also noted the comprehensive nature of enrollment; that it includes strategic recruitment and admissions of first-time freshmen, transfer, graduate and professional students; and importantly, in retaining those students who are already here.

EVC Ankerson stated that there is a system-wide committee reviewing the Regents scholarship model, noting that Justin Chase Brown, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, is UNL's representative on the committee.

Vakilzadian asked if there is a strategy for having the same number of scholarships for each of the campuses. EVC Ankerson stated that UNL has many remission and scholarship programs that are not funded externally (such as the Regents), however there are a number of university as well as college and departmental scholarships that are privately funded. She noted that each campus has different scholarship opportunities in addition to the Regents. She stated that the Regents scholarships are governed to a certain extent by the Board of Regents, but the Board does not set the parameters and the qualifications to gain a Regents scholarship. She pointed out that UNL's qualifications

for obtaining the Regents scholarship are higher because we have higher admission standards. Vakilzadian asked about qualifications for privately funded scholarships. EVC Ankerson stated that the qualifications vary based on stipulations set by the donor. Kopocis noted that President Carter talked about expanding scholarships to include housing costs.

Eklund stated that he was told that the colleges must absorb or pay back some of the cost of the Regents scholarships and asked if this is correct. EVC Ankerson stated that with the way the incentive-based budget model is envisioned, the remissions would be allocated to the colleges. Eklund asked where the incentive-based budget model stands currently. EVC Ankerson reported that it is not fully implemented, and the new Chancellor will need time to get acclimated before we can revisit the budget model.

EVC Ankerson stated that in terms of academic program array, we need to think in terms of how we could work across the campuses and see if there are duplications or undersubscribed programs. She noted that the President's plan indicated 20 programs are being offered on all three campuses and 20 other programs are being offered on two of the campuses. She noted that Provost Gold is gathering data on the duplicate programs for the CAOs to review. She pointed out that the CAOs will develop approaches to duplication across campuses that allow us to make the most of our collective resources. Shrader asked how long it would take to develop these systems. EVC Ankerson reported that the President's plan indicates we need to have ideas developed by December 31. Kopocis asked if anything is happening with the University Council that President Carter talked about at the June Board meeting. EVC Ankerson stated that she has not heard of anything yet. She pointed out that there is an email address for submitting concerns or service issues resulting from organizational changes (solutions@nebraska.edu).

EVC Ankerson pointed out that the zero-based budget that President Carter talked about at the Board meeting is not a budget "model" but an exercise model that will look at the budgets in the units (except academic units). She noted that she does not have any further information on it at this time. She stated that the hiring freeze has already been put in place and just very recently further information about the freeze was distributed to the campuses.

2.3 Update on Searches: Dean of Libraries, Associate VC of ASEM. What happened with the VC of Student Affairs search?

EVC Ankerson reported that the search firm of Korn Ferry has been hired for the Dean of Libraries search and the position description has been finalized and posted. She stated that the expectation is for campus interviews to occur after the fall break.

EVC Ankerson stated strong appreciation that AVC Volkmer has agreed to serve another year as Interim AVC of ASEM with the plan to begin the search for a permanent AVC after the first of the year. She stated that the search firm Witt Keifer is being used for the Director of Admissions search and the hope is to have it successfully completed with a person in place by the end of September.

EVC Ankerson noted that VC Bellows has agreed to stay on until August 5th, and that July is a time for Associate Dean Watts to onboard in preparation for transition into the position of Interim VC of Student Affairs.

2.4 Status of the Professional Code of Conduct

EVC Ankerson stated that she believed that AVC Walker was waiting to hear from Minter about some further revisions to the Code. Kopocis stated that she will consult with Minter about the status of the Code and see if Minter could meet with AVC Walker to discuss it.

2.5 Status of Guidelines for Evaluation of Faculty

EVC Ankerson reported that a copy of the updated proposed revisions was sent to the Deans at the end of May for their consideration (the same version sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee) and they will be discussing the guidelines at the Deans' Council retreat this August. She noted that AVC Walker has received some feedback from the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee and from General Counsel and will update the proposed revisions to the guidelines. She stated that once the guidelines have been updated and shared with the deans, their comments will be incorporated and then it will first go to the Senate Executive Committee for review and then to the full Senate.

2.6 What has AVC Shriner been working on?

EVC Ankerson stated that AVC Shriner comes with many years of experience and has a wealth of information from his previous work with the consulting firm EAB. She reported that he has consulted with the deans about their aspirations for online education and reviewed projections of what programs we could successfully offer. She noted that he is also looking at our infrastructure. She noted that AVC Shriner's responsibility is for online programs including marketing strategies for these programs. She stated that he is focusing on credit bearing programs first and working with programs that are ready to be launched. She noted that he is also developing a manual of best practices that includes an array of different strategies for online education. Kopocis stated that she recently met with AVC Shriner to discuss graduate certificates and said he had very good suggestions.

2.7 Where is the report from Ruffalo Noel Levitz?

EVC Ankerson explained that we did not ask for a specific report from them but instead have asked for their assistance with an infrastructure of best practices to flush out our strengths and weaknesses that inform our undergraduate recruitment strategies. She stated that they have been a good partner and their active involvement is important since the recruiting landscape is changing so rapidly. Kopocis asked if we will develop a greater social media presence because she does not see UNL showing up on social media like UNO and UNK do. EVC Ankerson reported that there is an effective marketing team working on our digital marketing campaigns and will look into the algorithms for social media presence mentioned.

2.8 What is the status regarding classes on August 30th?

EVC Ankerson noted that all instructors received an email on May 25th about the possibility of classes being moved to an instructional continuity day on August 30th due to the scheduled volleyball match that will take place in the stadium. She stated that an announcement will likely be made sometime soon about it, but she anticipates that it will be considered an instructional continuity day.

Vakilzadian asked why the decision was made to close everything off on a Wednesday for an athletic event pointing out that athletics should not take precedence over academics. EVC Ankerson stated that AVC Alberts' first attempt was to have the game on a weekend but since football schedules will have already started, it wouldn't work to have the game on a weekend. She pointed out that there was a lot of work taking place between Business and Finance and Athletics to schedule the volleyball event. She reported that she gathered input from Senate leadership, and various others to consider the potential disruption that would be caused by having 80,000 people coming to campus prior to making her recommendation to the Chancellor. She noted that she understands the concerns, particularly for the lab classes.

Griffin asked whether employees are expected to come into work. EVC Ankerson stated that employees, depending on their position, will likely not be expected to come into the office but work remotely and final instructions about the day will be sent by the Chancellor.

3.0 Announcements

Kopocis reported that the Executive Committee will be meeting with VP Kabourek, AVP Carlson, and VC Zeleny on July 25th to discuss problems with getting vendors and people paid for the work they are doing for the university.

4.0 Approval of June 27, 2023 Minutes

Kopocis asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none, she asked for approval of the minutes. Tschetter moved and Shrader seconded approval of the minutes. Motion approved by the Executive Committee.

5.0 Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

6.0 New Business

No new business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the Nebraska Union, Platte River Room South. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.