

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Baesu, Boudreau, Dawes, Eklund, Kopocis, Minter, Shrader, Tschetter, Vakilzadian, Zuckerman

Absent: Bearnese, Lott

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Location: 203 Alexander Building

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 2:32 p.m.

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee

Minter reported that the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee met and reviewed the data that was available last year. She noted that last year the Committee opted not to send a letter of recommendation to former Chancellor Green due to the impending budget reductions and the fact that Chancellor Green was retiring at the end of June. She stated that the Committee will be meeting again once the data for this year is obtained.

3.0 Approval of November 7, 2023 Minutes

Kopocis asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tschetter moved and Shrader seconded approving the minutes. Motion approved by the Executive Committee.

4.0 Unfinished Business

4.1 Faculty Code of Conduct

Minter reported that the most recent draft of the Faculty Code of Conduct was sent to General Counsel, and they only found a concern about two mutually exclusive statements within the document that are competing sentences. She asked that the Code be on the November 28th Executive Committee agenda to review it one last time before it goes to the Faculty Senate in December.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Interview Questions for AVC for Faculty Affairs Candidates

The Executive Committee drafted the following interview questions for the internal candidates for the AVC for Faculty Affairs.

- Can you share your views on shared governance and what you perceive your role to be with shared governance as AVC for Faculty Affairs?
- What would you do in terms of faculty expectations and reviews for faculty positions across the campus?

- How do you view peer evaluation of teaching and how would you ensure quality and equity in the process?
- Can you give an example of how you had to solve a complicated situation involving faculty that you had to deal with. What were the stakes and how did you contribute to addressing the problem?
- How would you address faculty morale issues during these challenging times that the University is in?
- What would you do in terms of faculty expectations and reviews for faculty positions across the campus? How would you address equity issues in faculty evaluations?
- How do you manage difficulties in dealing with different faculty members?
- Can you provide an example of your knowledge of faculty rights as stated in the Board of Regents Bylaws?

5.2 Report on Big Ten Academic Alliance Faculty Leadership Conference

Eklund reported that he attended the BTAA Faculty Leadership Conference which this year was held at the University of Minnesota. He noted that the President of University of Minnesota also serves as Chancellor of the Minneapolis-St. Paul campus.

Eklund stated that there was a session on the future of AI and ChatGPT and how faculty and universities are going to address the use of it. He noted that most of those in attendance felt that AI was still in its infancy, but that it was something that will need to be addressed. The discussion also focused on how universities are going to have to figure out how much information gathered by ChatGPT and AI is going to be retained and they will need to assess whether students will retain any knowledge by using ChatGPT.

Eklund reported that another topic of discussion was how many days student athletes are allowed to miss class. He noted that many of the attendees felt that UNL had one of the best support programs for student athletes.

Eklund stated that discussion also focused on each institution's structure of their Faculty Senate and how this structure works as well as what the Senate does and what it does not do for faculty members.

Eklund reported that groundwork was laid to get the BTAA to host a website that would house documents pertaining to faculty governance from each of the Big Ten universities. He noted that another major issue was about free speech and how governors are trying to impose themselves on universities.

Tschetter asked if there was any discussion about university budgets. Eklund stated that everyone in attendance was very vague about this.

5.3 Agenda Items for Chancellor Bennett and VC Boehm

The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for the Chancellor and VC Boehm:

- Are you aware of any incidents on campus of people being targeted due to the Israeli-Gaza conflict?
- What advice do you have so that we can have a great working relationship?
- Do you have any idea of how structurally we will connect with UNMC to help us get back into the AAU?
- Is Trev Alberts still an AVC of UNL since he now reports to the President of the NU system? Will the Director of Athletics continue to report to the President of the system rather than returning to the Chancellor of UNL?
- General Counsel input was being sought to see if Nebraska Extension can provide green card sponsorship. Has General Counsel responded to this inquiry?
(Boehm)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration Building. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.