

UNL FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 2022
Presidents Deb Minter and Kelli Kopocis Presiding
East Campus Union, Great Plains Room A and Zoom

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Announcements

2.1 Council on Inclusive Excellence and Diversity (CIED)

President Minter reported that she is stepping down from the CIED in order to serve as President of the Faculty Senate and noted that there will be an opening for a Senate representative on the CIED. She stated that the Council meets monthly and serves as a communications channel between and across units and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. She stated that anyone interested should contact either herself or Coordinator Griffin. She stated that an email message will be sent to the Senators to see if anyone is interested in serving.

2.2 Graduate Faculty Voting

President Minter reported that a vote of the Graduate Faculty will be occurring soon on the proposed revisions to the Graduate College Policy Handbook. She noted that the revisions are a year-long effort to regularize and clarify the opportunities for Professors of Practice to become Graduate Faculty Fellows. She reminded Graduate Faculty to vote on the upcoming changes as these changes are important to all departments with graduate programs.

3.0 Vice Chancellor Boehm

VC Boehm stated that it was great to see people, especially those that usually do not visit East Campus. He stated that he wanted to provide some updates and then would open the discussion for any questions. He noted that for those not familiar with IANR, it includes the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources headed by Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss, Nebraska Extension headed by Dean Charlie Stoltenow, and the Agriculture Research Division which is currently headed by Dean Archie Clutter but who is retiring at the end of the year. He stated that the Dean of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture reports to him because he also serves as the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources for the University of Nebraska. He pointed out that there are three departments in the College of Education and Human Sciences that have some funding from Extension, and noted that there are 650 faculty members in IANR with a little less than half of these faculty members being on a tenure-track line. He stated that there are 15 academic units, about 23 integrated centers, and then there are 11 centers located across Nebraska. He reported that there are approximately 350 specialty track faculty members which are faculty lines that do not carry tenure. He noted that there are 182 Extension Educators, and about 1,200 staff members. He stated that there are 3,300 students in CASNR, so about every day there are approximately five thousand people in IANR who are thinking about the third largest agricultural economy in the nation, pointing out that California and Iowa are first and second and Nebraska third. He stated that every year the agricultural economy contributed about \$82 billion to Nebraska's economy. He pointed out that of the roughly 1,800 faculty and staff of IANR, about six hundred live and work in one of Nebraska's 93 counties.

VC Boehm reported that some highlights of recent successes include IANR celebrating its third consecutive year of record-breaking research funding in 2022, the ground-breaking for the \$7.5 million expansion of the Feedlot Innovation Center at Eastern Nebraska Research Extension and Education Center near Mead which could help revolutionize UNL research. He stated that the Governor recently approved LB 703, a mid-biennium budget package for the state that makes investments in key priorities of the University of Nebraska System, including UNL's agricultural innovation facility. He noted that the bill provides \$25 million towards a \$50 million facility that

will be on Innovation Campus, and noted that the University, in partnership with Invest Nebraska, has a partnership with the University to have a small incubator start-up for ag tech companies. This is called The Combine and the university will be super charging it by creating an 80,000 square foot facility on Innovation Campus to incubate new technologies for both small and large companies. He noted that he has been working with President Carter and Chancellor Green to raise the additional \$25 million needed for the facility.

VC Boehm reported that in August Dr. Karen St. Germain, director of NASA's earth sciences division, spoke on campus during the Heurmann lecture on "Space for Ag: NASA Satellites and Sciences to Support Food and Water Security." He noted that there are 25 satellites that fly around the earth and NASA plays a significant role in studying earth through these satellites and providing data to help develop technologies to give farmers better tools. He pointed out that there are scientists in the School of Natural Resources that use the data from both NASA and the European Space Agency to monitor drought situations and the nutritional status of crop plants which allows scientists to develop precision techniques. He reported that Dr. St. Germain brought a team with her, and they were on campus for four days visiting classes and meeting with farmers and producers.

VC Boehm reported that part of a \$25 million grant is coming to UNL from the Build Back Better Regional Challenge to support the Heartland Robotics Cluster which is led by the Invest Nebraska Corporation and which aims to accelerate Nebraska's leadership in the agricultural industry through robotic technologies and advanced manufacturing automation. He stated that other project partners include the Northeast Community College and Metro Community College.

VC Boehm noted that enrollment is on everyone's mind with the University's total enrollment now below 50,000 students. He stated that everyone needs to assist with recruiting students and reported that President Carter and Chancellor Green are engaging with the Legislature but noted that there will be at least 15 new unicameral members. He reported that President Carter is requesting a 3% increase in the university's budget.

VC Boehm reported that in response to the N2025 Plan's of Every Person and Interaction Matters, CASNR has developed a diversity and inclusion framework (<https://casnr.unl.edu/diversity-inclusion>). He noted that a student success framework (<https://casnr.unl.edu/student-success-strategic-framework>) has also been developed and it focuses on increasing degree completion and closing the equity gap. He pointed out that this is a college-wide engagement that also prioritizes retention, graduation outcomes, and students' holistic development.

VC Boehm stated that CASNR is continuing to advance its framework for graduate education (<https://casnr.unl.edu/framework-graduate-education>). He stated that this framework develops a sustainable pathway to grow enrollments and to be the destination for diverse educational pathways at the nexus of food, energy, water, and societal systems. He noted that there will be a focus on the continuum of learners with teaching and learning innovations which will be amplified through CASNR's partnerships.

VC Boehm reported that CASNR's enrollment of over 3,300 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students show an increase of 7.1% which is the second largest enrollment for new students and includes a 25% increase in new out-of-state students. He pointed out that the first-year retention rate is up by 6.7 percentage points for a total retention rate of 85.2%. He noted that the number of May graduates was the second largest in the history of CASNR, the 4-year graduation rate was an increase of 20% over the last five years, and the 6-year graduation rate is the highest for UNL. He stated that competition for graduate students is difficult and pointed out that our stipends need to be adjusted.

VC Boehm reported that during the pandemic an initiative to have a public partnership with Lincoln Public Schools was created involving Northeast High School. He stated that a fused program was developed with 850 students participating in working towards an early career and college readiness program. He noted that a room next to the Dairy Store has been renovated for use by the Northeast High School student partners.

VC Boehm stated that just before the pandemic the Northeast Nebraska Agriculture and Natural Resources Education Compact was created. He stated that the compact has 22 partnerships with public school systems, community colleges, tribal colleges, and the university and pointed out that the trajectory for success for the students is greatly influenced by the compact. He reported that the single focus of the compact is to remove barriers for students to succeed and begins in kindergarten on up to a four-year college degree. He reported that similar initiatives are occurring in Scottsbluff, North Platte, and Geary.

VC Boehm reported that in 2006 CASNR had 1,500 students, but today it has 3,300. He stated that this was accomplished by an incredible push by faculty, staff, and supporters of CASNR to let prospective students know that CASNR is a destination, especially for those interested in food sustainability. He noted that when he first came to UNL there was a record high enrollment of students and the University worked to establish a program with Rwanda and the Buffett Foundation supported 50 Rwandan students a year to attend UNL. He reported that these students have now started graduating and CASNR was aware that there would be a drop in enrollment, however, enrollment numbers now are back up to where they were in 2019. He noted that CASNR recently had its largest first-year class and recruiting efforts will include eligible students from other states.

VC Boehm noted that Dean Charlie Stoltenow, who served as an Associate Director for Extension at North Dakota State University joined UNL in January and is now the Dean of Nebraska Extension. He reported that Extension has been working extremely hard engaging the citizens of the State to see what their major concerns are. He stated that chief among the concerns is enhancing health and well-being, retaining and attracting young people to their communities, developing a skilled workforce, creating statewide economic vitality, and leveraging strengths for sustained success. From these concerns, Extension developed what they call The Big 3: strengthen Nebraska agriculture and food systems, inspiring Nebraskans and their communities, and enhance the health and wellbeing of all Nebraskans. He pointed out that Extension is the local connection with the University across the state and brings relevant research and resources directly to the people of the State and engages with the citizens to create an even more prosperous future for all.

VC Boehm stated that the mission of the Agricultural Research Division is to “support the science to ensure resilient food systems and a healthy global future.” He pointed out that research awards are only half of the research expenditures and that external research funds received by the faculty and teams over the years accumulate to \$45 - \$70 million. He stated that these kinds of data, including trend patterns and our investments, need to be considered when we are looking at the incentive-based budget model because these things can bring different returns. He pointed out that not all returns are monetary and certain markers of success need to be considered with the budget model. He reported that Professor Helikar from Biochemistry received a Catalyst award to draft a digital immune system, and Professor Cahoon, Biochemistry, is leading an interdisciplinary team to

explore the potential of two oilseeds for biofuels and bioproducts noting that these are just two of the recent research endeavors to receive research grants.

VC Boehm reported that Dr. Derek McLean will become the new Dean of the Agricultural Research Division after Dean Archie Clutter retires at the end of December. He noted that Dr. McLean spent 10 years at Washington State University as a Professor of Animal Science, then moved into the private sector for 7 years with a start-up firm, and then pivoted to the National Institute for Health where he was the senior adviser on the HIV Aids program.

Professor Peterson, Agricultural Economics, noted that there used to be four statues on East Campus of Nebraskans of who have served as Secretary of Agriculture. He asked what has happened to the statues. VC Boehm reported that he was aware that the statues would be removed at some point for safe keeping while the landscaping between the East Campus Union, Massengale Residence Hall, the Dairy Store, and the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons was being renovated, but he did not know when this was going to occur and learned of it only when he heard the jackhammers one day. He stated that the landscaping will not begin until spring and once completed the statues will be relocated on campus. He pointed out that there is now a statue on campus of George Beadle, an alumnus who was a Noble Prize winner from Wahoo.

Professor Dunigan, Plant Pathology, asked if our challenge in enrollment is being seen by other universities in our region. VC Boehm stated that all of the colleges and schools in Nebraska are wrestling with the fierce competition of getting eligible students to enroll in their institution. He pointed out that nationally the decrease in the number of high school graduates along with an erosion of confidence in the need to get a four-year degree, and the cost of not only of attendance but the cost of housing and other services is presenting challenges in recruiting students. He stated that we need to figure out a way to keep the totality of a land grant university going without putting the cost on the back of the parents and students. He noted that trying to keep the costs and tuition rates down creates a struggle and pointed out that we will need to change the scenario in some way to increase enrollment or the other option might be to trim the budget.

4.0 Approval of October 4, 2022 Minutes

President Minter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Professor Weissling, Special Education and Communication Disorders, moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Professor Peterson and then approved by the Faculty Senate.

5.0 Committees

5.1 University Recognitions and Commencement Committee (Professor Gorman)

Professor Gorman reported that this year commencement ceremonies were held in person, although special precautions, such as wider spacing between seats, was needed due to the continuation of the threat of Covid infection. He stated that the May undergraduate ceremony is going to be permanently moved to the stadium, noting that extra measures do need to be taken to hold the ceremony there.

5.2 Research Council

President Minter noted that the Research Council report was in the packet, but the chair was not present to give the report. She stated that the chair will be contacted to see if he can present the report at the December meeting.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.0 Motion to Approve Revisions to the Procedures to Be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions

President Minter noted that the resolution was presented at the October 4th meeting. She pointed out that only the proposed revisions are being considered and reported that the Academic Planning Committee approved the changes at its September 14, 2022, meeting and ASUN approved the changes at its October 12, 2022, meeting. She stated that if the changes are approved, the revised document will be sent to Chancellor Green for his review and approval. She pointed out that the motion is coming from the Executive Committee and therefore does not need a second. She then asked the Senate to vote, and the motion was approved by the Faculty Senate.

6.2 Resolution to Support the Staff Senate

President Minter noted that at the October 4th meeting the motion was introduced and there was a lengthy discussion about it. She stated that the motion from the Executive Committee is to show support for the creation of a Staff Senate, and she pointed out that it is not in the Faculty Senate's purview to approve the formation of the Staff Senate. Professor Lott, Extension Zone 3, moved to approve the motion. Professor Cupp, Animal Science, seconded the motion. The Faculty Senate approved the motion.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Honorary Degree Ballot

President Minter reported that the nomination of the individual was sent to the Senators yesterday and voting would take place tomorrow electronically.

7.2 Open Mic

Graduate Student Health Insurance

Professor VanderPlas, Statistics, reported that one of her graduate students is pregnant and is expecting in January yet the graduate student health insurance does not cover pregnancies which forced the student to go on Medicaid. She asked why graduate students do not have comprehensive health insurance. President Minter stated that the Executive Committee recently met with GSA President Donesky and discussed graduate student health insurance. She reported that the University system is conducting a survey of the health care needs of the graduate students across the university system, and she believes the insurance is coming up for rebidding. She pointed out that, unlike the employees' health insurance, which is self-insured, graduate student health insurance is not self-insured, so insurance needs to be purchased from an insurance company. Associate to the Chancellor Zeleny suggested that the University Health Center might be able to help and suggested that Professor VanderPlas direct the student to the UHC.

EM 16

Professor Stevenson, English, asked if the Executive Committee completed its work on EM 16. President Minter pointed out that EM 16 was signed by President Carter, and it is now in place. She reported that the Executive Committee is working through the Senate's Information Technology Services Committee (ITSC) and CIO Tuttle to check on how the policy is being implemented. She noted that the Senate has the [Policy on the Acceptable Use of Software Systems Management and Deployment](#), approved by the Senate in 2018, but which is now out of compliance with EM 16. She reported that the Executive Committee has been thinking about options on whether the policy should be changed to be in compliance or whether a preamble just needs to be included. She stated that the Executive Committee decided to ask the ITSC to review the policy and suggest what approach the Senate should take.

President Minter reported that when President Carter met with the Executive Committee on October 18, there was considerable discussion regarding EM 16 and other related matters, one of which was that the faculty felt that shared governance was definitely overlooked when tighter cybersecurity

measures were being reviewed. She stated that President Carter seemed genuinely concerned about it. She noted that we are trying to work within some of the structures that we have in place, but these processes are slightly slower.

Professor Dunigan pointed out that at the October Senate meeting there were significant questions that needed to be addressed regarding EM 16. He asked how these questions are going to be addressed and then presented to faculty, staff, and students. He questioned what these changes mean to students, especially since they own their own devices, and whether the University would require the end-point management software to be installed on student's computers. President Minter suggested that CIO Tuttle be asked to speak to the Senate again to address some of the questions that continue to be raised. She reported that CIO Tuttle met with faculty in her department and the question about student computers was raised. She noted that CIO Tuttle stated that students use medium-risk data and applications outside the university so students' devices would not be managed. However, she pointed out that it still raises questions for faculty members because CIO Tuttle stated that if instructors have the same applications than they would have to be managed.

Professor Stevenson questioned how many UNL employees are going to have the end-point management program installed on their personal devices and asked whether all graduate students and lecturers have university laptops. President Minter stated that the question was raised in the English department meeting with CIO Tuttle. Professor Paul, Center for Children, Families, and the Law, noted that there is a [FAQ page](#) website which has a question regarding the impacts on students.

Professor Eklund, Glenn Korff School of Music, reported that President Carter told the Executive Committee that cybersecurity insurance could jump to \$2.5 million, and if faculty want to apply for a federal grant, they must show that the university has cybersecurity measures in place. He noted that the future of cybersecurity insurance is making every university in the country take a careful look at their cybersecurity.

Professor Lott pointed out that there seems to be questions beyond what is being addressed on the FAQ website. He stated that we need more clarity. President Minter stated that she thinks it would be best to have CIO Tuttle come to speak to the Senate. Professor Weissling encouraged Senators to read the FAQs before they start formulating questions because some of their answers may be addressed in the FAQ.

President Minter reported that she has been in touch with the other campuses about the changes to EM 16. She stated that UNK and UNO have some concerns but not as many as UNL, and UNMC already has cybersecurity measures in place for their system. She noted that UNK and UNO are willing to join in on specific concerns.

Travel Policies

Professor Nikolova, Finance, asked to what extent do faculty have input on the travel policy. She pointed out that faculty have been very frustrated with the travel policy and how it is being implemented. She noted that it can be difficult to comply with the policy and to ensure that you get reimbursed for your travel expenses. She stated that Fox Travel is not open on the weekend and if a faculty member has travel difficulties, they cannot get help from the travel agency.

President Minter noted that travel was centralized when the Budget Reduction Task Forces were created in 2018. She stated that administrators have been hearing numerous complaints from faculty members about the difficulties with travel and complaints were raised with President Carter. She stated that she hopes that there will be greater faculty involvement when the travel contract is renewed. She pointed out that the travel policies are particularly difficult for many UNL faculty because travel is often required for research. She stated that the Executive Committee will continue to press the problems with travel.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Nebraska Union, Regency Suite and by Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator, and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.