

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Billesbach, Buan, Dam, Dawes, Eklund, Franco Cruz, Gay, Hanrahan, Kolbe, Krehbiel, Minter, Weissling, Woodman

**Absent:** Kolbe

**Date:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021

**Location:** Zoom meeting

**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 (*Buan*)

Buan called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

### 2.0 Announcements

No announcements were made.

### 3.0 Approval of March 30, 2021 Minutes

Buan asked if there were any further revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she asked for approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee.

### 4.0 Unfinished Business

#### 4.1 Meeting with Chancellor Green to Discuss AAUP Censure Redress Proposal

Buan reported that she met with Chancellor Green and they discussed the soon to be formed IBB budget advisory committee. She noted that the Chancellor is working to finalize how he would like the advisory committee structured, but the precise number of members and the responsibilities of the committee have not been finalized yet. She stated that the advisory committee will be co-chaired by VC Nunez and Professor Bloom and the plan is to have faculty, staff, students, and deans represented on the committee with a substantial amount of the members being faculty. She noted that the Faculty Senate would be consulted for identifying faculty members to serve on the advisory committee. She pointed out that the advisory committee would liaison with the Academic Planning Committee.

Buan stated that the Chancellor also discussed the proposed revisions to the Board of Regents Bylaws which will be voted on at the April 9 Board meeting. She noted that the revisions were separated into two agenda items to allow one of the Regents to recuse themselves from voting because of a conflict of interest regarding the Extension Educator interlocal agreement.

Buan reported that she and the Chancellor also discussed removal of AAUP censure, and she reported that Mark Criley from the AAUP national office has been in touch with the Chancellor's office, but the national office is waiting for the Board to approve the

revisions to the Bylaws before moving forward. She stated that the Chancellor promised to look at the Executive Committee's redress proposal and will keep the Committee informed about contacts with the AAUP.

Buan stated that she and the Chancellor spoke about Virginia Tech's plans for providing graduate assistants and reducing course loads for faculty members. She stated that the Chancellor pointed out that there are tight restrictions on how the stimulus funding can be used and it must be used specifically to address costs associated with the COVID pandemic.

Buan reported that she discussed with the Chancellor the need to create an Asian Studies program and noted that it would be good for our institution to expand Asiatic studies. She pointed out to the Chancellor that there is a lack of Asian or PPAI administrators at UNL. Billesbach asked what happened to the Confucius Institute. Buan stated that these were all closed across the country because of the concern that the Chinese government were funding them. Gay pointed out that there was a real academic freedom violation with the Institutes because discussions about Taiwan, Tibet, or the Uyghurs was prohibited.

#### **4.2 Faculty Senate Handbook**

Franco Cruz stated that he looked at other University's websites to see if they had Faculty Senate Handbooks and found that they did not, but what many of them had was a Faculty Handbook. He reported that he was told there used to be a Faculty Handbook, but it is no longer available. Hanrahan stated that there was an Academic Services Handbook which can now be found on the web (<https://registrar.unl.edu/resources/AcademicServicesHandbook.pdf>) and while it does have some useful information for faculty, it is geared more towards students. Franco Cruz suggested that a Faculty Handbook needs to be created. Buan noted that this was a good idea and stated that she would contact AVC Walker to see about working with them on such a handbook.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Stimulus Funding and Athletics**

Weissling wondered why the Chancellor includes the losses Athletics has suffered this past year when he speaks to the Faculty Senate about the financial impacts of the pandemic and stimulus funding. She pointed out that Athletics has been separately funded for many years. Buan pointed out that the academic budget and Athletics is linked because Athletics has provided \$10 million to support scholarships and other academic funding needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Lorna Dawes, Secretary.