

Arts and Sciences Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes  
Zoom Meeting  
Thursday, January 14, 2021  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Attendees: Cristina Alcalde, Ruth Beattie, Christian Brady, Anna Bosch, Betty Lorch, Sarah Lyon, Carrie Oser, Peter Perry, Brian Rymond, Rich Schein, Michelle Sizemore, Suzanne Segerstrom, and Akiko Takenaka

Akiko Takenaka called the meeting to order.

### Minutes

- Minutes from the December 17, 2020 committee meeting were reviewed. Carrie Oser moved that the minutes be accepted as submitted, and Michelle Sizemore seconded the motion; the committee unanimously approved.

### Budget Update

- Akiko asked for an update regarding the Governor's budget announcement. Dean Brady stated that the announcement was for a 1% budget increase which still must be approved, but is likely to not be approved because there are no new taxes coming in. The main thing to take away from the announcement is that we are no longer under threat of a budget cut from the state. Regarding the college budget, Dean Brady stated that he continues to work on the budget with Jennifer Bradshaw and Lisa Wilson. They are working with the Provost to come up with plan to make the college solvent. The Provost will present the plan to the President and EVPFA. We are looking at \$3M deficit in each the recurring and non-recurring funds. Dean Brady stated his inclination is to ask for all of it to be infused into the college's budget by central administration, but the Provost wants the college to have a plan whereas we would make some cuts as well. We will not have to get rid of a department or programs. The intention is to look at where cuts can possibly be made, but to also develop a strategy for moving forward.
- Brian Rymond stated in clarification that we are at a total of \$6M deficit and therefore are underfunded, and need that money infused into our budget. Dean Brady said the Provost feels we need to make a goodwill gesture and bring something to the table in the negotiation. He said if A&S were in a balanced budget, he would be asking for a budget increase to support growth in particular areas of the college to support increased student enrollment. But because we are currently overcommitted, he is going to argue to hold our current funding level and ask that central administration provide us with the deficit contribution to our budget.
- Peter Perry asked how this impacts the search for a new dean? Dean Brady said he has also expressed this concern and the Provost wants to get the budget issue resolved before interviewing potential candidates.
- Carrie Oser asked Dean Brady what he is thinking about proposing to the Provost since we are already so lean. Dean Brady responded that is still combing through the budget,

but we may have to look at TA lines. We would need to look at how to do this in such a way that is not capricious. This would not just have a financial impact but also a reputational impact and will impact faculty decisions as to whether they stay or go. There are a significant number of people are over age 70 and COVID is making many consider retirement. If we could quantify the retirements and not rehire those positions, this could be another option.

- Brian stated that TAs are particularly sensitive this time of year because this is recruitment season. He asked if the DGSs have been told to hold on graduate recruiting? Sarah Lyon responded that everyone is moving forward with graduate student recruitment at this time. If there are any changes, she will let everyone know. Betty Lorch stated that junior faculty are dependent on TA support and this could impact their productivity.
- Akiko commented that losing TA lines will have different consequences for different departments, particularly those that have numerous large classes.
- Carrie asked what the timeline is for submitting the budget? Dean Brady said they are working on a plan to submit to the Provost the week of January 18.
- Peter asked if the Executive Committee would see the budget before it is submitted. Dean Brady said he will share it with the Executive Committee, Chairs, and Associate Deans, but it will not be brought forth for a vote.

#### Update on the College Audit

- Dean Brady stated he has not heard anything.

#### Deans Search Update

- Carrie Oser provided an update on the status of the Dean's search. An ad/job description has been drafted and sent to the search committee co-chairs on December 31, 2020. The job has not been posted as of this date, and in follow-up on January 7 and 12, 2021 was informed that it is in the hands of the Provost.
- Brian asked was there anything in the ad/job description that would hold up the Provost from moving forward? Betty stated that she felt the search firm pulled together a relatively boiler plate description, but they were responsive to feedback from the search committee members. The search committee members have not seen the final draft of the ad.
- Michelle Sizemore asked what the original timeline for interviews was. Carrie responded that interviews were to begin in early March. So, right now they should be gathering the applicant pool.
- Akiko said the search committee was to begin reviewing the applicant pool March 2 and March 16 they were to discuss the long list.
- Dean Brady stated that he is not privileged to any information regarding the search. But he would think that the Provost probably wants to have a definitive statement on the budget before moving forward and this may be the reason for the delay.

- Carrie said she will keep the committee informed and will also share the job description with the committee.

#### Campus security concerns related to the inauguration or more generally recent broad threats against government agencies

- Akiko asked if there have been any talks about security on campus relative to the current political climate. Dean Brady stated that there have not been any discussions to date.
- Brian stated that he asked that this item be added to the agenda. The FBI has put out warnings. He is concerned that UK is a soft target, also considering the response to the UK Basketball athletes kneeling during the National Anthem at the game.

#### UK vendors associate with support for the Trump administration

- Akiko commented that resulting from the current actions of the Trump administration, inciting the riots on the Capitol, many big donors have pulled funding from political support. Other universities are pulling funding or relationships with major companies that support the Trump administration. Do we know if UK has any such relationships? Has there been any discussion about reviewing our business ties?
- Suzanne Segerstrom suggested that the university should be reviewing/evaluating our vendor relationships. She mentioned that Penny Cox used to manage this type of thing.
- Dean Brady emphasized that faculty have the right to speak out on their own regarding matters of concern. All faculty are individuals with rights and freedoms and should not be stifled in any way.

#### Other Business

- Akiko raised a concern regarding the covid vaccine dissemination. Many faculty, staff, and grad students have received an invite to get the vaccine. It seems like younger people are getting the vaccine prior to others more at risk. There is some confusion as to how the priorities are being established. Dean Brady shared Jay Blanton's comments directly from an article in the Herald Leader regarding vaccine distribution – *Blanton said those outside of healthcare settings receiving vaccine invitations include "faculty and staff over the age of 65, custodial and facilities staff who have high levels of in-person interactions on campus each day and members of our student services staff who support students in a number of critical roles."* Dean Brady mentioned that when the vaccine serum is delivered it needs to be used as soon as possible. Once thawed it must be used within 24-hours. It is possible that when there is leftover vaccine that others signed-up outside of the priority designations may be invited to get vaccine.
- Suzanne mentioned that she received a vaccine invitation, but it had someone else's name on it. She was concerned that there might be a database problem and invitations are being sent out to the wrong people. She emailed to question the issue and was told to go ahead and take the vaccine. Betty reiterated that it is more important that people get vaccinated quickly so the error is being forgiven. Dean Brady said he will send an email to faculty and staff to help clarify some of the vaccine confusion.

- Rich shared a statement from the Faculty Affairs Work Stream sent to the Provost along with the link to the UK Covid website for updated information on the vaccine. This is expected to be the first item on the agenda for the Campus Academic Leadership meeting on Friday, January 29, 2021: *Faculty Affairs Work Stream advocates for the distribution of frequent updates on vaccine distribution plans for faculty, beginning with the welcomed campus communication from the President on 1/11/21, perhaps building upon the useful website at: <https://www.uky.edu/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine> . The Work Stream recommends emphasis on transparent messaging on the vaccine roll-out, with priority on making the vaccine available first for instructional faculty who are teaching F2F in Spring term and for faculty who are age 65 and older. Also, a priority for our work stream is the necessity for continuing reminders of adherence to public health protocols (face coverings, social distancing, hygiene) by campus community members during the time needed for COVID-19 vaccines to build immunity.*
- Next Meeting – Thursday, February 11, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

There being no further business, Brian Rymond moved to adjourn the meeting. Peter Perry seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by:

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