

College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Meeting and Virtual Social
Thursday, April 16, 2020
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Updates from the Dean
2. Approval of Minutes from the Fall Faculty Meeting held on December 11, 2019. (See Appendix, pages 2-4.)
3. Opportunity for faculty to ask questions arising from annual reports of the various college committees. (See appendix, pages 5-10.)
 - a. Executive Committee (page 5)
 - b. Promotion and Tenure Committee (page 5)
 - c. Curriculum and Advising Committee (pages 5-6)
 - d. Committee on Student Academic Distinction, Awards, and Appeals (pages 6-7)
 - e. Assessment Committee (page 7)
 - f. Research Advisory Committee (pages 8-9)
 - g. Endowed/College Professorships Committee (page 9)
 - h. Research Space Committee (page 9)
 - i. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee (pages 9-10)
 - j. Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Committee (page 10)
4. Recommendation from the Dean and the College Executive Committee to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty, Article V, Section 1. Executive Committee, V.1.D through V.1.G – Clarifying the purpose, scope and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and to better distinguish it from other standing committees in the college. (See Appendix, pages 10-13.)
5. Recommendation from the Dean to approve the proposed changes regarding the Committee on Student Academic Distinction, Awards and Appeals. (Bylaws of the Faculty, Article IX, Section 1, and Policy Statement for Grading Appeals, Article III, Section A. – Giving the Associate Dean appointed to the committee a vote to decrease the likelihood of a tie vote. (See Appendix, pages 13-15.)
6. Discuss recommendation from the Dean and the College Executive Committee to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty, Article II, Section 1. Members of the Faculty – to include Lecturers in the definition of Faculty and better align the College’s Bylaws and faculty governance practices with University policies (see UNL Bylaws 3.1.3.1). (See Appendix, pages 15-16)
7. Group Discussion: Questions and Feedback (Please submit through the “Chat” function on Zoom)
8. A “Virtual” toast (BYOB)

APPENDIX

2. Approval of the Minutes from the Spring Faculty Meeting held on December 11, 2019. Spring CAS Faculty Meeting Minutes (11 December 2019)

3:30 pm: The meeting was called to order by Dean Mark Button

1. Opening Comments (Agenda Item 1) (by Button)

Button welcomed everyone and noted there was a quorum. This is his first meeting as Dean. He set the agenda to facilitate creative thinking and open collaboration about the future of the College, and to minimize the time spent on routine matters.

a. Updates.

- i. There are three new college advisory committees: Ad hoc Committee on CAS Lecturers; College RCM Budget Advisory Committee; and College Faculty Hiring Advisory Committee. The first committee's task is to recommend appropriate improvements to lecturer status. It is co-chaired by David Woodman and Deb Minter and the report is expected March 1st. The second committee's task is to devise fiscal policies aligned with our core values so that our values drive the budget to support growth in research, teaching and operations. The third committee's task is to advise the Dean on strategic and long-range hiring plans.
 - ii. Button has met (or will meet soon) with every chair and director in the College.
 - iii. The College has a strong presence on the university's N2025 Strategic Planning Committee that aims to devise a plan for the next 5 years to begin moving toward the 25-year vision described by the N150 Commission. Over ten meetings been held to gather feedback on the plan. More discussion dates will be announced in early January.
 - iv. It was announced today that Elizabeth Spiller is the new Executive Vice Chancellor. She is a dean at the University of California, Davis. Her academic area is English with a literature specialization.
- b. Election of the Faculty Secretary for a two academic-year term. Button nominated Mark Griep (Chemistry) and then asked for other nominations. There were none. Button asked whether there were any objections. In the absence of objections, he declared Griep as being duly elected.
- c. Appointment of Parliamentarian. Button has appointed Kirk Dombrowski (Assoc Dean) as College Parliamentarian.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Spring Faculty Meeting (17 April 2019) (Agenda Item 2) (by Button)

Button asked whether there were any objections to the Spring meeting minutes. In the absence of objections, he declared that they stand as printed.

3. Proposed Changes to the College Bylaws (Agenda Item 3) (by Button)

This is the first reading of the proposed amendment to the College Bylaws. The changes are open to discussion at this meeting. The changes will be brought forward at the Spring faculty meeting for more discussion and a vote. Note that Anthropology was inadvertently left off of the list of departments. This will be corrected.

The Dean and College Executive Committee propose to amend the Bylaws to clarify the purpose, scope and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and to better distinguish it from other standing committees in the college. Button read a portion of the material on pages 6-8 of the Agenda. The purpose is to facilitate interactions between the chairs and the college. Button called for comments or questions. There were none.

4. Recommendation from the College Curriculum and Advising Committee (CCAC) (Agenda Item 4) (by Kristen Olson, CCAC Comm Chair; Sociology)

This committee is comprised of five elected faculty members, the Advising Center director, and two undergraduates. The full list of recommendations is listed on pages 1 and 2 of the

agenda. They are put forward together for consideration.

Olson called for questions or comments. Ken Bloom (Physics) asked whether Item J to rename the Math Major's Statistics option to "Statistics, Data Science, and Machine Learning" was preceded by discussions with other units that offer similar courses. June Griffin (Assoc Dean; English) answered that the name but not the content of the option is being changed. Nevertheless, other units, such as Computer Science, were consulted and there were no objections.

Olson asked whether there any objections to the proposed CCAC changes. In the absence of objections, she declared that the changes are approved by assent.

5. Group Discussions: Future of CAS (Agenda Item 5) (by Button)

Button seeks input on the College's Strategic Priorities, such as where to place scarce resources for strategic hiring, fundraising focus, and our vision – where do we see ourselves in 5 years. Each of the twenty tables of faculty in the room today will receive four Discussion Prompts for about 15 minutes each. There are five total discussion prompts so half the tables will receive #4 and half #5. Someone at each table will record the suggestions. The feedback will be used in the College's Strategic Planning process. The UNL N2025 Plan will be finalized this Spring.

The Discussion Prompts were:

1. CAS Vision Statement

Critically discuss the following draft vision statement for the College and provide recommendations for improvement:

Vision for the College of Arts and Sciences at UNL: We will be recognized as a world-leading College of Arts and Sciences for our impactful research and creative activity that improves lives and learning; advancing inclusive excellence and promoting student success; and sustained engagement with local, national, and global communities.

Current Statement about the College: In the College of Arts and Sciences, our passion drives discovery and creative activity. Our research and teaching engage multiple disciplines, foster many different ways of perceiving our surroundings, and pursue multiple paths for exploring the world. We push ourselves and our students to think deeply and broadly—to integrate ideas from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences—in ways that lead to innovation and prepare us for the challenges that tomorrow will bring. Together, we cherish the diversity of people, cultures, and ideas in Nebraska and throughout our interdependent world.

2. College Faculty Hiring Priorities

- a. In what areas should the College invest limited faculty hiring resources in order to best leverage existing strengths in CAS and UNL and to significantly expand research impact and teaching quality?
- b. If the College were to pursue a "cluster hiring" strategy across multiple departments to spur greater interdisciplinary collaborations on key contemporary challenges, in what areas should we seek to make an impact? Climate change; big data; fundamentals of life and health across diverse scales; other?

3. Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign

The University of Nebraska system is preparing to undertake its next multi-year, multi-billion dollar fundraising campaign.

Thinking Big: What major fundraising priorities should the College of Arts and Sciences pursue over the next five + years to significantly improve our contributions to impactful research/creative work; expand access, inclusion, and improve student success; and deepen our engagement with diverse local and global community partners? If the College were to pursue a "cluster hiring" strategy across multiple departments to spur greater interdisciplinary collaborations on key contemporary challenges, in what areas should we seek to make an impact? Climate change; big data; fundamentals of life and health across diverse scales; other?

4. Faculty and Staff Development

The College and the University have a variety of different programs to help support the professional development of faculty and staff. Are these programs sufficient and/or consistent with your interests and needs? What additional forms of professional/personal development would you like to see offered by the College? How could the College facilitate greater utilization of professional development opportunities by faculty and staff?

5. Preparing students to get jobs

We know current and prospective students and their parents are focused on the costs of higher education and the return on investment. The slide below lists the top five expectations prospective students have for their college education [Get a good job after graduation; Gain practical career skills; Get a solid foundation for an entire career; Gain lasting friendships; Learn to use my talents to benefit society]. What can CAS do to better prepare students to get a good job after graduation?

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Minutes recorded by Mark Griep (Chem)

3. Opportunity for faculty to ask questions arising from annual reports of the various college committees.

a. Executive Committee

An ad hoc committee considered nominations for College and University teaching awards, College Outstanding Research and Creativity Awards (College ORCA), and the McClymont Award. The awardees will be honored at various events including an event during the Fall 2020 semester.

College Distinguished Teaching Award winners are: Heather Richards-Rissetto, Assistant Professor, Sociology; Angela Palmer-Wackerly, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies; Alexandra Seceleanu, Assistant Professor, Mathematics; Nganga Muchiri, Assistant Professor, English; David Hage, Professor, Chemistry; Alexander Zupan, Assistant Professor, Mathematics.

The College Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Awardees are: Rebecca Lai, Associate Professor, Chemistry; Philip Schwadel, Professor, Sociology; Jay Storz, Professor, Biological Sciences; Adrian Wisnicki, Associate Professor, English

The Hazel R. McClymont Distinguished Teaching Fellow Award recipient is Joy Castro, Professor in English and Ethnic Studies

The Committee selected one nomination for the Annis Chaikin Sorensen Award to forward to the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor.

One nomination for the Harold and Esther Edgerton Junior Faculty Award was forwarded to the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor: Kathryn Holland, Assistant Professor in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies, received the award.

2019-2020 Committee Members: Sabrina Russo (Biological Sciences), Ken Bloom (Physics and Astronomy), Lory Janelle Dance (Sociology and Ethnic Studies), Rose Holz (Women's and Gender Studies), Mital Neta (Psychology), Dona-Gene Barton (Political Science), David Pitts (Mathematics), Stacey Waite (English); Associate Deans: June Griffin, Priscilla Hayden-Roy, Kirk Dombrowski, John Osterman, and Dean Mark Button

Ad Hoc Committee: Stacey Waite, Mital Neta, and David Pitts

b. Promotion and Tenure Committee

The annual review of tenure and promotion recommendations began in mid-November. The committee reviewed 11 recommendations regarding promotion to Associate Professor with tenure, 8 recommendations regarding promotion to Full Professor, 5 recommendations for promotion to Associate Professor of Practice, 1 recommendation for promotion to Research Full Professor, and 1 recommendation to Research Associate Professor. The committee currently has interviewed 2 job candidates for consideration of promotion and/or tenure.

2019-2020 Committee Members: Mark Van Roojen (Philosophy), Mohammad Rammaha (Mathematics), LuAnn Wandsnider (Anthropology), Thomas Lynch (English), Marjorie Langell (Chemistry), Jody Kellas (Communication Studies), Associate Dean Priscilla Hayden-Roy, Dean Mark Button, Chair

c. Curriculum and Advising Committee

The committee reviewed 4 ACE proposals; 11 new course with ACE proposals; 1 change/Add

ACE proposals; 9 decertify/remove ACE proposals; 35 new course proposals; 123 change course proposals; 27 course inactivation (remove/delete) proposals; 37 course proposals for CDR Diversity; and 25 proposals for various majors and minors.

The Committee forwarded to the faculty the following recommendations:

- to approve the proposed removal of the minor in Conflict and Conflict Resolution
- to approve the proposed changes to the major in Biological Sciences
- to approve the proposed changes to the catalog college section – Dual Degree
- to approve the proposed changes to the major in Environmental Studies
- to approve the proposed changes to the minor in Film Studies
- to approve the proposed changes to the major in Geography
- to approve the proposed changes to the major and minor in Global Studies
- to approve the proposed changes to the major and minor in Mathematics
- to approve the proposed changes to the major in Microbiology
- to approve the proposed changes to the minor in LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies
- to approve the proposed changes to the major in Political Science
- to approve the proposed changes to the major in Spanish

The Committee approved non-substantive changes majors and minors. The following changes went directly to the catalog editor.

- Anthropology Major
- Archaeology Minor
- Communication Studies Major
- Computer Science Major
- French Major
- Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs minor
- German Major
- Meteorology-Climatology Minor
- Russian Major
- Sociology Major and Minor
- Women's & Gender Studies Major and Minor

Finally, the committee made nominations for vacancies on the College Curriculum Committee for the 2020-2021 AY

The chair for the 2020-2021 academic year will be decided at the next committee meeting.

2019-2020 Committee Members: Professors Kristen Olson (Chair, Sociology), Scott Stoltenberg (Psychology), Yvonne Lai (Mathematics), Eric Malina (Chemistry), Reina Hayaki (Philosophy – 1 year replacement); Rajan and Caroline Trupp (Student Advisory Board Representatives); Christina Fielder (Director, CAS Advising Center); Amy Beyer (non-voting, CAS Advising Center); Michael Dodd (non-voting, University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee-CAS Representative, Psychology); and Associate Dean June Griffin (Executive Secretary).

d. Committee on Student Academic Distinction, Awards, and Appeals

This report covers the period of three graduations: August 2019, December 2019, and May 2020. The College of Arts & Sciences awarded degrees with distinction as follows:

- based on academic record and submission of a thesis – 60 total
- 30 degrees with Highest Distinction
- 9 degrees with High Distinction

- 21 degrees with Distinction
- based on academic record only – 143 total
- 79 degrees with High Distinction
- 64 degrees with Distinction

For the past several years the college has made a concerted effort to increase our numbers by emailing juniors and seniors encouraging them to write a thesis as well as asking major advisors to encourage their students. The chart below details the upward trend of students earning distinction with or without a thesis over the last five years.

Year	With Thesis				No Thesis		Total no Thesis	TOTAL Degrees with level of Distinction
	Highest	High	Distinction	Total Thesis	High	Distinction		
19-20	30	9	21	60	79	64	143	203
18-19	30	12	20	62	77	65	142	204
17-18	22	6	24	52	64	56	120	172
16-17	14	12	19	45	59	51	110	155
15-16	13	5	18	36	51	35	86	122

Scholarships

The college continues to partner with the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid with the application process.

2020-2021 Academic year awards:

- 802 applicants did the college portion of the application. The committee considered just over 300 applicants for the awards controlled by the college.
- We have not done our awarding yet as we are waiting on fund balance information.
- Our awards will be a mixture of need based and merit based awards.

Summer 2020 and AY 2020-21 Dean's Experiential Learning Awards:

- 27 applicants submitted a narrative for the Dean's Experiential Learning Award.
- 9 were selected for a \$1500 award for a total of \$13,500.
- The awards are made from six scholarship funds designed for this purpose.

Grade Appeal

No appeals were elevated to the college level during this academic year.

2019-2020 Committee Members: Matthew Johnson (Psychology), Alexander Sinitskii (Chemistry), Angela Palmer-Wackerly (Communication Studies), Stephen Behrendt (English), Ross Secord (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences); Andrea Johnson (Graduate Student Representative), Natalie Beattie (Student Advisory Board Representative), Salan Preet Kaur (Student Advisory Board Representative), Olivia Miller (non-voting, Advising Center), Associate Dean June Griffin

e. Assessment Committee

The committee did not meet this year nor was committee membership updated. Membership will be updated for 2020-2021 as assessments are required at this time.

f. Research Advisory Committee

The Research Advisory Committee is chaired by the Associate Dean for Research and Partnership (ADR), Kirk Dombrowski.

Committee members are appointed by the Associate Dean for Research and Partnership and serve staggered two-year terms. A few of the members stayed for a third year to provide guidance to the new ADR. Committee members for 2019-2020 were:

Member name, department, appointment date

- Stephen Behrendt, English (Humanities), 2017
- Dawne Curry, History (Humanities), 2017
- Barry Cheung, Chemistry (Sciences), 2018
- Sherilyn Fritz, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences (Sciences), 2018
- Carolyn Heitman, Anthropology (Social Sciences), 2018 (leave fall 2019)
- Heather Richards-Rissetto, Anthropology (Social Sciences), fall 2019 for C. Heitman
- George Avalos, Mathematics (Sciences), 2018
- Ingrid Haas, Psychology (Social Sciences), 2018
- Yaroslav Komarovski, Classics and Religious Studies (Humanities), 2018
- Kristi Montooth, School of Biological Sciences (Sciences), 2019
- Jordan Stump, Modern Languages and Literature (Humanities), 2019
- Becca Brock, Psychology (Social Sciences), 2019
- Emily Kazyak, Sociology/Women's & Gender Studies (Social Sciences), 2019
- Kirk Dombrowski, Chair (January 2019 – March 2020)

The committee meets monthly during the academic year to advise the college in matters pertaining to research and research funding.

This year the committee reviewed the scoring rubric for each award and created a standardized scoring template to be used across the four college faculty awards. This change allows the ADR to fund the top awards across all submissions, not just in a specific award category.

The Research Advisory Committee spent time discussing Department F&A sharing under the RCM Model and sent recommendations to Dean Button.

Review of Award Applications. The committee reviews applications for four awards:

1. The International Travel Award for Scholarly Presentations awards up to \$1,500 to use for international travel to participate in events such as research presentations, plenary presentations and keynote speeches at recognized international meetings. To date, two international travel awards were granted in the fall. There are 16 applications being reviewed in the current spring cycle.

2. ENHANCE CAS award provides up to \$5,000 to faculty in the humanities and social sciences for research, scholarship and creative activities. Nine awards were given in the fall and ten applications currently under review.

3. The International Research Collaborations Award supports faculty to work with colleagues at foreign partner research institutions in ways that promise to be sustainable beyond any one project, opening the door for future collaborations including external domestic and foreign grants and fellowships. Awards are up to \$10,000. Three awards were granted in the fall. In the spring cycle, there are two applications currently under review.

4. The college seeks to fuel innovation through a variety of partnership activities. The Partnership Seed Funding program is designed to encourage formal and mutually beneficial connections between faculty and industry, between faculty and non-profits, and between faculty and the local community. They are also to provide seed funding that will allow faculty to launch and/or formalize an external partnership. Awards are up to \$10,000. One partnership award was granted in the fall. There is one application this spring.

g. Endowed/College Professorships Committee

The Committee reviewed and recommended 4 renewal applications for College professorships and 9 renewals for University Professorships to the Dean. The Committee reviewed and made recommendations on 20 nominations for College and University professorships to the Dean.

2019-2020 Committee Members: Cary Savage (Psychology), David Hage (Chemistry), Parks Coble (History), Petronela Radu (Mathematics), John Brunero (Philosophy), Associate Dean Priscilla Hayden-Roy, Chair

h. Research Space Committee

The Committee collected information on the teaching space controlled by departments for future use. Avery 250, which was formerly allocated to Statistics, was changed to Computer Science. The sound issues in Pound 340 and 358 as well as some faculty offices are being addressed.

2019-2020 Committee Members: Laura White (English), Jolene Smyth (Sociology), Mark Walker (Mathematics), Dodie Eveleth (Chemistry), Al Casullo (Philosophy), David DiLillo (Psychology), Mark Walker (Mathematics), Luwen Zhang (Biological Sciences), Associate Dean John Osterman, Chair

i. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee

The committee developed and implemented the Inclusive Excellence and Diversity Award for the College of Arts and Sciences. The inaugural award was held in Spring 2020, having received nominations for faculty and student categories. The committee has evaluated and rated the nominations and announcements are forthcoming. The committee also met with the Dean on initiatives to improve graduation and retention rates, with respect to increasing diversity and inclusive excellence in the College.

The committee also provided diversity-related feedback on the N2025 Strategic plan, RCM's impact on teaching and courses, the Dean's mentoring plan guidelines, gender-neutral restrooms on campus, and transition to remote teaching. One initiative for Fall 2020 is

development of a Seed Grant program focused on encouraging inclusive excellence in the College. The committee also advised the College on the implementation of the CDR-Diversity policy college-wide. This requirement, first proposed and developed by the IDEA committee, was approved at the end of AY2019-2020, and its implementation Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, our meeting with Vice Chancellor Marco Barker was postponed until Fall 2020 and faculty writing retreat planning is also on hold.

We awarded 2 small grants to student groups aligned with our mission.

2019-2020 Committee Members: Debra Hope (Psychology, committee co-chair), Leen-Kiat Soh (Computer Science, committee co-chair), Thomas Gannon (English/Ethnic Studies), Rachel Azima (English/Writing Center), Ron Lee (Communication Studies), Kwakiutl Dreher (English), Staff: Nia Patterson (Biological Sciences), Students: Jamaica Baldwin (English), Marcus Barbosa (Spanish, Modern Languages & Literatures)

j. Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Committee

This year was a transitional year for the Committee on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech (AF&FS): its members remained the same from when it was merely an ad hoc committee (AY 18/19 and AY 19/20). One of its main tasks was to arrange for the election in spring 2020 to this standing committee. The committee discussed the process and made suggestions for colleagues to stand for election, and its chair approached a range of colleagues with the request to agree to stand for elections.

Moreover, in the absence of any specific AF&FS-related cases at hand, the committee mostly focused on anticipating what issues might be brought to it in the future and how it might best prepare its members for such issues. The committee discussed the possibility of organizing symposia or roundtables on relevant issues such as, for example, CAS members facing disciplinary actions for posting topics on private social media. The committee also discussed other potential incidents—invitations of controversial speakers, the unauthorized recording of lectures, or conflicts about free speech in class, among other incidents that are often reported in the national media—and how it might help the CAS community to anticipate and be better prepared for handling such incidents by educating faculty, students, and administrators. Finally, the committee educated itself of the issues of free speech and academic freedom by reading and discussing several relevant articles by leading scholars on the issues.

2019-2020 Committee on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech: James Garza (fall chair, Ethnic Studies), Marco Abel (spring chair, English), Dawn Braithwaite (Communication Studies), Adam Houston (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences), Julia Schleck (English), Kevin Smith (Political Science), Priscilla Hayden-Roy (Dean's Office), ex officio.

4. Recommendation from the Dean and the College Executive Committee to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty, Article V, Section 1. Executive Committee, V.1.D through V.1.G

Current: Bylaws of Standing Committees: The Executive Committee, The Promotion and Tenure Committee, The Student Advisory Board
Article V, Section 1. Executive Committee

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Associate Deans and eight faculty members, five elected and three appointed. The elected and appointed faculty members shall be chosen from the full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty, or from the full-time professors of practice at any rank. One member shall be chosen from Social

Sciences; two members shall be chosen from the Sciences; one member shall be chosen from the Humanities; one member shall be chosen from the Social Sciences or Humanities, alternating between the two areas in alternate elections. The elected members will be chosen by a ballot and the other members will be appointed by the Dean. Election shall be for staggered terms of two years. No elected member of the Executive Committee may succeed himself or herself if that member has served two years; the same department or school may not be represented on the Executive Committee by two elected members concurrently. To ensure representation of interdisciplinary interests in the college, if each elected faculty member is appointed in a single department or program only, then at least one of the faculty members appointed by the Dean will have appointments in multiple departments or programs.

B. The College is apportioned into three areas for purposes of representation on committees:

Area I – Social Sciences: Anthropology, Communication Studies, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology

Area II – Humanities: Classics & Religious Studies, English, History, Modern Languages & Literatures, Philosophy

Area III – Sciences: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science & Engineering, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy

C. Nominations to fill vacancies shall be made as follows: During the second semester, the College shall provide each member of the Faculty with a list of the members in each group eligible for nomination. For nomination, a member of the Faculty must hold an appointment of 50 percent or more on the budget of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Faculty shall then nominate by secret ballot, from among the eligible members in each group, two times the number of representatives to be elected. For each position to be filled from the membership of a group, each member of the Faculty may name two persons bearing in mind that not more than one member of a voting unit shall serve on any particular elected committee. The eligible members who receive the highest number of nominating votes shall be advised thereof by the Dean prior to the preparation of the ballots for the election of the committee members. In the absence of their dissent in writing submitted to the Dean, they shall be nominated as candidates for the respective positions on the committees. If a person elects not to be a nominee, that place on the election ballot shall be filled by the person receiving the highest number of nominating votes of those not otherwise nominated and who is willing to be a candidate. In case of ties, the nominee will be determined by lot.

D. The Executive Committee shall meet on a frequent and regular basis to discuss issues involving the business and general welfare of the College and to advise the Dean on these matters. All matters discussed within the committee will be confidential but brief minutes of meetings will be distributed. The agenda of the committee shall be set jointly by the Dean and the committee.

Ordinarily the Dean shall consult the committee on at least the following:

1. Academic program reviews, and major problems in departments, schools, centers or programs between reviews.
2. General policy governing the review of chairs and directors
3. Major items of budget policy falling within the jurisdiction of the Dean.
4. Major changes in the organization of the College and in collegiate administrative policy.
5. Matters of policy regarding the professional welfare of faculty, staff and students.
6. Proposals for the establishment or elimination of programs, schools, centers or departments.
7. Faculty line allocation.
8. Seek and recommend nominations for election of members of the College Promotion and Tenure Committee.

In addition, the committee shall discuss such other business as may be assigned to it, except that it shall not assume or be asked to assume authority on any matter clearly delegated elsewhere. The committee shall advise the Dean regarding the referral of any problems and responsibilities to an appropriate committee, when such matters are not clearly within the province of any committee.

E. The Dean shall be the chairperson of the Executive Committee.

F. The terms of new committee members will commence with the beginning of the Fall Semester,

except that the Dean may call upon them during the preceding summer as circumstances warrant.

G. Selected members of the Executive Committee may be called upon to serve on ad hoc review committees for faculty awards, incentive grants, and related activities. Additional ad hoc committee members, including student representation where appropriate, will be selected as needed to insure proper committee representation.

Proposed: Bylaws of Standing Committees: The Executive Committee, The Promotion and Tenure Committee, The Student Advisory Board

Article V, Section 1. Executive Committee

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Associate Deans and eight faculty members, five elected and three appointed. The elected and appointed faculty members shall be chosen from the full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty, or from the full-time professors of practice at any rank. One member shall be chosen from Social Sciences; two members shall be chosen from the Sciences; one member shall be chosen from the Humanities; one member shall be chosen from the Social Sciences or Humanities, alternating between the two areas in alternate elections. The elected members will be chosen by a ballot and the other members will be appointed by the Dean. Election shall be for staggered terms of two years. No elected member of the Executive Committee may succeed himself or herself if that member has served two years; the same department or school may not be represented on the Executive Committee by two elected members concurrently. To ensure representation of interdisciplinary interests in the college, if each elected faculty member is appointed in a single department or program only, then at least one of the faculty members appointed by the Dean will have appointments in multiple departments or programs.

B. The College is apportioned into three areas for purposes of representation on committees:

Area I – Social Sciences: Anthropology, Communication Studies, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology

Area II – Humanities: Classics & Religious Studies, English, History, Modern Languages & Literatures, Philosophy

Area III – Sciences: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science & Engineering, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy

C. Nominations to fill vacancies shall be made as follows: During the second semester, the College shall provide each member of the Faculty with a list of the members in each group eligible for nomination. For nomination, a member of the Faculty must hold an appointment of 50 percent or more on the budget of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Faculty shall then nominate by secret ballot, from among the eligible members in each group, two times the number of representatives to be elected. For each position to be filled from the membership of a group, each member of the Faculty may name two persons bearing in mind that not more than one member of a voting unit shall serve on any particular elected committee. The eligible members who receive the highest number of nominating votes shall be advised thereof by the Dean prior to the preparation of the ballots for the election of the committee members. In the absence of their dissent in writing submitted to the Dean, they shall be nominated as candidates for the respective positions on the committees. If a person elects not to be a nominee, that place on the election ballot shall be filled by the person receiving the highest number of nominating votes of those not otherwise nominated and who is willing to be a candidate. In case of ties, the nominee will be determined by lot.

D. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to facilitate shared faculty governance, to support effective communication throughout the College, and to advise the Dean on significant issues of policy and governance within the College.

Scope: The Dean will consult with the executive committee on significant changes in the make-up and organization of the College and in relation to significant matters of policy or administration affecting faculty, staff, and students. The executive committee may also be assigned specific tasks that are not within the scope of any standing College committee. The executive committee will seek and recommend nominations for election to the College Promotion and Tenure Committee.

E. The Dean shall be the chairperson of the Executive Committee. The agenda of the committee will be set jointly by the Dean and the members of the committee. The Executive Committee will meet on a regular basis (i.e., at least monthly) during the academic year to advise the Dean. Individual committee members' contributions to committee deliberations will be confidential but brief minutes of committee meetings will be available in the College.

Justification: The changes to the Bylaws of the College (sections D and E pertaining to the Executive Committee) are proposed to 1. clarify the purpose of the Executive Committee and to better distinguish it from other standing committees in the College; and 2. to clarify the scope and responsibilities of the Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee recommend these changes in order to better reflect the current distribution of responsibilities that are assigned to other standing committees or offices in the College or University. For example, the Bylaws currently state that the Dean "shall consult the committee on at least the following: "Academic program reviews, and major problems in departments, schools, centers or programs between reviews"; "General policy governing the review of chairs and directors"; "Major items of budget policy falling within the jurisdiction of the Dean"; "Faculty line allocation." Since the College has separate committees and processes for addressing these items, the Executive Committee recommends the proposed changes to the Bylaws to more accurately reflect the current scope and responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

5. Recommendation from the Dean to approve the proposed changes regarding the Committee on Student Academic Distinction, Awards and Appeals. (Bylaws of the Faculty, Article IX, Section 1, and Policy Statement for Grading Appeals, Article III, Section A.

Current: Policy Statement for Grading Appeals, Article III, Section A.

Organization. The Committee consists of eight voting members, five of them representatives of the full-time teaching faculty, one graduate student and two undergraduate students. The members of the Committee shall serve staggered terms as follows:

1. The full-time faculty members shall serve staggered three-year terms.
2. (a) The committee chair is chosen by the committee at the last meeting of the preceding academic year.
(b) The committee chair must be a tenured member of the faculty.
3. The graduate student shall serve a **one**-year term.
4. The undergraduate students shall serve **one**-year terms. Undergraduate students will be appointed by the Dean at the recommendation of the Student Advisory Board. The graduate student will be appointed by the Dean upon the recommendation of the Graduate Student Association or the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Committee will routinely invite a liaison member of the Dean's Office staff to be present during consideration of a case. He or she will not have a vote.

In cases involving a member of one of the departments represented on the Committee, that individual will be recused from the deliberations, although he or she may appear to provide evidence. In the case of the recusing of a faculty member, the Dean of the College may appoint a replacement from another department for the duration of that particular case. In the case of the recusing of a student member, a replacement will be provided the College Student Advisory Board, the Graduate Student Association or the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Proposed: Policy Statement for Grading Appeals, Article III, Section A.

Organization. The Committee consists of **nine** voting members, five of them representatives of the full-time teaching faculty, **the Associate Dean assigned to the committee**, one graduate student and two undergraduate students. The members of the Committee shall serve staggered terms as follows:

1. The full-time faculty members shall serve staggered three-year terms.

2. (a) The committee chair is chosen by the committee at the last meeting of the preceding academic year.
- (b) The committee chair must be a tenured member of the faculty.
3. **The Associate Dean shall serve at the pleasure of the Dean.**
4. The graduate student shall serve a **one**-year term.
5. The undergraduate students shall serve **one**-year terms. Undergraduate students will be appointed by the Dean at the recommendation of the Student Advisory Board. The graduate student will be appointed by the Dean upon the recommendation of the Graduate Student Association or the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Committee will routinely invite a liaison member of the Dean's Office staff to be present during consideration of a case. He or she will not have a vote.

In cases involving a member of one of the departments represented on the Committee, that individual will be recused from the deliberations, although he or she may appear to provide evidence. In the case of the recusing of a faculty member, the Dean of the College may appoint a replacement from another department for the duration of that particular case. In the case of the recusing of a student member, a replacement will be provided the College Student Advisory Board, the Graduate Student Association or the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Current: Bylaws of the Faculty, Article IX, Section 1

Section 1. The Committee on Student Academic Distinction, Awards and Appeals

A. This Committee shall consist of a coordinator, five faculty members, one graduate student instructor or graduate teaching assistant in the College appointed by the Dean, and two undergraduate students selected by the Student Advisory Board.

B. The members shall be appointed by the Dean upon the advice of the Executive Committee, and shall be chosen from the areas of the College as described in Article V.1 A and B with no department represented by two members concurrently.

C. The faculty members shall serve for three-year terms on a staggered basis. The student members shall serve one-year terms.

D. Faculty vacancies on the committee will be filled by appointment by the Dean upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

E. Faculty members of the Committee shall decide, within the general criteria set by the Faculty, which degrees shall be awarded with Distinction, High Distinction, or Highest Distinction, and present its recommendations to the Dean. Faculty members of the Committee shall select students to be nominated by the College for scholarships, fellowships, and awards.

F. The Committee shall function as the final appeal committee from the departmental grading appeals committees. It shall perform functions of conciliation as well as judgment of the cases coming before it, and shall adopt a set of rules, procedures, and standards for the judgment of cases.

Proposed: Bylaws of the Faculty, Article IX, Section 1

Section 1. The Committee on Student Academic Distinction, Awards and Appeals

A. This Committee shall consist of a coordinator, five faculty members, the Associate Dean assigned to the committee, one graduate student instructor or graduate teaching assistant in the College appointed by the Dean, and two undergraduate students selected by the Student Advisory Board.

B. The members shall be appointed by the Dean upon the advice of the Executive Committee, and shall be chosen from the areas of the College as described in Article V.1 A and B with no department represented by two members concurrently.

C. The faculty members shall serve for three-year terms on a staggered basis. The student members shall serve one-year terms.

D. Faculty vacancies on the committee will be filled by appointment by the Dean upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

E. Faculty members of the Committee shall decide, within the general criteria set by the Faculty, which degrees shall be awarded with Distinction, High Distinction, or Highest Distinction, and present its recommendations to the Dean. Faculty members of the Committee shall select students to be nominated by the College for scholarships, fellowships, and awards.

F. The Committee shall function as the final appeal committee from the departmental grading appeals committees. It shall perform functions of conciliation as well as judgment of the cases coming before it, and shall adopt a set of rules, procedures, and standards for the judgment of cases.

Justification: In the most recent grade appeal that came to the college, the chair of the committee realized we have an 8-member committee and no procedure set to break a tie. Giving the Associate Dean appointed to the committee a vote decreases the likelihood the committee will have a tie vote.

6. Discuss recommendation from the Dean and the College Executive Committee to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty, Article II, Section 1. Members of the Faculty – to include Lecturers in the definition of Faculty and better align the College’s Bylaws and faculty governance practices with University policies (see UNL Bylaws 3.1.3.1).

Current:

II. Members

Section 1. The Faculty shall consist of all full-time or part-time members holding the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Assistant Professor of Practice, Associate Professor of Practice, Professor of Practice, Research Professor or Research Associate Professor. In what follows, all references to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor include both the tenure track ranks and the corresponding Practice and Research ranks.

Section 2. Faculty members in other colleges shall not be members unless specifically authorized by action of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Section 3. In order to vote in a college election or nominate a candidate for election to a college committee, a member of the Faculty must hold an appointment of 50 percent or more FTE in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Proposed:

II. Members

Section 1. The Faculty shall consist of all full-time or part-time members holding the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Assistant Professor of Practice, Associate Professor of Practice, Professor of Practice, Lecturer, Research Professor, Research Associate Professor, or Research Assistant Professor. In what follows, all references to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor include both the tenure track ranks and the corresponding Practice and Research ranks.

Section 2. Faculty members in other colleges shall not be members unless specifically authorized by action of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Section 3. In order to vote in a college election or nominate a candidate for election to a college committee, a member of the Faculty must hold an appointment of 50 percent or more FTE in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Justification:

The inclusion of Lecturers as defined by the EVC (i.e. having at least a one-year contract at 50 percent FTE or more) in the definition of Faculty will: 1. more closely align the College's definition of the Faculty with the Bylaws of UNL and the UNL Faculty Senate. 2. Acknowledge the valuable contributions that Lecturers in the College already make to faculty governance at UNL. 3. Encourage the contributions of Lecturers to faculty governance in the College and its departments/programs. 4. The inclusion of Research Assistant Professor will clarify the College's Bylaws and provide more consistency with the Bylaws of UNL and the Faculty Senate.