

January 10, 2017

UNE Presidential Search Committee:

We are writing to express our dismay at the recent announcement about community involvement in the presidential search process. As you know, the faculty assembly for the College of Arts and Sciences and the University Faculty Assembly passed motions asserting the importance of a transparent and inclusive process. The current process, as outlined in the community email, is neither and ignores these requests. Actions like these undermine our confidence in the ability of this process to produce a successful outcome.

The recently appointed representatives do not adequately or fairly represent the University's stakeholders. For example, there are no adjunct faculty, funded biomedical researchers, junior faculty, or lecturers involved in the process. In addition, there is no staff involvement whatsoever. The community email notes that the elected leadership of the colleges' faculty assemblies were selected to represent the faculty, but the election of these individuals to governance positions does not mean we have chosen them to represent us in all aspects of University life. We understand that the process needs to move quickly. However, faculty, including the University Faculty Assembly, have raised concerns about the representative nature of the process since August. Other faculty groups raised similar concerns throughout the fall. Had these valid concerns been respected, there would have been plenty of time for the committee to create a transparent and representative process.

The faculty do not request transparency and inclusivity merely to bolster our own role in the process but rather to help ensure that the candidate who is chosen has the experiences/foresight they need in order to be successful. Indeed, we believe that an understanding of the relative strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats faced by each unit and the various missions that the university undertakes will be required for the new president to successfully lead us into the future. We understand that at least one of the candidates requested small and confidential meetings. It's important to respect that. However, we see no reason why a small, transparent and representative process could not be created to include all major stakeholders who are critical for us to thrive as an institution of higher learning. We respectfully request that you rapidly enact a more representative process.

Respectfully yours,



Michael Burman, Ph.D. AAUP @ UNE chapter President
on behalf of the AAUP @ UNE chapter