

**ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE UNL  
FACULTY SENATE**

**John Bender, Chair**

**December 2017 – December 2018**

**Presented to the Faculty Senate on December 4, 2018**

**Responsibilities:**

- A. Formulate and recommend to the Faculty Senate, to the Colleges, and to the Chancellor goals for UNL in the areas of education (resident and extension), research, and service.
- B. Recommend action to achieve the goals of UNL.
- C. Review with the Chancellor or appropriate Vice Chancellors the relevant campus physical planning documents as they relate to academic program needs and education research and service goals, and the Committee shall make recommendations.
- D. The Committee is empowered to approve or disapprove proposed new academic programs and changes in existing programs, including elimination.
- E. Concern itself with goals, needs, and resources for a future period as long as is prudent and reasonable in view of the information and advice available.
- F. Changes or elimination of existing programs shall include time and opportunity for existing personnel to qualify for a position in another program within the University whenever this requirement will not materially interfere with UNL achieving in full measure the goals of education, research, and service.
- G. Encourage academic planning within the colleges and other units of UNL on continuing basis through joint faculty-administrative-student action.
- H. Assist the Chancellor in seeking remedies for a financial exigency.  
(To see the complete list of responsibilities go to UNL Bylaws  
<https://www.unl.edu/chancellor/bylaws> Section 1.2.7 Academic Planning Committee)

**Current Members:**

- John Bender, Chair, College of Journalism & Mass Communications
- Jennifer Clarke, Vice Chair, Graduate Council Representative
- Ken Bloom, Physics & Astronomy
- Faculty Senate Representative: Sarah Purcell, Southeast Research & Extension
- Mark Hinchman, College of Architecture
- Patricia Sollars, Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences
- Sheila Purdum, Animal Science
- Ann Tschetter, History
- Timothy Gay, Physics & Astronomy
- Kevin Smith, Political Science
- Dean Representatives:
  - Chuck O'Connor
  - Chuck Hibberd
- ASUN Representatives:
  - Hunter Traynor (Undergraduate)

- Julia Reilly (Graduate)
- Ex Officio Representatives:
  - Mike Zeleny, Associate to the Chancellor
  - Donde Plowman, Executive Vice Chancellor
  - Mike Boehm, Vice Chancellor of IANR
  - Bob Wilhelm, (VC of Research and Economic Development)
- Non-Member Representative:
  - Karen Griffin, Coordinator of Faculty Governance

The Academic Planning Committee met nine times during the Spring Semester, and eight times during the Fall Semester for a total of seventeen meetings. Chancellor Green gave his annual report to the Committee at the May 2, 2018 meeting.

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**Recommendations for Action by the Senate:**

None

**Summary of Regular, Annual Activities:**

Academic Program Reviews (APRs)

Members have served on the following APRs:

- Nutrition & Health Sciences (March 25-28, 2018)
- Animal Science (May 13-16, 2018)
- Textiles, Merchandising & Design (Sept. 30-October 3, 2018)
- Philosophy (October 7-10, 2018)

Six APR reports were submitted, and accepted, to the APC during 2018:

- Chemistry, presented January 17, 2018
- Agronomy/Horticulture, presented March 14, 2018
- Psychology, presented May 2, 2018
- Child, Youth & Family Studies, presented May 15, 2018
- Nutrition & Health Sciences, presented September 26, 2018
- Animal Science, presented September 26, 2018

**Summary of Activities:**

- Met with Chancellor Green to get an updated report on the revised budget situation. Due to the substantial changes to the budget framework, the second round of the proposed budget reductions were not needed at the time (December 6, 2017).
- A meeting was held to hear public concerns of proposed budget cuts that were identified by the Chancellor in the first round of cuts in Fall 2017. However, no one appeared to speak on the proposed cuts. (January 17, 2018).
- The APC observed, and then discussed, the University's address to the State Appropriations Committee regarding proposed further cuts to the University's budget (February 14, 2018).
- The APC met twice with Professor Will Thomas, Co-Chair of the N150 Commission, who provided an update to the APC regarding the work of the Commission in developing UNL's strategic plan. The APC then later met with consultants Mark Robison and Robert Filback from Academic Leadership

Associates (April 4, 2018 and October 10, 2018).

- Chancellor Green met with the APC and presented the general budget framework and timeline for the APC to consider for the next round of budget cuts (April 11, 2018).
- The APC met with Chancellor Green who presented his next round of proposed budget cuts to address the 1% permanent reduction to the university's budget as mandated by the State Legislature (April 18, 2018).
- A meeting of the APC was held to hear public concerns regarding the latest round of proposed budget cuts. Chair Bloom noted that the only feedback he received were from four faculty members in Statistics who were supportive of the idea to move all of the faculty into CASNR's Statistics department. No other feedback was given either by email or at the hearing. The APC then approved the proposed cuts and Chair Bloom stated that he would write the transmittal letter to the Chancellor indicating the APC's approval (May 2, 2018).
- A subcommittee of the APC was formed to begin work on revising the Procedures to be invoked for Significant Budget Reallocation and Reductions.
- Executive Vice Chancellor Plowman reported that her office was providing a series of training programs/discussions with faculty on the topics of free speech/academic freedom and the university's policies addressing these issues. She also reported on efforts to establish the Office of Diversity and Inclusion including the search and hiring of the Vice Chancellor for the office. She reported that the Office of Student Affairs was undergoing a major restructuring and noted that a critical issue that needs to be addressed on campus is student mental health. EVC Plowman noted that Dean Carr has created training programs for teaching assistants. She reported that four candidates came to campus for the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development and Dr. Bob Wilhelm was hired for the position. Associate Vice Chancellor Goodburn, reporting for EVC Plowman, stated that the EVC Office created diversity advocacy groups that looked at issues for faculty, staff, and students and reviewed the diversity of our curriculum. She stated that a Staff Leadership Academy was launched, and the Faculty Fellows for Student Success was created. She reported that plans are moving forward to develop a center for teaching and learning. EVC Plowman provided an update about the proposal to change the budget model to a Responsibility-Centered Model.
- Vice Chancellor Boehm reported that he has instituted a significant cultural change in the Institute which will create a three-piece over-arching structure and he is hiring an Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Success who will also serve as IANR's Chief Diversity Officer. He stated that he is working with EVC Plowman to establish two ombudspersons, one for each campus. He noted that UNL, UNMC, Iowa State, the University of Iowa Medical Center, and the Mayo Clinic have partnered together to submit a proposal for research funding on antimicrobial resistance. VC Boehm reported that the five national searches for department/unit heads that began the previous spring in CASNR have been filled and a national search has been launched for the Dean of CASNR. He reported that East Campus will be seeing significant work on facilities with the renovation of CYT Library, and the renovation of the East Campus Union.
- Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Robert Wilhelm reported that he plans on working on some structural and organizational aspects and plans to conduct a survey regarding F & A apportionment at UNL. He noted that during the

summer proposals were made to fund four interdisciplinary teams across the campus and he has plans for his office to try to help faculty members diversify scholarly funding. He pointed out that he wants to emphasize increasing the number of women in research roles at the University, particularly in the STEM fields. He reported that there was a 5% growth in research in the past year, but in the last few months the number of proposals that have been submitted have decreased. He stated that the university has contracted with a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C. that will work with the university on federal initiatives and help to promote our faculty and provide them with more research opportunities and exposure.

#### New Graduate Certificate Programs Recommended for Approval

- Graduate Certificate in Rural Economic & Community Vitality
- Graduate Certificate in Financial Communications
- Graduate Certificate in Engineering Management

#### New Undergraduate Major Recommended for Approval

- Bachelor of Fine Arts with a Major in Emerging Media Arts

#### Change of Degree Name Recommended for Approval

- Environmental Restoration Science to Environmental Science (proposal withdrawn)

#### Elimination of Undergraduate Major Recommended for Approval

- Fire Protection Technology Program

#### Elimination of Academic and Research Centers:

- Center for Instructional Innovation, College of Education & Human Sciences
- UNL Leadership Institute, College of Business
- Gallup Research Center, College of Business
- Center for Nontraditional Manufacturing Research, College of Engineering

#### Facilities Project Initiation Requests (PIRs) Recommended for Approval

- Engineering Complex Renovation
- IANR Gnotobiotic Facility

#### **Appointments 2018-19:**

APC representatives were appointed to two University-wide committees:

- Aesthetic Review Committee - Mark Hinchman
- University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee - Ann Tschetter

Members were appointed to seven APC subcommittees:

- Project Initiation Request Subcommittee (standing committee): Sheila Purdum, Julia Reilly, and Mike Zeleny
- Long-range Planning Subcommittee (standing committee): Jennifer Clarke, Ken Bloom, Timothy Gay, Sarah Purcell, Hunter Traynor, Mike Boehm, Chuck O'Connor
- Subcommittees were created to review program proposals (see above under Summary of Activities for list of proposed programs)

APC representatives were appointed for future Academic Program Reviews:

- Communication Studies - Patty Sollars (March 3-6, 2019)
- Modern Languages and Literature - Ann Tschetter (February 24-27, 2019)

**Upcoming Issues:**

- Work on revising the Procedures to be invoked for Significant Budget Reallocation and Reduction.
- Review the impact of potential new budget models on UNL missions of teaching, research, and service
- Development of 2025 Strategic Plan for University

**Summary of Additional Activities:**

None

**Recommendations for the Committee for the Next Year:**

None