

# MINUTES

December 12, 2018

## University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

**Members Present:** Bender, Bloom, Clarke, Gay, Hibberd, Hinchman, Smith, Sollars, Tschetter, Wilhelm, Zeleny

**Members Absent:** Boehm, Dombrowski, O'Connor, Plowman, Purcell, Purdum, Reilly, Traynor

**Others Attending:** Dean Tim Carr

**Note:** These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Academic Planning Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

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### 1.0 Call

Bender called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

### 2.0 Approval of November 28, 2018 Minutes

Gay moved for approval of the November 28 minutes. Motion seconded by Zeleny and approved by the APC.

### 3.0 Report on Proposal to Create Human Resource Management Graduate Certificate (Sollars and Gay)

Sollars reported that the proposal to create the graduate certificate meets the basic criteria and require no additional resources. She noted that the certificate is intended for current MBA students and professional people in the field who want to add the certificate to their credentials. She reported that she and Gay asked for clarification on a couple of things and the proposers provided the needed information making minor revisions to the proposal. Gay moved that the proposal be accepted.

Clarke asked if there is any process in place to evaluate graduate certificates every three to five years. She noted that the graduate certificates provide opportunities for people, but questioned whether there was any kind of review to see if the certificate programs are successful and have met their intended goals. If not, she suggested that this kind of review is needed. Carr agreed. He pointed out that the proposal form used for this approval is now out-of-date. He stated that a new form is in place along with a new process for program proposals, although the new form has only been available for a couple of months. He pointed out that the process is managed by the Executive Vice Chancellor's office and the form and process is more informative, although a centralized monitoring process does not exist. He noted that the departments administering the programs are self-monitoring. He reported that if changes are made to the required courses for a graduate certificate, the Graduate Council will review the proposed changes. He suggested that if there is a standardized process of checking the graduate certificate programs every 3-5 years,

the implementation would have to be comprehensive and should involve Graduate Faculty. Zeleny asked what the process is if a department decides to eliminate a certificate program. Carr stated that it would be the same process when approval is sought.

The APC approved the proposal to create a Human Resource Management Graduate Certificate.

#### **4.0 Proposed Revisions to Procedures to be invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions**

Bloom reported that he, Purcell, and Boehm met and had preliminary discussions regarding revising the Procedures and they shared similar ideas on how the Procedures should be revised. He noted that the 1992 document implies a more static university, but since the university is dynamic and frequently changing, language has been proposed in the preface to conceptualize the true nature of the campus. He stated that the proposed changes strike to provide procedures that meet the threshold of what is needed to address budget reallocations or reductions.

Bloom stated that the idea was to collapse the goals of the Consultation and Decision-Making, the Process, and to reduce the steps in the reduction and reallocation procedures to six. He pointed out that the document does not include a timeline of how the APC will handle the rest of the process. He noted that the APC will converse continually with the Chancellor during budget reallocation and reduction processes and the Committee will establish a timeline based on its conversations with the Chancellor.

Bloom reported that both Boehm and Purcell wanted to ensure that notification of the broader constituents who may be affected by a budget reduction be included in the public hearings section of the procedures. He stated that the overall goal was to make the Procedures more compact and straight forward and he has provided both a marked up version and a clean version. He stated that he would be willing to share the document via Google documents to allow APC members to make comments.

Gay asked if there was any particular egregious problems with the current Procedures. Bloom stated that during the budget cuts last year the APC had good and honest discussions with the Chancellor and things went smoothly with the process, but the proposed revisions capture more of how the process actually works.

Bender stated that he did not have any problems with the substance of the changes and he appreciates the work that was done. He suggested that the APC members review the document and propose any further changes so the Committee can address the proposed revision in January and possibly vote on the changes at that time.

#### **5.0 Reports from the Executive Vice Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for IANR, Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development**

##### Office of Research and Economic Development

Wilhelm reported that the Office of Research and Economic Development has focused on lab safety issues and he has been working with the Associate Deans for Research in the colleges to develop safety protocols for shared and center labs. He noted that the effort has been going well.

He reported that the NU system hired a new compliance officer and there has been some coordination with UNL.

Wilhelm noted that the National Science Foundation is following through on their efforts to modify its sexual harassment policy, particularly in regards to reporting procedures and other federal agencies might follow suit. He pointed out that this is an issue that is taken seriously at UNL, and we have a number of processes in place to investigate and report any harassment incidents that may occur.

Wilhelm reported that there are national security concerns involving connections with China. He stated that there has been a lot of robust discussions about what we need to do to adhere to the spirit of the federal agencies and regulations while also protecting academic freedom and protecting the university. He believes that UNL's policies have us in good shape to address the issue.

Wilhelm reported that IRB is hiring more staff to assist with the workload and efforts are being made to streamline the process so turnaround is much quicker. He stated that Research and Economic Development will begin its strategic planning effort once the N150 report is made public. He stated that he hopes that this effort will be finished before the fall 2019 semester. He noted that research expenditures are still up by 5% for the year and the number of awards is up comparable to last year, but proposal numbers are still down slightly.

Gay asked why the Confucius Institute is housed in Mechanical Engineering. Zeleny pointed out that Professor Lou was the person who inaugurated the Institute and he split his responsibilities between Mechanical Engineering and the Institute. He noted that Professor Wood is now Director of the Institute and would like to move it to somewhere that is more accessible to international efforts. Gay suggested that the Institute should be monitored regarding academic freedom. Zeleny pointed out that the Confucius Institute at UNL deals more with language and Chinese culture and only a few university courses are offered. These are usually college courses that work with students in cities around the state.

Bloom asked if the new NSF policies would be applied retro actively. Wilhelm stated that we need to report any violations now.

#### Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor

Carr stated that he was reporting for Plowman. He reported that the VC for Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Marco Barker, will begin his position on April 1, although he is already involved with coordinating his move to Lincoln.

Carr reported that the dean search for the College of Arts & Sciences will be bringing four candidates to campus in early January for interviews. He noted that Dean Moberly is chairing the search. He stated that he is chairing the search for the dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences and currently the search committee is developing the list of candidates for airport interviews. He noted that there are some very strong candidates for the position. He reported that nominations are being solicited for the dean of University Libraries. He pointed out

that consultants are being used for all three searches. Bender asked if the same search firm is being used for all three positions. Carr reported that two different firms are being used.

## **6.0 Other Business**

Bloom stated that he is curious how the administrators plan to actualize the ideas listed in the N150 report. He pointed out that the APC should be involved. Bender pointed out that the APC needs to wait until the report is official before it can become involved. Zeleny noted that the Chancellor will present the report at the State of the University address on January 15, and although the process has not been finalized yet, he assured the APC that shared governance will be involved. Gay pointed out that he was on the Campus Community and Faculty and Staff Roles subcommittee of the N150 Commission and he had to fight to have invigorating faculty involvement in shared governance listed as a priority and he is concerned that this will be excluded from the report.

Clarke asked if any other units will be developing strategic plans. Zeleny reported that most of the colleges are done with their strategic plans and there are a host of campus organizations that are launching planning efforts after the N150 report is released. Bloom stated that the APC should be hearing about the strategic plans. Clarke noted that someone should be reviewing the plans. Zeleny stated that Plowman and Boehm will review the plans.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Georgian Suite. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.