

MINUTES

November 20, 2019 University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Bender, Bloom, Clarke, Gay, Geisinger, Hachtmann, Hebets, Johnson, Moberly, Purcell, Ratcliff, Smith, Tschetter, Zeleny

Members Absent: Boehm, Hibberd, O'Connor, Purdum, Wilhelm

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.

1.0 Call

Clarke called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2.0 Accelerated Master's Program

Carr reported that we have always had the accelerated master's program which allows senior undergraduate students to take up to 12 hours of graduate credit which would count for both undergraduate and graduate credits. He noted that there is a concerted effort now to promote this program to students who show promise in their junior year. He stated that the program would allow a student to obtain an undergraduate and a master's degree in five years. These students would be granted conditional acceptance into the graduate program, and upon graduation as an undergraduate, would be automatically enrolled into the master's program. Clarke pointed out that the students would have to apply to the accelerated master's program and the application would still need to be considered by the program.

Carr reported that Graduate Studies has developed guidelines for the program and they have been approved by the Graduate Council. He said that the guidelines emphasize that the bachelor's and master's programs would need to be in closely related fields, and the program would have to decide which 12 credit hours would apply to the master's program. He reported that once the program is agreed upon, the student would apply for it in their junior year, or when they complete 75 credit hours. He noted that the program is making a decision that the student will succeed in a graduate program. He pointed out that the Honors Program is really promoting the idea, and it is a good way for us to retain good students.

Geisinger noted that some accreditation institutions only allow 6 credit hours that can count for both the undergraduate and master's program. He asked if our accreditation institution, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), would allow the 12 credit hours. Carr noted that this is a system-wide program, but he will verify whether the 12 credit hours is accepted by the HLC.

Bloom asked if a program could accept the courses the student took as graduate courses while an undergraduate, even if the student did not apply for the program in their junior year. This would

allow the student to take advantage of the accelerated master's program. Carr stated that the courses could apply, although it would be up to the program's graduate committee to accept the courses. Geisinger asked if a student could then go into a doctoral program later. Carr stated that they could.

Hebets noted that the students would still be paying for their courses in their senior year, but asked if the program would need to provide an assistantship for the student when they entered the graduate program. Carr stated that this would be entirely up to the graduate program. Hebets pointed out that the students would be admitted at a different time than the normal track for graduate students, and there is usually a need for TAs. Clarke stated that if a department offers TA lines to all students, it would have to allocate the assistantship accordingly for when the students involved in the accelerated master's program enter the graduate program. Carr pointed out that another way of thinking about this is the students do not become a graduate student until they graduate as an undergraduate which means they will be in a department for a shorter period of time than a regular graduate student. He noted that the student can decide to leave if they have completed the required 120 credit hours.

Geisinger asked if the students could transfer the 12 graduate credit hours to another university. Carr stated that they could because they have taken the courses at the graduate level. Clarke asked if the students have to agree in their junior year, and if the unit has to accept the offer. Carr stated that the process is the same as if a student was applying for a graduate program.

Johnson asked if undergraduate scholarships would still apply. Carr stated that they would not be negatively affected at all. He pointed out that this is the reason why the student could not enter the graduate program until they have graduated as an undergraduate.

Tschetter asked if the accelerated master's program is formalizing the process of undergraduates taking some graduate courses. Carr stated that the real difference is that some of the courses would be double counted. He noted that there has always been the ability for undergraduates to take graduate level courses, but with this program they are able to use the graduate level credit hours for the master's program and the undergraduate program.

Carr stated that a frequent question is whether the course has to be a dual-listed course. He stated that they do not, they could be strictly a graduate course. He noted that the undergraduate courses have a component to them that would elevate the course to a graduate level. He stated that there has been considerable support for the program and many departments are interested in offering the accelerated master's program. The APC was in support of the program.

3.0 Approval of October 30, 2019 Minutes

After several revisions, Gay moved to approve the minutes as revised. Smith seconded the motion, and the APC approved the minutes.

4.0 Proposal to Eliminate Classical Languages Major

Clarke noted that the proposal is to eliminate the major, but the program would still be offered as an option in the department. Smith moved for approval of the proposal. Motion seconded by Ratcliff and approved by the APC.

5.0 PIRs: Barkley Center, Architecture

Zeleny reported that due to traveling issues, the PIR committee was unable to meet, but it would report to the APC at the December 4th meeting.

6.0 Reports from the Executive Vice Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for IANR, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Moberly reported that Assistant Vice Chancellor Volkmer has been appointed interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for ASEM and he will begin this position on January 2. He stated that Volkmer will continue to do his work as Assistant VC in the EVC Office while serving as an Interim Assistant VC of ASEM. He noted that Assistant VC Amber Williams is leaving UNL to go to the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He stated that there will be a national search for the position. He reported that there will also be a national search for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Moberly stated that the interviews for the Dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications were beginning next week. He noted that the process will be the same as any dean's search, and everyone is welcome to attend the public presentations of the four candidates.

Zeleny stated that the Chancellor hopes to have an announcement made later this month regarding a new EVC. He noted that negotiations with the lead candidate are still in progress.

Zeleny reported that the VSIP deadline is coming up on December 3, and a report will be made on the number of individuals who have applied and been approved for the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Heritage Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.