

MINUTES

September 11, 2019 University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Bender, Bloom, Boehm, Clarke, Geisinger, Hachtmann, Hebets, Hibberd, Johnson, Moberly, O'Connor, Smith, Tschetter, Wilhelm, Zeleny

Members Absent: Clarke, Gay, Purcell, Purdum, Ratcliff

Others Attending: Professor Sophia Perdikaris, Professor Ray Hames

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

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

2.0 Introduction of New APC Members

Bender welcomed new APC members Professor Frauke Hachtmann, Professor Eileen Hebets, and Professor Ken Bloom who was re-elected.

3.0 Subcommittee Reports on Program Proposals:

3.1 World Language Teaching: Spanish Graduate Certificate Program (Bender and Gay)

Bender reported that he and Gay reviewed the proposal and both agreed that it should be approved. Bloom asked if there was feedback about the proposal. Bender stated that Gay suggested some editorial changes but otherwise there were no problems with the proposal. He moved for approval of the program proposal. The motion was approved by the APC.

3.2 School of Global Integrative Studies (Bender and Geisinger)

Geisinger reported that the proposal seeks to combine the Anthropology and Geography departments with the Global Studies program. He noted that there are very few costs associated with the School and it has been supported by previous EVC Plowman, Interim EVC Moberly, and Dean Button. He stated that he did have some questions, but they were all positively responded by Professor Pedikaris, Chair of the Anthropology department.

Geisinger noted that there is the question of whether there is a balance between tuition income and the cost of the School and how it would survive with the RCM model. Moberly noted that under the RCM model very few departments will be able to cover all of their expenses by their income, and investments will be made to ensure that costs are covered. Pedikaris pointed out that Anthropology and Global Studies have existed on their own and forming the School will actually result in some savings. She noted that the

School has a lot of interest and partnerships with local agencies, non-profit organizations, which will increase research, and there is confidence that there will be growth with the School.

Hibberd asked why there is a proposal to create a school rather than a proposal to just merge departments. Bender noted that he and Clarke actually discussed this with Dean Button who pointed out that a school is functionally not much different than a department, but it allows for coverage of a broader area of disciplines. Perdikaris noted that when departments merge there can be a loss of their identity. She stated that Anthropology had once merged with Geography in the past which resulted in a significant loss of majors. Moberly pointed out that creating a school is not an unknown phenomenon on campus and listed several of the schools that have been created over the years.

Geisinger moved for approval of the proposal. The APC approved the proposal.

4.0 Report from Interim EVC Moberly

Moberly announced that the Dean search for the College of Journalism and Mass Communications is now active and the search committee has been appointed. He stated that the goal is to have the search wrapped up by mid-December.

Moberly reported that the Center for Transformative Teaching has hired a new director, Dr. Nick Monk, and the Center will have open houses in October for faculty to come and see the facility.

Moberly stated that there were over 100 faculty members at the New Faculty Orientation in August and he hoped the event helped the new faculty to feel welcomed. He stated that the campus will see increased efforts in retention of both students and faculty this year.

Moberly reported that the proposal to create the School of Computing should be coming forward to the APC in approximately 4-6 weeks. He noted that there were four different groups that worked on addressing the issues with creating the School and moving it to the College of Engineering.

Moberly stated that a committee has been formed in the College of Arts & Sciences to look at lecturer salaries and working conditions. He stated that the hope is to have a report completed in the spring. He noted that the idea is to create the best program we can for the lecturers given the resources that we have available. He pointed out that we want these faculty members to feel fully invested as faculty.

Moberly stated that the APC's appointment to the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is crucial because the Committee is going to be empowered to ensure that there is not a rash of duplicate courses being proposed because of the RCM model.

5.0 Approval of April 24, 2019 and July 25, 2019 Minutes

O'Connor moved for approval of the April 24, 2019 minutes. Motion seconded by Tschetter and approved by the APC.

O'Connor moved for approval of the July 25, 2019 minutes. Motion seconded by Tschetter and approved by the APC.

6.0 Election of Vice Chair

Geisinger volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. Bloom noted that he previously served as Chair and could do it again if needed. Bender asked if there was a motion to approve Geisinger as Vice Chair. O'Connor moved and Tschetter seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

7.0 Appointment to Committees

Bender asked for volunteers to serve on the following Committees:

Long Range Planning Subcommittee: Geisinger, Hachtmann, O'Connor, Smith, Hebets, Johnson and Boehm volunteered to serve on the committee.

Project Initiation Request Subcommittee: Zeleny, Ratcliff, and Purdum were identified to serve on the committee.

Aesthetics Review Committee: Wilhelm volunteered to serve as the APC rep on the committee.

University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Tschetter volunteered to serve on the committee.

8.0 APC Representatives Needed for Political Science APR (February 23-25, 2020) and Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education (March 15-17, 2020)

Tschetter volunteered to serve as the APC rep on the Political Science APR. Geisinger volunteered to serve as the APC rep on the Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education APR.

9.0 Proposal to Establish Major: Regional and Community Forestry Bachelor of Science

Bloom volunteered to review the proposal for the Regional and Community Forestry Bachelor of Science and the APC recommended Gay.

10.0 Proposal for new Graduate Certificates in the College of Arts & Sciences: Forensic Anthropology, Museum Studies

Hachtmann and Tschetter volunteered to review the proposals for the Graduate Certificates in Forensic Anthropology and Museum Studies.

11.0 RCM Committee Update (Bloom)

Bloom noted that his comments were based on his opinion and did not represent the entire steering committee. He stated that he is still positive with what is being done and it will be a great opportunity and will provide more clarity on budget decisions. He reported that this summer the RCM Steering Committee discussed how the state appropriations will be allocated. He stated that the current idea is to follow a set of metrics with distribution of funds based on teaching activity (40%), degree production (20%), and external research funding (40%).

Bloom reported that there was a deans' retreat where the full budget was shown to the deans, but the steering committee has yet to see it. Moberly stated that the steering committee should see the budget at its next meeting.

Bloom pointed out that the quality of the data is still a concern and there will be a committee that will look into it. He reported that there are still a lot of details that need to be hammered out and the shadow pilot is crucial to identify the bugs in the budget that will need to be fixed.

Bloom stated that he felt the experience was frustrating at times because he felt the consultants were difficult to work with and it is unclear how the budget model will impact the units, but noted that VC Nunez is pleased with the process. He reported that a forum on the RCM model was held on August 22nd and it included a panel of four administrators from other universities that use the RCM budget model. He stated that he thinks there is the opportunity for the APC to be involved in the governance of the new budget model. He pointed out that the APC should be involved in the vetting of the budget model before it goes live next year. Wilhelm asked if the forum with the leaders from other campuses was videotaped. Moberly stated that the forum was taped and it will be made available on the RCM forum webpage (<https://budget.unl.edu/rcm-forums>). Geisinger asked how the outside administrators were selected to be on the panel. Bloom stated that he believes Nunez knows the individuals.

Geisinger reported that he has heard some very negative comments about the budget model from colleagues at other institutions where the budget model is in place. Moberly pointed out that there will be a wide variety of opinions on the model, but in comparison to what we have now it is a definite improvement. He stated that the pilot model will be examined and some changes will more than likely be needed to fine tune the model.

Tschetter asked what efforts are being made to help the campus transition to the new model. Bloom reported that the consultants are in close discussion with college officers and business managers. He pointed out that the new model should not change how things operate in the departments, as deans will still determine department-level budgets. O'Connor stressed that communication is very important so that misinterpretations don't occur. He stated that decisions need to be made regarding the drivers of the model, how tuition will be distributed, and the need for a governance structure and who will be represented on it.

Geisinger noted that everyone is hearing that the deans will make all of the decisions on the distribution of the college budgets. Bloom stated that this is correct and pointed out that the deans will need to figure out how to manage the college budgets. He reported that Dean Button of CAS wants to establish a college budget committee to help manage the budget, and he hopes that all of the deans will be engaging their faculty with the management of the college faculty. He stated that the point of the RCM budget model is to decentralize the budget from the upper administration.

Moberly pointed out that the funding numbers from the 2017-18 fiscal year are being used as the baseline for the shadow model. He stated that everyone will be held harmless for a year and a half, and afterwards adjustments will be made as needed to the college budgets. He pointed out that 80% of our costs are for salaries and benefits and are fixed into the budget. Geisinger stated that real difficulties with the RCM model could arise if the University experiences further budget cuts. Moberly stated that one thing that needs to be addressed is the amount of tuition remission that the University currently provides because it impacts the amount of funds available for distribution. He stressed that we need to increase our enrollment and research funding.

12.0 Reports from the Vice Chancellor for IANR and Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development

Boehm reported that programmatic changes in the Institute that will be coming to the APC include the proposal to establish the M.S. and Ph.D. Plant Pathology programs, the Agronomy & Horticulture department will be bringing some curriculum changes forward, and there will be some changes in the School of Natural Resources.

Boehm noted that East Campus is undergoing a lot of changes. He reported that the opening of the dining hall in the East Campus Union has been delayed and it might not be ready until the end of January with the complete renovation of the Union scheduled for mid-April. He announced that Starbucks will be in the renovated Union. He stated that the CYT Library is now completely gutted and the temporary Library is now in Filley Hall. He stated that the Dairy Store will be moved and the reopening is scheduled for October 1, after which the Library circulation desk will move into the current location of the Dairy Store. He noted that the CYT Library is targeted to open in January 2021. He stated that the Miller Hall is slated to be decommissioned and then there will be construction of the gnotobiotic mouse facility.

Boehm reported that the City and the Army Corps of Engineers is looking at a plan to widen Dead Man's Run which will take the neighborhoods by East Campus out of the flood plain zone, but the recent flooding in the State has pushed this plan out by two years. Bloom asked what neighborhoods would be affected by the plan. Boehm stated that the plan would take the area from Fleming Fields over to north 48th Street and all the way up to the railroad tracks by Cornhusker Highway out of the 100 year flood plain. He stated that home owners in this area would not have to purchase flood insurance once the plan is put into place.

Boehm reported that there will be a national search for a new Dean of NCTA and there will be a new search for the head of the School of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences. He stated that IANR is evolving and will be in compliance with the service delivery initiative and the RCM budget model.

Wilhelm reported that ORED was busy last week with bringing a series of pop-up celebrations to locations across the campus. He noted that the aim of Scoopin' Up Success was to celebrate recent research accomplishments and milestones and during the event more than 700 cups of ice cream from the Dairy Store were handed out.

Wilhelm reported that there was an announcement and celebration of a \$3.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to launch STEM CONNECT, a partnership between UNL with state community colleges with the goal of bolstering Nebraska's science, technology, engineering and mathematics workforce. He noted that Professor Jim Lewis is the project's principal investigator.

Wilhelm stated that ORED is working hard to get ready for a research facility site visit and the subject area is one that would give us a strong, competitive advantage in food processing.

Wilhelm noted that Professor Hongfeng Yu, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, has been named interim director of the Holland Computing Center following the untimely death of David Swanson. He stated that the process to recruit a permanent director has started.

Wilhelm stated that ORED is working to ensure that all of our faculty are in the best position to be in compliance with federal regulations. He noted that there is an extensive webpage on research responsibility (<https://research.unl.edu/researchresponsibility/>) that provides information for researchers, but staff are available to help as well.

Wilhelm noted that the ninth lecture in the Nebraska Lecture series with physicist Daniel Claes was held yesterday.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Chimney Rock Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.