

## MINUTES

### September 25, 2019 University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

**Members Present:** Bender, Bloom, Boehm, Clarke, Geisinger, Hebets, Johnson, Moberly, Purcell, Purdum, Ratcliff, Smith, Tschetter, Zeleny

**Members Absent:** Gay, Hachtmann, Hibberd, O'Connor, Wilhelm

**Others Attending:** Professor Sydney Everhart, Chair Loren Geisler, Dean Tiffany-Heng Moss, Professor John Carroll, Dean Lance Perez, Brooke Hay

**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

Geisinger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

#### 2.0 Subcommittee Reports:

##### 2.1 Proposal to Establish M.S. & Ph.D. Graduate Degrees in Plant Pathology (Clarke & Gay)

Clarke reported that she and Gay reviewed the proposed program and saw no problems with it. She pointed out that Plant Pathology has been running a graduate program through other departments and now feel that it is appropriate for them to have their own graduate program. She moved that the proposal be accepted. The APC approved the proposal to establish the M.S. and Ph.D. graduate degrees in Plant Pathology.

##### 2.2 Proposal to Establish Major in Regional and Community Forestry Bachelor of Science (Bloom & Gay)

Bloom reported that he and Gay reviewed the proposal and felt this was an interesting program that will be fairly unique in the region as there are no other programs like this. He noted that the program will have good collaboration with the Nebraska Forestry Service, and the program has the potential to bring in new students, some from out-of-state. He reported that there were some questions, but they were addressed by the proposers.

Bloom moved that the program be approved. The APC approved the proposal to establish a major in Regional and Community Forestry Bachelor of Science degree.

##### 2.3 Proposals for New Graduate Certificates - Forensic Anthropology, Museum Studies (Tschetter & Hachtmann)

Forensic Anthropology

Tschetter reported that the Forensic Anthropology graduate certificate program is a very exciting program that was enthusiastically supported by the Graduate College. She noted that the program will have affiliated faculty members, a biological anthropologist, and will have connections with Forensic Anthropologist employed at the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency. She reported that there are not many programs in this field and it is anticipated that the program will bring in over \$1 million over five years with projections of having 25 students per year in the program. She noted that one concern is the requirement that a student have an internship and what would happen if a student was unable to attain one. Heng-Moss stated that currently there is a forensic science program in CASNR with 140 students and there has been no problems with students connecting with internships. She stated that the developers of the proposal reached out to CASNR and the School of Natural Resources and both units wrote letters in support of the proposal.

Bloom asked if it is correct that there are online courses in forensic studies. Tschetter stated that the Anthropology department may be developing these courses. Bloom asked if there will be evaluation of the program and will outcomes and graduates be tracked. Tschetter stated that the program will track the students and outcomes. Heng-Moss stated that there will more than likely be an APR as well.

Tschetter moved to approve the proposal. The APC approved the proposal.

#### Museum Studies

Tschetter reported that the graduate certificate in Museum Studies is also being proposed by the Anthropology department and it is important and needed by the college and the university. However, she did have some questions concerning the State Museum's role with the program, and the proposal mentions how it would benefit humanities' majors, but does not clearly state how they would benefit. She stated that there are some other questions that need to be addressed before she could make a motion for approval.

Geisinger noted that the questions need to be resolved and approval would be in abeyance until they are answered.

### **3.0 Project Initiative Request: Engineering Complex Phase II (Purdum and Zeleny)**

Purdum reported that the PIR committee met to discuss Phase II of the Engineering Complex. She noted that this phase is for construction of a new building which will add classroom space, specialized labs, interactive space, and it will pull Engineering enterprises together. She stated that the building will be funded through donations, including the recent \$20 million donation provided for the project. She noted that the University and the City of Lincoln have come to an agreement for closing down N. 17<sup>th</sup> street to construct the building.

Purdum did question how Phase II will tie into the needs identified by recent academic program reviews of departments in the college. Perez pointed out that there are currently very few classrooms designated as engineering classrooms. He stated that Phase II will provide engineering with its first set of designated classrooms which will specifically

address the engineering pedagogy, as well as relieve pressure for other classrooms on campus.

Geisinger noted that the proposal predicts that there will be an 80% increase in graduate students and 40% increase in undergraduate students. He stated that the proposal calls for an increase in the number of projected faculty, but he felt that the number of tenure track positions was weak. Perez reported that there has been a generational change of the faculty in recent years which has already resulted in the hiring of many tenure track faculty members. He stated that the bulk of the projected non-tenure track faculty positions are for very applied engineering fields at UNO where people with experience are needed.

Bloom asked what the basis is for the estimation of the large increase in enrollment. Perez stated that there has been a significant increase in research expenditures which will support an increased number of graduate students. He noted that engineering has very few TAs in the college because most of the graduate students are funded through research funds. He stated that hiring good faculty members who do a great job of teaching and research will help to increase enrollment. Bloom asked if the past performance of the college is being used to predict future results. Perez stated that the projections are made on recent performance and the recent investments that have been made in the college. He noted that the college has the opportunity to grow and is committed to attaining the goals. He pointed out that the State of Nebraska has a tremendous need for engineers with the prediction that the State will need 15,000 in the next five years. He noted that Peter Kiewit alone has plans to hire 5,000 engineers this year. Bloom asked if there are enough potential students to meet these demands. Perez stated that there are, but it will require us to be more competitive in recruiting. He noted that currently our facilities are not competitive, but the new facility will help to address this problem. He stated that the college also wants to diversify its student body and wants to increase the number of women.

Moberly moved for approval of the PIR. Boehm seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the APC.

Bloom asked if there is any document that states how the APC evaluates PIRs. Purdum reported that the subcommittee reviews the proposed plan and the need for the project, looks at how it fits into the campus master plan, and whether the proposed facility addresses issues raised in recent academic program reviews. She pointed out that the PIR subcommittee does not rubber stamp the requests and usually the subcommittee raises further questions that need to be addressed.

Geisinger stated that the request shows the need for the facility and noted that \$20 million has already been donated, but questioned whether there would be difficulty raising the additional funds. Zeleny stated that the goal is that the funds will be raised, and reported that the Regents would not approve the plan if funding is not obtained.

## **5.0 Approval of September 11, 2019 Minutes**

Bender moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Moberly and approved by the APC.

## **6.0 Proposal to Establish the NU Governance and Technology Center**

Geisinger asked for volunteers to review the proposal. Bender and Clarke volunteered.

Moberly reported that the proposed center would primarily be housed in the College of Law, but will partner with the Colleges of Business and Engineering. He stated that the center will be privately funded, and the goal of the center is to work on the relationship among technology, business, society, and government related to the issues surrounding the development, commercialization, and regulation of new technologies. He noted that the proposal calls for a center director and two faculty lines. Boehm pointed out that agriculture has a heavy tech side and asked if partnerships would be opened up to other areas. Moberly stated that it would and there has already been some discussion with Journalism.

Moberly noted that the proposal does not identify the private donors and asked if the APC feels that this information is necessary. Geisinger stated that if donors are unusually political than the APC should know. Moberly disagreed saying that it would set a dangerous precedent to look at the politics of a donor, and questioned who would decide which political view would be acceptable. He noted that one of the donors are the Koch brothers who have supported over 200 universities. He stated that the Koch foundation is very supportive of academic freedom, and the proposal clearly sets out that there cannot be any interference with academic freedom. Geisinger pointed out that there needs to be transparency in all proposals that receive private funding.

Bloom asked if we are confident that there is evidence that the Koch foundation's track record on not interfering with an institution has changed. Moberly pointed out that his reputation is on the line with bringing this proposal forward and he would not have put it forward if there were any questions. He noted that the Koch foundation has agreements with many top institutions and they are not interested in getting involved with the function of the center.

Bender asked if the Koch foundation would have a voice in the selection of faculty for the center. Moberly stated that the foundation would not have input.

Ratcliff stated that it is important to have transparency of the funding sources for any proposal put forward to the APC. He noted that the Committee does not want to be blindsided if it approves a proposal where the funding source is controversial. Moberly questioned what the role of the APC becomes and how it chooses who can and cannot fund a proposed program or center. Ratcliff stated that the APC has the right to know the funding sources. Bender pointed out that there could be some blowback depending on who the donor is.

## **6.0 Reports from the Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for IANR**

Moberly reported that the search for the dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications is in process. He stated that the move to create a School of Computing and moving the Computer Science and Engineering department into the College of Engineering is progressing. He stated that he hopes that the proposal will come to the APC in late October or November, and noted that there are some issues that are still being worked out.

Moberly stated that the committee working on issues facing lecturers is moving forward. He reported that the committee will identify problems and will make recommendations on how to address them.

Boehm stated that there will be a soft opening for the dairy store in its new location on October 1. He noted that it will be the first time that the dairy store will have its own space. He stated that the new location will provide visitors with a view overlooking the green space on East Campus.

Boehm stated that the renovations to the East Campus Union are moving along and the hope is that most of the building will be open by April. He reported that the bowling alley will be going offline for all of next summer. He stated that the dining facility is scheduled to be open on November 4 and the public will be able to eat there. He stated that he believes the renovations to the Union will create opportunities for faculty, staff, and students.

Boehm reported that the interior of CYT Library has been removed. He noted that the library's circulation desk has been moved to the old dairy store location, and between now and the end of January the remaining food processing center equipment will be moved to NIC. He noted that afterwards the areas will be turned into a makeshift collaborative space, and he has been working with the Sheldon Art Gallery about the possibility of opening up a small gallery on East Campus which could allow the community to explore the work IANR does. He reported that a new visitors' center will eventually go into the space and a made and grown in Nebraska store featuring food items such as apples and apple cider, textiles from Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design, and science kits from the Entomology department will be available for purchase.

Boehm stated that ground has been broken for the gnotobiotic mouse facility which will be an expansion of the life sciences and will allow researchers to work with germ free mice. He reported that funds raised to support renovations for East Campus have been: \$28 ½ million to renovate the Union, \$22 million for the CYT renovation, and \$5 million for the mouse facility. He pointed out that there were also investments for the Massengale Residential Center and the Vet Diagnostic Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Chimney Rock Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.