

MINUTES

January 8, 2020 University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

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

Members Absent: Boehm, Wilhelm

Others Attending: Chancellor Green, Associate VC Walker; Chair Bertrand Clarke, Statistics; Professor Pannier; Professor Farritor; Professor Bevins; Professor Sheridan

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 Approval of December 4, 2019 Minutes

Zeleny moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Hebets and approved by the APC.

3.0 Proposed Revisions to APR Guidelines

Clarke noted that Walker spoke with Dean Carr, Graduate Studies and with Wilhelm to see if the proposed changes were acceptable, and they agreed with the changes. Walker pointed out that the proposal is to delete the External Review Team's required meetings with the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development in section VII. Guidelines for Site Visit. She noted that these meetings are unnecessary and removing them would free up some time in the APR schedule.

Clarke asked if there were any objections. Hearing none she asked if there was a motion to approve the proposed changes. Geisinger moved to approve the changes. The motion was seconded by Bender and approved by the APC.

Bloom questioned whether units have ample time to discuss controversial issues with an External Review Team given the shortened APR schedule. Walker stated that eliminating the required meetings will hopefully provide enough time for more discussions with the External Review Team. Purcell asked whether the reviews are as effective with a shortened schedule. Walker stated that the Dean of Graduate Studies and the VC for Research and Economic Development will still get a copy of the self-study and they can provide questions and comments in writing to the review team. She noted that they also could attend the site visit.

Walker stated that she would be happy to return to the APC at another time to discuss the APR schedules further.

4.0 Proposal to Establish a Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Measurement and Modeling

Bloom reported that the proposal calls for the program to be built out of existing courses and there is no additional costs to it. He stated that overall he and Hachtmann saw no problems with the proposal, although they did have concerns whether there would be overlap with existing statistics courses, but it was explained by the proposers that the statistics for this program were very applied to this particular area. He stated that he did ask about the evaluation plan on the program because it was lacking in the proposal. He noted that the proposers stated that they would add this into the proposal. He pointed out that the proposal based their tuition revenue on a 5% increase in tuition, but it has typically been a 3% increase. He suggested that this also be changed in the proposal.

Hachtmann stated that the proposers were told that their graduate majors were told that they could not take the existing minor in Quantitative, Qualitative, and Psychometric Methods which is one of the reasons for this proposal.

Clarke B. stated that the proposal for the applied statistics is very similar to the two minors listed on the Educational Psychology webpage. He noted that it is not clear when these minors were even approved. He reported that Dean Carr thought the Statistics department was consulted about the proposed program, but there was no consultation. He stated that the issue at most universities is that departments other than Statistics are trying to teach statistics courses and many universities are taking action to eliminate duplication of courses. He pointed out that the incentive-based budget model will play a large role in college and department budgets and the university should not be letting a department teach another department's courses. He stated that overlap in courses should be minimized and suggested that the proposal should be sent back to the Graduate Council to have the approval rescinded.

Bloom asked if the issue is with the courses in the program. Clarke B. said yes and noted that other students could take these courses than those seeking the certificate. Bloom asked what body has authority over graduate courses. Purdum stated that each dean of a college has authority.

Geisinger pointed out that his experience is that statistics in other departments are taught differently, and there is a fundamental difference in the approach of how these courses are taught which results in the students getting more out of the course than a traditional statistics course. Clarke B. stated that he thinks is a mischaracterization of the statistics courses taught at UNL. He noted that some courses, both graduate and undergraduate, are purposely aimed for mixed majors.

Clarke suggested tabling the proposal and sending it back to Graduate Studies and to the department for reconsideration given the concerns that have just been raised. Purdum suggested that the courses be either cross-listed or should be taught collaboratively with Statistics. She stated that the advisory committee for the proposal should review it again keeping in mind the issues that have been raised today. Bloom pointed out that the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will need to review the issue of duplication of statistics courses, as will

the Graduate Council, and will have to address the problem particularly given the incentive-based budget model.

Bender seconded the motion. Motion approved. There were three abstentions.

5.0 Final Draft of N2025 Strategic Plan

The APC met with the co-chairs of the N2025 Strategy Team to discuss the final draft of the N2025 Strategic Plan. Chancellor Green reported that the co-chairs have combed through every piece of feedback they received on the earlier draft of the N2025 Strategic Plan and have used that information to develop the final draft. He noted that the draft before the APC now has the targets identified, some language has been revised, and the order of the aims has been changed. He stated that there were conversations about whether the plan was bold enough or too generic. He pointed out that many of the targets are bold and the plan is audacious, but he believes the targets are achievable.

Farritor stated that in the preamble and throughout the document the main point is that we want to be a university where every interaction matters, and he would be proud if we could achieve this overarching theme. Bevins pointed out that one of the things he is excited about is that creative activities stands shoulder to shoulder with research in the plan which is a very bold concept.

Bloom noted that he was on the N2025 Committee and in terms of boldness he pointed out that we do not necessarily need to be different from other universities, but we do want to be a better university. He noted that some of the targets are very challenging and asked if we are comfortable with the idea that we may not meet all of the targets in the next five years. Pannier stated that the idea is to try to attain each of the targets, but noted that some of the targets are aspirational. Chancellor Green acknowledged that some targets are aspirational while others are more attainable, but we should be putting ourselves in a position where we are growing as an institution.

The APC members then provided further feedback: having more diversity in administration, including a statement to support faculty participation in shared governance, include a goal of reducing the average student debt, ensuring that strategies are not in contention with each other, include a target to increase the stipend level of assistantships for graduate students, the lack of identification of administrators in the document, and a suggestion to include more raw numbers in addition to percentages in the targets that are measurable.

Ratcliff asked how diversity is going to be achieved in a state where there is an affirmative action ban. Sheridan pointed out that the Strategic Plan identifies several implementation issues that need to be worked out in order to achieve the goals of the Plan, but a more complete implementation plan needs to be developed. Bevins noted that the implementation plan will be very different for the units across the campus, and can even vary within a college. Sheridan stated that the units know best how to implement strategies to meet the aims of the Plan. Chancellor Green reported that implementation is already underway for some of the targets.

Sheridan, Pannier, Farritor, and Bevins thanked the APC for their feedback. Chancellor Green noted that the N2025 Strategic Plan will be rolled out in February with the State of Our University address.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Chimney Rock Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.