

ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2020

PRESENT: Bender, Bloom, Clarke, Gay, Geisinger, Hachtmann, Johnson, Moberly, Ratcliff, Smith, Tschetter, Wilhelm

ABSENT: Boehm, Hebets, Hibberd, O'Connor, Purcell, Purdum, Zeleny

GUESTS:

1.0 Call

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

2.0 Approval of February 12, 2020 Minutes

Bloom asked for the deletion of a sentence in the minutes. Geisinger then moved for approval of the minutes. Gay seconded the motion. The APC approved the minutes.

3.0 Proposal to Establish the Center for Agricultural Profitability

Clarke asked for two volunteers to review the proposal. Gay and Clarke volunteered.

Geisinger asked if the APC ever receives a follow-up report on the projections made in a center proposal. Wilhelm stated that it depends on how a center is organized. He reported that an ORED website (<https://research.unl.edu/proposaldevelopment/core-facilities/>) lists University centers and centers associated with the Office of Research and Economic Development. He stated that the Board of Regents requires a review of university-wide centers periodically. He noted that there are other variations of centers on campus and he knows that some of them are reviewed periodically and have to give an annual report to the college or department associated with the center. He stated that he thinks the Agricultural Profitability Center would be academically connected and would therefore be reviewed by CASNR.

Gay asked what the advantage is of a department creating a center versus working collaboratively with colleagues. Wilhelm reported that there are different perceptions about centers. He noted that some feel that they have a greater chance of being nationally recognized if there is a center, and a Board of Regents center could capture different sources of funding from the university. He stated that the centers with curricular offerings provide the faculty with more visibility and allows the students to see what professions are associated with a center. Gay asked what costs are associated with a Regents center. Wilhelm noted that the centers do require staffing and there are usually some apportionments of stipends for the director and associate director. Gay asked what the requirements are for

getting a center. Wilhelm stated that getting a center can be difficult and it can mean a reallocation of resources.

4.0 Proposal to Establish the Center for Resilience in Agricultural Working Landscapes

Clarke asked for volunteers to review the proposal. Bloom and Clarke volunteered.

5.0 Proposal to Establish Masters Degree in Supply Chain Management

Clarke reported that the proposal came from the Business College and has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate Council. She noted that Supply Chain Management is the smallest department in the College, but they have been encouraged to develop their offerings at the graduate level. She stated that the program's courses currently exist, and the program will be offered online. Hachtmann moved for approval. Motion seconded by Smith and approved by the APC.

6.0 APC Report on Jeffrey Raikes School of Computer Science and Management APR (Smith)

Smith reported that the APR was straightforward and went well. He noted that the Raikes School is a unique program on campus and is essentially a small, independent honors college. He stated that the School admits high performing students who are oriented into careers in business and technology. He stated that the self-report was very well done, and the APR team was very well qualified. He reported that the team gave rigorous and thorough reviews of everyone they met, and the team felt that the School was a real strength for UNL, attracting high-achieving students.

Smith stated the APR team thought the curricular courses and the year long design studio projects were very good. He noted that businesses pay \$50,000 for the design studio projects, which also provides the students with real world problems to solve. He pointed out that the goal is to deliver a product for the business(es) when the project is completed.

Smith stated that the APR team felt the size of the school was a concern, and felt that it should be larger and that the program should grow because of its unique offering. He reported that there are currently 120 students and it is a residential program where most of the students live in the dorm provided just for these students. He stated that the team suggests that juniors and seniors could live off campus, which could allow the School to expand. He noted that the Director, Professor Cooper, is open to the suggestion, and there is the feeling that students should be able to decide whether to live off campus.

Smith stated that the APR team suggested that the Raikes School should actively seek to increase interdisciplinary studies. He noted that most of the students are computer science and business majors. He reported that Cooper was open to the

suggestion and pledged to reach out to other academic units and to recruit students. He noted that Cooper talked about including a political science major in the Raikes program.

Smith reported that the APR team suggested that the design studio be open to more non-Raikes students. He noted that it is currently open to other students, but they often feel like outsiders in the studio because the Raikes students not only take classes together, but live together as well. The team pointed out that the Raikes students would be working with various people when they enter the workforce, and it would be good to blend them with other students while in college to get them used to working with others. He stated that the team also suggested that it would be good to have the students come up with their own ideas for the design studio projects, providing funding could be obtained to support the projects.

Smith reported that one issue of concern is regarding the reporting lines for faculty members. He noted that the faculty members who teach in the Raikes School are tenured in their home departments, but the majority of their working life is involved with the School. He pointed out that Computer Science and Engineering is transitioning from the College of Arts & Sciences to the College of Engineering, and the faculty from Computer Science and Engineering involved with the Raikes School are concerned with the uncertainty of how they will be managed. He pointed out that Raikes is financially independent from any college. Bloom asked whom the School reports to currently. Wilhelm reported that the School reports to the EVC. He pointed out that many of the courses are taught by faculty members who are in other colleges, and there are few faculty members that reside with the School.

Gay asked if the students receive a full scholarship, and whether the School would be willing to put up more money for more students. Smith stated that he believes the students get full scholarships for the program. Gay asked how many students are from out of state. Smith stated that the School is a beacon that brings student in from different states, and they are all high achieving students. He noted that Jeffrey Raikes made a very large donation to support the School.

Smith stated that a hearing on the APR is not needed.

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

Moberly reported that ten days ago the administration created a taskforce with representatives from different units and areas of the campus to work on preparations for the campus to deal with COVID-19. He stated that the taskforce has sub committees, one of which is on academic planning which is composed of deans, chairs, faculty members, Faculty Senate representatives, and students. He noted that this group worked over the weekend to write policies, or suggest revisions to existing policies to address remote access learning. He reported that

one of the policies is to ask faculty members to allow flexibility on class absences during this time. He noted that the Faculty Senate was asked to support the policy and in less than 24 hours, the Senate voted approval of the policy. He pointed out that the idea was to ensure that students would not come to campus if they do not feel well.

Moberly reported that the taskforce is asking faculty members to think about how to deliver their course(s) by online teaching. He stated that there are resources (<https://covid19.unl.edu/instructors-researchers>) that are set up to assist faculty members in preparing to deliver their courses by remote access. He noted that both faculty and students have been asked to check to see if they are ready to work from remote locations, although no decisions have been made about doing this yet.

Moberly stated that the university has been working with the Mayor, Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, and others to develop a plan and to assess the COVID-19 situation. He noted that the idea is to reduce the spread of transmission as much as possible to protect those who are most vulnerable, and to not overwhelm the health care system.

Moberly reported that our students who are in study abroad programs in level 3 countries have been brought back to the U.S. He noted that the University is adhering to the guidelines and recommendations being made by the CDC, and that the university is cancelling all university-sponsored travel for the remainder of the semester. Bender asked if this applied to domestic travel or just international travel. Moberly stated that currently it applies to all international travel and outside the continental U.S. and Hawaii. Smith asked about students in other international countries. Moberly noted that the virus is fast moving and the administration is monitoring the situation in other countries where we have students and is getting daily briefings from UNMC. He reported that if things change in other countries we would bring these students home.

Geisinger pointed out that it is not clear if the university is completely closed or whether it is just that the classes will be conducted online only. Moberly noted that most universities would be going to remote access to deliver courses. He pointed out that the university does not close because we have students who are unable to go home and we need to take care of them. He stated that at this point people can still come to work, but at some point every university will need to decide whether to close all but essential functions. He stated that the university would move to remote access if conditions change in Nebraska.

Bloom asked how the university would get back on track once classes resume. Moberly stated that there are a lot of different views on this. He noted that it is possible that these changes could extend into the fall semester, but most universities have not made a decision yet to cancel summer classes. He reported that Homeland Security says that international students, who under normal

circumstances must take in-person classes, can only remain in the country if they are taking classes online.

Geisinger asked if there has been any discussion with the regional accrediting body about whether these changes would impact our accreditation. Moberly stated that he doesn't think there had been any discussions with the HLC, but he knows the Law Association is being flexible.

Hachtmann pointed out that there needs to be better communication with the students because there are so many rumors spreading that they don't know what is happening and it is causing a lot of anxiety. She asked where students could get accurate information. Moberly stated that the Chancellor is sending out emails explaining what is occurring and there is a website, that is continually being updated as information becomes available, that provides information for students, faculty, and staff. Gay stated that if we go online with classes, it seems probable that we would not go back to classes on campus for the rest of the semester.

Johnson asked what student organizations should be doing and whether they should cancel scheduled events. Moberly stated that if on-campus classes are cancelled, organizations should cancel their events. He noted that there is a push from the public to limit large groups of people. Geisinger asked if dissertation meetings are still permitted. Moberly stated that Dean Carr of Graduate Studies has information on how to handle these meetings from a distance. Geisinger pointed out that a lot of exams that faculty members give would not work well online. Moberly stated that there has been a lot of thinking about this, and if we go to remote access courses only, he expects that there would be several options available for instructors to use. He noted that the Business College uses Proctor U and it works well.

Tschetter asked if the Faculty Senate could help in some way. Moberly reported that the faculty members are working hard to give the best educational program they can deliver. He stated that instructors should tell students they should definitely not come to class if they are feeling sick. He stated the Faculty Senate could help with messaging to the faculty. He stated that it would be helpful if faculty members who have skills in delivering courses remotely could help their colleagues who are not as adept at it.

Smith wanted to thank publicly Moberly for his leadership during the time that he has served as Interim EVC. Moberly thanked the APC, and noted that academic program reviews are important, and the APC is a good and important committee.

Bender asked if there has been any discussion about commencement. Moberly stated that there have been discussions and the administration is trying to be clear that students will graduate at the end of the semester. Tschetter pointed out that the academic planning subcommittee has discussed inviting students to participate

in future commencement ceremonies should the May graduation ceremony be cancelled.

Geisinger asked what would happen with lab classes if we go to remote access. Tschetter pointed out that there has been some discussion on whether the current grade would serve as the final grade, or if some of the labs could be delivered by remote access. She stated that the big problem is with courses that are sequenced. She pointed out that there are no easy answers to some of these questions and faculty members will need to do the best that they can given the situation.

Gay asked if it is forbidden to meet with graduate students and UCARE students. Ratcliff pointed out that it is recommended that meetings be conducted virtually. Geisinger asked if the University Libraries would be closed. Moberly stated that if the campus population drops below a certain number, then the Libraries could close.

Wilhelm reported that awards are up from last year, proposals are significantly up from last year, and expenditures are a little higher. He stated that the student-oriented Research Days is scheduled for April 14-15, but noted that we may have to be creative in how the meetings associated with the Research Days are delivered given the evolving COVID-19 situation.

Wilhelm stated that there is a research sub taskforce addressing how COVID-19 could affect research at the university. He stated that members include faculty, some deans, graduate students, and staff members that support research activities around the campus. He noted that members will be teleconferencing, and the group will be focusing on guidance, assistance, and tools that will be available to the campus to ensure that we continue research activity at the highest pace. He stated that the sub taskforce believes that there are parts of the research activity that could continue even if classes move to remote access. He stated that the sub taskforce will also work on a contingency plan and how researchers could operate with less staff.

Wilhelm stated that the COVID-19 website has a lot of information, and at this time, business is continuing as usual. He stated that we have extra inventory at this point, and everyone involved in animal care is healthy at this time.

7.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m. The next meeting of the APC is scheduled for April 8th at 3:00. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator of Faculty Governance.