

MINUTES

December 2, 2020 University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Buan, Clarke, Everhart, Gay, Geisinger, Hachtmann, Hebets, Latta Konecky, Miller, Moberly, Rodene, Smith, Spiller, Tschetter, Wilhelm, Zeleny

Members Absent:

Others Attending:

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

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

2.0 Chancellor Green

Chancellor Green met with the APC and thanked the members for the tremendous amount of work, diligence, and effort they put into reviewing and considering the Phase 1 and Phase 2 budget reduction proposals. He stated that he reviewed and briefed the APC's recommendations on the Phase 2 budget cuts, and he accepts all of the recommendations made by the Committee including the recommendation not to eliminate the Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design department. He stated EVC Spiller and VC Boehm have been directed to identify other proposed budget cuts to close the gap that is a result of the decision not to eliminate the Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design department and the APC will need to consider the new proposed cuts early in the spring semester.

3.0 Approval of November 11, 2020 and November 18, 2020 Minutes

Bloom moved to accept both sets of minutes. Motion seconded by Hebets. The minutes were approved by the APC.

4.0 Report on the Proposal to Change the Name of the Supply Chain Management Systems Graduate Certificate Name (Ankerson and Hachtmann)

Hachtmann reported that the proposal called for dropping "systems" from the title of the graduate certificate. She noted that the reason was to keep the name consistent with the recently approved master's degree in Supply Chain Management and to be consistent with similar programs at other Big Ten universities. She stated that there were no problems with the proposal and she and Ankerson recommended approving the proposal. The APC approved the name change.

5.0 Report on Proposal to Establish the Educational Neuroscience Graduate Certificate (Hebets and Moberly)

Hebets reported that she and Moberly carefully reviewed the proposal and noted that the program would mostly be housed in Educational Psychology with one other unit, Special Education and Communication Disorders participating. She stated that the courses are already being taught and the program requires four courses, all taught on campus beginning in fall 2021. She noted that there is one course listed in the program which is in the Psychology department and the chair of Psychology fully supports the proposed program. She pointed out that there are no costs associated with the proposed program and the faculty teaching the courses have a plan for how to review applicants and to assess the program. She stated that she and Moberly recommend approval of the program. The APC approved the program proposal.

6.0 Subcommittee Needed to Review Plant and Landscape Systems BS Program Proposal

Everhart and Latta Konecky volunteered to review the program proposal. Boehm noted that the proposal seeks to collapse three majors into a unified major in Agronomy & Horticulture.

7.0 Reports from EVC Spiller, VC Boehm, and VC Wilhelm

Academic Affairs

Spiller reported that the proposal to establish the School of Computing should be coming to the APC soon and there will be another proposal from the College of Arts & Sciences sometime in January. She stated that in reviewing the year, COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the academic enterprise, but we were able to accomplish a lot over the summer with offering 100 new and expanded courses. She noted that more than 1,000 faculty members participated in the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning's summer workshops and Summer Institutes for Online Teaching to help them with delivering their courses remotely. She reported that summer enrollment was up 10% more than last year and over 400 freshmen participated in the Husker Starter pack which introduced students to the campus and allowed them to take a few courses.

Spiller pointed out that both the fall and spring calendars were modified for the campus to deal with COVID-19. She noted approximately 1400 students have registered for 80 courses during the December 3-week session and during the January 3-week session 108 courses will be offered. She pointed out that these 3-week sessions are allowing students to graduate in a timely fashion by providing them access to bottle-neck courses and career readiness courses. She reported that there has been an increase of almost 2% in the graduation rate, in part due to the 3-week sessions. She stated that due to COVID the tenure extension policy is being modified to accommodate those faculty members who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Spiller reported that the campus is moving towards implementation of the incentive based-budget model and she and the other VCs are thinking about the implications the new budget model will have for the campus. She pointed out that it is important as the colleges handle their budgets more transparently that we do not impede cross-disciplinary work. She stated that it is very important that our budget model reflects our values and commitment rather than it creating our

values and commitments. She stated that we need to use the incentive-based budget model to make sure we are working forward to achieve the goals outlined in the N2025 strategic plan.

Spiller noted that the incentive-based budget model will require us to collect a lot more data which is currently occurring. She stated that the Office of Undergraduate Studies has met and consulted with every department and equity dashboards have been provided for each unit. She reported that we will now have the data to see if there are some courses that are not working well for certain cohorts of students which will allow us to see if we can provide greater help to these students so they can be successful. Everhart asked who has access to the department dashboards and noted that the department and college curriculum committees should have access to them. Spiller stated that the curriculum committees should have them but if not the chair of the department likely has the dashboard. She stated that Professor Brassil who is helping with creating the dashboards can provide information. She suggested that Professor Brassil I swilling to meet and speak to departments about the data for their unit.

Spiller stated that all graduate students will now have two options to extend the completion of their degree program, but this will require approval from the graduate degree program.

IANR

Boehm reported that the construction of the gnotobiotic mouse facility, which the APC previously approved, is soon to be completed. He stated that the renovation of the CYT Library is nearing completion with the punch out list being done next week. He stated that the Library and Commons area will be open for business on the first day of classes in January. He reported that in March Miller Hall will be decommissioned and deconstructed. He stated that the East Campus Union renovation will have a wrap around porch which will be a great space for everyone on East Campus.

Boehm stated that Dean Heng-Moss and her team in CASNR had an inaugural graduation celebration for graduate students. He wanted to commend Dean Heng-Moss and the CASNR curriculum committee chairs in their efforts to critically think about what the right number of majors are for the college and how course offerings can be contemporized.

Boehm stated that Extension navigates 93 different counties and continues to deal carefully with providing service to the communities during the pandemic.

Research and Economic Development

Wilhelm reported that one of the major challenges this summer and fall semester has been the effort to identify the grand challenge themes laid out in the N2025 plan. He stated that there have been numerous meetings lately to flush out the description of each theme. He stated that there will be more to discuss with the faculty in January.

Wilhelm stated that we continue to have strong research and creative activity in Lincoln and across the State which is a testament to the safety measures that were put into place to ensure safety during the pandemic. He reported that proposals continue to be steady, but our expenditures were lagging although we are starting to see some improvements.

Wilhelm reported that our faculty members continue to be recognized and awarded for their work not only at the University, but by national organizations as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 3:00 by Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.