

MINUTES

January 13, 2021 University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

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

Members Absent: Hebets

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 Approval of February 10, 2021 Minutes

Ankerson moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Latta Konecky and then approved by the APC.

3.0 Subcommittee Needed to Review the Proposal to Establish the Statistics & Data Analytics Bachelor of Science Program

Geisinger noted that two APC members were needed to review the proposal. Buan and Gay volunteered.

Bloom asked if more data analytic program proposals would be coming forward to the APC. Spiller reported that there are ongoing collaborative discussions occurring about data science involving CAS, CASNR, and Engineering and this is the first of two proposals that will be forwarded. She noted that this proposal is for a degree in data analytics which is slightly distinct from data science and pointed out that the other proposal will pertain to data science.

4.0 Subcommittee Needed to Review the Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Acting

Geisinger noted that two APC members were needed to review the proposal. Boehm and Geisinger volunteered to review the proposal.

5.0 APC Representative Report on the School of Biological Sciences APR (Tschetter)

Tschetter reported that the APR was well done, and the external review team was very organized. She stated that the department was started in 1973 and was renamed as a School in 1984 with two sections established: Ecology, Evolution and Behavior (EEB) and Genetics, Cell and Molecular Biology (GCMB). She stated that a problem for the School is that the faculty are

spread out in four different locations with Manter Hall being considered the department home. She reported that faculty members further located away from Manter feel more isolated and were unhappy that department meetings are always held in Manter.

Tschetter stated that the external review team noted that the discipline has changed since becoming a School and the department faculty needs to rethink where they currently stand and how they could redefine themselves. She noted that the review team felt that the department has the potential to be a really great School and recommended that it develop a strategic plan but pointed out that the department needs to work closely with administration.

Clarke asked Tschetter if she had a sense of how well the School received the external review team report. Tschetter stated that the report overall was very positive although it acknowledged the frustration the department has over the lack of space and the feeling that the Director does not have sufficient support from the administration to move the unit forward.

Ankerson asked if the School has tried moving some of the department meetings to the other locations. She noted that some of the problems could be due to organizational issues. Tschetter reported that department meetings have not been moved in the past. She wondered whether department meetings held via Zoom over the past year have helped to ease some of the isolation.

Boehm noted that there are a lot of complicated dynamics in this particular discipline. Tschetter pointed out that there was a great deal of positivity in the department, but it may need to rethink their focus areas. She reported that she learned a great deal from this APR and overall, it was very well done. Spiller pointed out that APRs provide an opportunity for departments to think of ways to make improvements and to move forward making it a happier environment for the faculty and students.

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

EVC Spiller

Spiller stated that she is looking forward to the next meeting when the proposal to create the School of Computing will be discussed. She noted that currently the APC review committee is waiting to receive responses to some questions they have from the College of Engineering.

Spiller stated that the Office of Business and Finance has now been moving forward with holding meetings with the colleges on the next phase of the incentive-based budget. She noted that the primary impact of the budget change will be on academic programs and research centers rather than the auxiliaries. She reported that a great deal of backend data work is being done so we can have a budget model that is outcome based. She stated that in the next 9-12 months a large part of our focus will be on the new budget model.

VC Boehm

Boehm reported that he is very excited that the Statistics & Data Analytics proposal is now being considered by the APC and he appreciates all of the hard work of the faculty and EVC Spiller for the collaboration that has been done to develop the proposal. He reported that the Higher Education Coordinating Committee will be considering the Center for Agricultural Profitability which will be important for the State.

Boehm stated that IANR has been very busy dealing with the pollution from the ethanol plant to the University's Mead property and the impact of the pollution on the environment and humans. He stated that our federal engagement strategy work has increased with the change in the federal administration, and we are currently working on a \$110 million federal building that will be located on Nebraska Innovation Campus. He stated that in addition we are working on another \$65 million privately funded building that will be right next to the federal building.

Boehm reported that IANR will be meeting with VC Nunez and Professor Bloom on March 17th to discuss the incentive-based budget model to get a better understanding of how it will function. He noted that the Bylaw changes proposed by the Faculty Senate are moving forward and should be voted on by the Board of Regents on April 9th. He pointed out that the proposed revisions include changes addressing the interlocal agreements with the counties and improvements to the status of Extension faculty.

Boehm moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by Spiller and approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 3:00 by Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.