

# MINUTES

November 17, 2021

## University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

**Members Present:** Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Clarke, Doll, Hachtmann, Hebets, Heng-Moss, Latta Konecky, Moriyama, Rodene, Spiller, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Wilhelm, Zeleny

**Members Absent:** Buan, Ibrahim

**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**

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

### **2.0 Approval of Minutes**

Hachtmann asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Zeleny moved for approval, motion seconded by Ankerson, and approved by the APC.

### **3.0 APC Representative Needed for Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication APR (February 20-23, 2022)**

Hachtmann noted that a representative from the APC was needed to serve on the Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication APR this coming February. Hebets volunteered to serve as the representative.

### **4.0 Subcommittee Needed for Review of Strategic Innovation and Entrepreneurship Graduate Certificate Proposal**

Hachtmann asked for two members to review the proposal to create the Strategic Innovation and Entrepreneurship Graduate Certificate. Tschetter and Hachtmann volunteered to review the proposal.

### **5.0 Subcommittee Needed for Review of Urban Design Graduate Certificate Proposal**

Hachtmann asked for two members to review the proposal to create the Urban Design Graduate Certificate. Latta Konecky and Bloom volunteered to review the proposal.

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

#### EVC Spiller

Spiller reported that in the last 18 months the Dean's Council has now become the Academic Leadership Council and one of the primary focuses is on the academic mission of the university. She noted that there is now a standing agenda item to review where all academic proposals are in the approval process. She stated that doing this will let the Deans know earlier in the process whether there are chances for collaboration with the proposed program. She suggested that the

APC might need to be involved earlier in the approval process. She noted that the N2025 plan calls for a 15% increase in the number of undergraduates and graduate students and in order to reach these goals we will need to offer more high quality, innovative, and unique programs which would attract students not only from Nebraska but from across the country and internationally.

Spiller reported that the very early enrollment numbers show an increase in first-time applications by 2,300, a 10% increase in resident students and 36% increase in non-resident applications. She noted that there is a small increase in the number of international applications, but first-generate student applications are up over 24% this year as opposed to last year and the number of under-represented student applications is also up over last year. She stated that the number of applications has increased from all areas of Nebraska, and nationally we are seeing strong increases in applications from California, Dallas, and the Kansas City area. She pointed out that more students are choosing not to submit their ACT scores which is now optional, and this is a trend that is occurring across the country.

Spiller stated that in order for us to meet the N2025 plan we need to also target students outside of Nebraska so we will be starting an 18-month pilot targeting applicants this spring. She stated that we would be recruiting these students from neighboring states and elsewhere and many of them are in the tier 1 and tier 2 group of students. She noted that we are trying to be extraordinarily price sensitive with these students, and we are exploring ways we can offer some kind of financial assistance but pointed out that we will not be able to increase our enrollment just by cutting our tuition rate. She stated that what we are trying to do is to give students an opportunity to get a great education at an affordable price and if we build out the one-tuition rate we could pick up 30-40% of the students needed to meet our goal of a 15% increase in enrollment.

Spiller suggested that there should be consideration of the concept of having a modular approach of governance of shared academic programs. She stated that curricular innovation happens mostly in collaborative efforts, but it takes multiple disciplines for this to occur. She noted that the incentive-based budget model is not necessarily well structured to promote collaboration across disciplines and stated that Memorandums of Understanding are a possible solution but by definition it is an administrative and financial agreement and does not include a governance component. She pointed out that the proposal to create a Data Science major is not the only proposal on her desk that is interdisciplinary and there are a number of ideas to explore but there should be consideration on how these multi-discipline programs can be governed. She noted that UC Davis has a good system that allows faculty to have ownership of a multi-disciplined program.

Heng-Moss reported that the unit leaders from the three programs involved with the Data Science program proposal are working to respond to the questions that have been raised by the APC review team. She noted that UNL needs to have more integration across the disciplines and the colleges.

### VC Wilhelm

Wilhelm reported that research proposal numbers have been down slightly, but the rewards have increased and there is a lot of money to spend so research proposals are starting to pick back up. He noted that economic development activity has been good, especially where faculty and students are doing research and economic development with private companies. He reported that the space for startup companies on Innovation Campus is now completely full and we are well ahead on licensing for this time of the year.

Wilhelm stated that a couple of new core centers have been developed over the last year with one of them involving the Center for Emerging Media Arts and another one that can conduct sequencing of single cells. He noted that in September and October ORED hosted weekly community-building events on each of the UNL's Grand Challenge themes and there will be events on December 9 and January 11-13 to allow researchers to broaden their connections across disciplines and form teams around common goals.

Wilhelm stated that the Nebraska Research Days recently occurred, and they had a different programming format from previous years which included a guest speaker, Jennifer Lyon Gardner, deputy vice president for research at the University of Texas at Austin, who shared her experience implementing UT's research grand challenges program. He reported that there was another research and creativity slam and Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman gave a keynote speech on diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence. He noted that Professor Julia McQuillan gave the Nebraska Lecture presentation. Wilhelm reported that on November 4<sup>th</sup> Morrill Hall celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and events continued during Nebraska Research Days.

Wilhelm noted that a symposium for faculty of color was organized by VC Barker and Dr. Combs and there were good discussions about how UNL can move forward with diversity, equity and inclusion.

### VC Boehm

Boehm reported that a resolution was recently passed that enables the federal government to continue operating until December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the hope is that another resolution will be passed to forestall any shutdown of the government. He noted that the infrastructure bill and the build back better bill are working their way through the legislative process. He stated that \$40 million is slated for the construction of the USDA National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture at NIC. He noted that UNL will be putting together a grant request for \$4 million to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Boehm stated that the university is working on and framing the budget request for the next biennium. He noted that there is \$3.67 billion in federal funds tied to waning infrastructure relating to agriculture and research and we have about a \$35 million need for storage facilities.

Boehm reported that a search is being conducted for a Director of Rural Prosperity Nebraska and Professor McQuillan has agreed to serve on the search advisory committee. He stated that Rural Prosperity looks at issues and challenges in rural Nebraska that impact the success of rural areas. He noted that the Director position will be a tenure track faculty line and a search is also being conducted for an Extension leader in North Platte.

Boehm reported that he recently spent time with Dean of Extension candidate Charles Stoltenow traveling across the state. He noted that it is great for the citizens, faculty, staff, and deans to meet Stoltenow and he is seeking feedback and hopes to be able to extend an offer.

**7.0 Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 3:00 in Nebraska Union, Chimney Rock Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.