

MINUTES

September 1, 2021

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

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

Members Absent: Ibrahim, Wilhelm

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

Hachtmann called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

2.0 Welcome New Committee Members

Hachtmann welcomed new APC members: Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss, CASNR; Professor Elizabeth Theiss-Morse, Political Science; Professor Beth Doll, Educational Psychology; and Can Vuran, School of Computing. She noted that ASUN President Batool Ibrahim will also be a new member of the Committee.

3.0 Approval of April 21, 2021 Minutes

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

4.0 Election of Vice Chair

The agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

5.0 Appointments to Committees:

- Long Range Planning Subcommittee (7 people needed: 4 faculty, 2 administrators, 1 student). Ankerson, Boehm, Hebets, Buan, Doll, Vice Chair, and Batool were appointed to the subcommittee.

- Project Initiation Request Subcommittee (3 people needed)
Zeleny, Clarke, and Latta Konecky volunteered to serve.

- University-wide Aesthetics Review Committee (1 person needed)
Ankerson volunteered to serve.

- University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (1 person needed)
Tschetter volunteered to serve.

6.0 Report on History APR (Professor Smith)

Smith reported that the History APR was held in Fall 2020 and the external review team was well prepared, qualified, very professional, and conscientious. He stated that despite the pandemic the APR worked remarkably well although he noted that conducting APRs through Zoom should be avoided unless it was absolutely needed.

Smith stated that the review team came to a clear consensus that History is a very good department that has a strong research reputation and an excellent teaching unit which has won many teaching awards. He stated that the overall conclusion was that the department was in very good shape, but it needs to better communicate their successes to increase the department's stature.

Smith stated that the review team thought the department needs to address the inequity issue in teaching and service which can put a burden on some of the faculty members. He noted that the department is aware of some of the structural issues that exist but some of this is due to retirements and a constrained hiring environment. He reported that the review team also felt that there needs to be stronger mentoring efforts in the department, not only for junior faculty, but for associate professors so they can reach the level of full professor. He pointed out that the department is already working on addressing some of the recommendations, in particular strengthening mentoring efforts.

Smith stated that the APR was very straight forward and there was no need for a hearing.

7.0 Report on Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education APR (Professor Hachtmann)

Hachtmann reported that the Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education (TLTE) APR was conducted last September after a postponement due to the COVID pandemic. She noted that the APR was the first one to be conducted at UNL virtually, and while it worked, she felt that it would have been better to conduct it in person. She stated that the three external review team members were very good, and the review was very positive noting that TLTE is a vibrant academic unit with five program areas and with strong collaborative partnership. She reported that the self-study was well written and provided a good foundation for the review.

Hachtmann pointed out that the concurrent sessions conducted virtually made the review more complicated and care needed to be taken to ensure that the correct people attended the right meeting. She reported that the review team had sufficient time to write the report and were able to visit with faculty members confidentially. She noted that the APC's guidelines on APRs does provide specifications about who should notify faculty that they can have confidential conversations with the review team, but she suggested that department heads and team members should be made explicitly aware that confidential meetings are permitted.

Hachtmann stated that the department has already begun to address the recommendations made by the review team and the department is meeting its Grand Challenges with having more research collaboration and expanding working with under-represented groups. She stated that the faculty in the department feel valued and are very engaged, but they feel

there needs to be more transparency with how decisions are made and to have better communications.

Hachtmann reported that the PhD program is very highly regarded, but there are some issues at the master's level with advising are already being addressed. She stated that the external review team recommended that the department create a better and more transparent system for Professors of Practice, and the review team suggested that faculty loads need to be evaluated.

Hachtmann noted that there was a virtual tour of the facility conducted by the department chair. Buan suggested that departments be provided with guidance to putting more pictures of their facility on their website which could augment virtual tours.

Bloom asked what the plans are for this year's APR. Spiller suggested consulting with AVC Walker about this. She noted that while we would like to have APRs conducted in person, some units might want specific reviewers who might not be able to come to campus. Hachtmann stated that she would contact AVC Walker about this year's APRs.

8.0 Proposal to Rename the Law and Business BSBA Program

Hachtmann noted that the proposal seeks to rename the recently approved Law and Business program to the Business and Law BSBA program. Zeleny reported that the change is to clarify that students would be getting a business degree, not a law degree. Spiller stated that the suggested change was made by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education who felt there was ambiguity between the law program and the business program which would cause confusion for the students.

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

9.0 Financial and Housing Counseling Graduate Certificate Name Change Proposal

Hachtmann reported that the proposal, which is administered by the Child, Youth, and Family Studies department, seeks to remove the word financial so that the certificate is more closely aligned with a particular program. Latta Konecky moved for approval. Motion seconded by Doll and Hebets and approved by the APC.

10.0 Proposal to Delete the Survey Research and Methodology MS, PhD, and Graduate Certificate Programs

Hachtmann reported that the programs are no longer attractive to students and are in very low demand. She pointed out that the coursework is covered by other areas of study. Bloom asked if the program was a one-person faculty member. Zeleny stated that the program was active for 20+ years and that the founding faculty member passed away and the program changed thereafter and grew into other areas of strength. Theiss-Morse asked why students have a lack of interest. Zeleny reported that the program was in association with Gallup who provided funding, but eventually transitioned into another program. Latta Konecky moved for approval of the proposal. Motion seconded by Heng-Moss and approved by the APC.

11.0 Proposal to Delete the Grassland Ecology and Management BS Program

Heng-Moss reported that the proposal seeks to make a more cohesive program which integrates two existing academic degree programs currently administered by the School of Natural Resources. She noted that the APC approved the Grassland Systems major in 2019 and it includes an option in grassland ecology and management so there is no longer a need to have a separate program.

Bloom moved to approve the proposal. Motion seconded by Tschetter and approved by the APC.

12.0 Subcommittee Needed to Review Additive Manufacturing Graduate Certificate Proposal

Clarke and Vuran volunteered to review the proposal.

13.0 Reports from EVC Spiller and VC Boehm

Spiller provided an update on the current enrollment numbers but noted that the University will be making a public announcement regarding enrollment after the census date.

Spiller stated that the APC has a lot of tools in its membership to evaluate programs and she believes the committee is a real resource, but she thinks it should get more information and starting next year with the first meeting she hopes to provide the Committee with more detailed reports on the financial outcome of each college since we are now actively using the incentive-based budget model. She pointed out that the information would be helpful when the APC is evaluating program proposals and academic program reviews. She stated that an annual resource cycle and planning for the colleges is being worked on and she wants to share this information with the APC.

Spiller pointed out that we have many good colleges and department with good internal mentors but there is a benefit to also having an outside mentor and AVC Walker is working to develop an outside mentorship program. She noted that having an outside mentor could help establish co-collaboration with others and could help with grant approvals. She reported that invitations are being sent to faculty outside the university to participate in the program.

Boehm reported that at the recent Board of Regents meeting the PhD in Biomedical Engineering was approved along with the Statistics and Data Analytics programs and the School of Computing. He noted that he and Spiller are now working with new Provost Dr. Gold.

Boehm stated that the state still has \$1.1 billion in Covid relief money. He noted that the Governor's plan is to turn the funds over to the Legislature in January and the hope is that some of the funds would be available to stimulate educational opportunities and to support business growth. He reported that the Unicameral is taking suggestions from all areas including higher education on how the funds could be used.

Boehm informed the APC that we are currently in the quiet phase of the NU Foundation Comprehensive Campaign and colleges are thinking about how to create a network of donors to bring in philanthropic funds to the campus. He reported that the quiet phase will end in November 2022 after which the fundraising efforts will become public.

Boehm stated that Heng-Moss is spearheading the Lincoln Public School-University of Nebraska-Lincoln Early College and Career STEM Program at Lincoln Northeast High School. He noted that program will prepare Northeast students in the areas of food, energy, water, and societal systems whether the students plan to pursue a two- or four-year college degree as well as students who plan to enter the workforce after graduating high school.

Boehm noted that the five-year Rwanda program, which brought in 50 students, is now ending and the food science technology program with the Ukraine is now on hold.

Boehm stated that the East Campus Union dining hall has been moved to the first floor and is accessible and open to everyone. He reported that the Dinsdale Learning Commons project is moving along, and Dunkin Donuts will be moving into the facility. He stated that the Dairy Store has moved to the north side of the building and the Husker Food Pantry has now opened a location on East Campus. He pointed out that food insecurity for students is a real problem.

Boehm reported that there is a lot going on with federal engagement, some of which impacts scholarship and our work. He stated that there is a great deal of work going on to create the USDA Agriculture Research Facility on Innovation Campus. He stated that the Center would have partnerships with other entities including the University resulting in approximately 100 USDA agricultural research scientists in a 90-mile radius. He stated that he has been working with Wilhelm authoring appropriations bill language that will be sent to Senator Fortenberry's office. He pointed out that many of the research ideas in the proposed bill language have been generated by our faculty and stated that UNL is in a perfect position to leverage our research endeavors. He reported that last year \$22 million of federal funds were earmarked for work being done here in Lincoln and this year it could reach \$65 million. He stated Clarke is involved in the development of a repository in agriculture to accelerate innovation in agriculture and this effort was awarded a \$500,000 grant.

14.0 Other Business

Bloom reported that the Incentive Based Budget Model Advisory Committee (BMAC) has been established and noted that Theiss-Morse serves on it. He stated that the goal is to have the BMAC interface with the APC which should help prepare the campus budget. Ankerson suggested the Advisory Committee and the APC should be able to look more comprehensively across the university to see what kinds of recommendations could be made should there be another budget cut in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 3:00, in the City Campus Union, Chimney Rock Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.