

**MINUTES**  
**April 20, 2022**

**University of Nebraska – Lincoln**  
**Academic Planning Committee**

**Members Present:** Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Button, Clarke, Doll, Donesky, Drake, Hachtmann, Hebets, Latta Konecky, Moriyama, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Wilhelm, Zeleny

**Members Absent:** Buan

**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 Recognition of Outgoing Members**

Hachtmann thanked the following outgoing members for their service on the APC: Ken Bloom, Eileen Hebets, Nicole Buan, Eric Rodene, and Batool Ibrahim. She then welcomed new members: Anna Hiatt (School of Biological Sciences), Susan Ourada (Glenn Korff School of Music), Christine Kelley (Mathematics), Andrew Donesky (Graduate Student Assembly), and Jake Drake (ASUN).

**3.0 Chancellor Green’s Annual Report to the APC**

Chancellor Green first wanted to thank the Committee members for their service noting his and the university’s appreciation for their commitment and the service they provided. He stated that thankfully this was a less eventful year than last year when the campus had to deal with significant budget reductions.

Chancellor Green reported that the APC was able to return to more of its normal work this year with participation in academic program reviews, reviewing proposals for new programs and discontinuing programs or degrees. He pointed out that two major proposals reviewed and approved by the APC were the formal creation of the School of Computing and the Data Science program. He noted that the Committee also reviewed project initiation requests including the construction of a new Westbrook School of Music.

Chancellor Green acknowledged that several members of the APC served on the Budget Model Advisory Committee and that the APC has received reports on the new budget model which he is very much looking forward to initiating in July. He noted that it will be important to work with the units and the deans as we implement the new budget model.

Chancellor Green stated that he understands the APC has a group of members that is looking at the budget reduction procedures to see if some revisions are needed. He hoped that we will not have to go through this process again anytime soon, but the reality is that funding for higher education continues to shift and change, not only here in Nebraska, but across the country.

Chancellor Green stated that he is hopeful that we will be in a post-pandemic reset year and will return to a normal year of operation. He reported that considerable emphasis and refocus will be placed on the N2025 plan as we end the third year of the five-year plan. He noted that there have been several videos featured in Nebraska Today that focus on the colleges' efforts to achieve the aims set out in the N2025 plan.

Chancellor Green reported that we will be refocusing on enrollment and while we were fortunate to have relatively stable enrollment during the pandemic, we did have some losses at both the undergraduate and graduate level. He stated that recruiting efforts will be increased to expand our enrollment growth.

Chancellor Green pointed out that we are in an era of construction management for our campus. He stated that next year some major projects will be completed but other projects will begin with most of these occurring on city campus. He reported that Kiewit Hall is moving forward in its construction and the Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall is scheduled to open this fall. He stated that the funding from LB 384 is enabling us to construct or renovate several buildings on campus some of which are Kimball Hall, Morrill Hall, the Military and Naval Building, and Architectural Hall and while this will be an exciting time there will be some management issues that we will have to deal with.

Chancellor Green reported that the second phase of the salary competitiveness plan for tenure-line faculty members is currently underway. He pointed out that nothing like this has been done in well over 15 years and he is hopeful that much of the 7% lag in our salaries compared to our peers will be reduced. He noted that we still have more work to do to improve the salaries for non-tenure track faculty members including lecturers.

Chancellor Green wanted to add an additional thank you to Chair Hachtmann for doing a great job and to Vice Chair Tschetter for stepping in to assume the Chair's role next academic year.

Bloom pointed out that the N2025 plan has an ambitious set of goals and provides a map of our aspirations as a Big 10 university. However, in a state of less than two million people we are positioning ourselves as a low-cost university which puts some constraints on us. He asked how we square the aspirations of the N2025 plan with the reality of our funding situation. Chancellor Green stated that enrollment will be the critical piece of the process and noted that our enrollment is not as high as we had hoped it would be when the plan was first being developed. He stated that the key to our enrollment growth will need to be with out-of-state students, but noted that continuing to offer a discount rate for tuition is not sustainable for our budget. He stated that a key driver of the university's

upcoming foundation campaign is to monetize student scholarship support at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Latta Konecky asked where the idea of one-tuition fits in with the N2025 plan and the budget. Chancellor Green reported that a modified form of it is being tested to a percentage of students from four different states who meet certain academic criteria. He stated that the four states are California, Colorado, Texas, and New Jersey and early data reflects that we are seeing some level of success, particularly in Colorado. Latta Konecky asked why these four states were selected. Chancellor Green reported that we have been seeing some growth in enrollment from California and Texas which is why they were selected and Colorado because it is a neighboring state, plus there was the idea to select a state from the east coast with a large population which is the reason New Jersey was selected. He pointed out that the real test will be with Minnesota, and to a lesser degree South Dakota, but Illinois is a key market where we think we could have some impact. He noted that we are also seeing increases in enrollment from Kansas City and Missouri.

#### **4.0 Approval of March 9, 2022 Minutes**

Hachtmann asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she stated that she would entertain a motion for approval. Ankerson moved approval of the minutes which was seconded by Latta Konecky and then approved by the APC.

#### **5.0 Subcommittee on Revising Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reduction and Reallocations (Bloom, Theiss-Morse, Vuran, Zeleny)**

Hachtmann stated that the subcommittee, chaired by Bloom, prepared a preliminary report of its work on revising the procedures for budget cuts.

Bloom noted that after the APC dealt with the round of budget cuts last year there were thoughts on how the process could be improved for the APC to be ready should another budget cut occur. He pointed out that there is a large section in the procedures devoted to the criteria for eliminating programs, but it did not seem like this section was carefully reviewed during the round of cuts because the criteria were not clearly met for some of the proposed cuts. He stated that those proposing program cuts should be informed that this section of the procedures needs to be carefully reviewed.

Bloom reported that the subcommittee is proposing some revisions to the language in the document and suggested that there might be some APC internal process that could be defined. He pointed out that most of the problems during last year's budget cuts were execution problems, noting that the APC had to act quickly because of the financial impacts of the pandemic. He stated that the APC needs to be provided with good documentation on the rationale for proposed cuts and how the cuts align with the principles defined in the criteria for elimination section. He stressed that it is very important for the APC to hear the justification for why a program is being selected for elimination.

Bloom stated that the chair of the APC would have greater leeway on how to manage the public hearing. He pointed out that written documentation could be provided rather than testimonies given at the public meeting. He stated that a technical issue in the Procedures will more than likely be arising with the formation of the Staff Senate. He noted that currently the presidents of UNOPA and UAAD join the APC during the budget cutting procedures, but he assumes that they would be replaced by the President of the Staff Senate, or designee.

Vuran stated that he asked that the Procedures have more specifics on the timeline for dealing with budget cuts. Bloom stated that, according to the Procedures, the Chancellor and the APC establish an agreed upon timeline which meets the current round of proposed budget cuts. Vuran stated that he understands the need to have a timeline that is flexible but there is no definition of the timeline and having one that could be altered would be helpful to all parties involved.

Boehm stated that the implementation of the incentive-based budget model will hopefully allow the colleges and units to do a far better job of living within their means. He stated that we do not want to see chronic deficits in college budgets. He suggested that the proposed changes be postponed until we see how the new budget model is working. Button agreed and stated that he supports taking some time to consider the implications of the proposed revisions. He noted that the proposed change referring to the APC working with the Chancellor on alternative solutions for the budget cuts does not accurately reflect what in reality occurs. He pointed out that the Chancellor first works with the Deans of the colleges when seeking alternative solutions. Clarke suggested that this section be amended to include the shared governance partners pointing out that it should be explicit rather than implied.

Hachtmann suggested that the proposed revisions be tabled, and that the subcommittee continues to work on suggested revisions and then present it to the APC at its first meeting of the fall semester.

#### **6.0 Proposal to change the name of the Mechanized Systems Management B.S.**

Hachtmann noted that the proposal is an effort to better align the name of the program with other programs in the marketplace. Tschetter moved to approve the motion which was then seconded by Drake. Bloom stated that the renaming makes sense and asked if all of the courses in the program will be renamed. Heng-Moss stated that modifications can be made, and the prefixes of the courses would change. She pointed out that the faculty members and advisors had to spend considerable time with perspective students explaining what the program is and the proposal seeks articulation with other programs, such as those in the community colleges. Drake noted that it is meaningful to high school students to have a name that more accurately reflects the program.

Donesky asked if the courses in the graduate program would also be renamed. Heng-Moss stated that the intent is to have alignment between the undergraduate and graduate program, but the proposed change is first needed to help with the recruitment of undergraduate students.

**7.0 APC Representatives Needed for Academic Program Reviews: Plant Pathology, October 24-28; School of Natural Resources, October 31-November 4**

Hachtmann reported that APC representatives are needed for the Plant Pathology APR and the School of Natural Resources APR. Hiatt volunteered to serve on the Plant Pathology APR and Clarke volunteered to serve on the School of Natural Resources APR.

**8.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, VC Wilhelm**

Ankerson

Ankerson reported that Andy Belser has been hired to be the new Dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts with his home department being the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film. She noted that he will start on July 11.

Ankerson reported that the search for the Dean of the College of Architecture is beginning, and the search firm of Isaacson & Miller has been hired to help recruit and identify candidates. She noted that the list of the search committee members is being finalized and acceptance of applications from candidates will start over the summer. She stated that the planned timeline is for the search committee to develop a short list at the beginning of the fall semester with the goal of interviewing candidates towards the end of September. She noted that the hope is to have someone in place by January 1.

Ankerson stated that the Future of Work taskforce has been working on developing a survey and the link to the survey will be provided through Nebraska Today. She stated that the taskforce hopes to have a high number of responses so it can make recommendations to the Chancellor on how work can be viewed in a different way for staff members. She pointed out that UNL wants to be the employer of choice and offering different work arrangements could help recruit staff members. She reported that the taskforce will make its recommendations to the Chancellor by the end of May.

Ankerson stated that a family housing group will be created to explore housing availability and affordability on campus and in Lincoln for students or post docs with families. She noted that the group will need to look at what our peers are doing regarding family housing with some phasing it out while other peers are developing new family housing. She stated that resource challenges will also need to be evaluated and she anticipates the study will take some time.

Ankerson reported that beginning July 1 there will be a change with NU online courses reverting back to the purview of the campuses, however compliance regulatory issues will stay at Central Administration, and they will maintain a webpage that lists the full extent of the online courses for each of the campuses. She noted that marketing, promotion, and the UNL brand of online courses will come back to us so the campus will need to develop a strategic plan for online courses and where are they going in the future. She stated that she anticipates that the predominant effort will be to offer graduate courses online. She pointed out that we will need to differentiate ourselves from the

other campuses by offering unique, innovative courses that are not offered elsewhere in the NU system.

Heng-Moss agreed that a strategic plan needs to be created but asked what will happen in the short term with the 5% revenue funds that was captured by NU Online Worldwide. Ankerson noted that the executive leadership team just learned of the changes on April 1 and pointed out that the incentive-based budget model will govern tuition revenue. Heng-Moss suggested that we explore competitive pricing for online courses and asked if UNL can request appropriate tuition rates from the Board of Regents. Boehm stated that the changeover has not been developed enough at this time to address these questions.

Hiatt asked how students would take online courses, whether there will be flexible options, and noted that most online courses are self-advising. Ankerson stated that this will all need to be worked out, but from a student point of view, it will be much easier.

Heng-Moss stated that the change presents a huge opportunity for UNL to become more visible in the online course market and will allow us to explain our credentials. She stated that we will need to do more marketing of what programs and courses we offer.

Ankerson reported that the Board of Regents approved the academic calendar for 2022-2023 which aligns all the campuses' calendars and institutionalizes a January interim session which will be a three-week session in which three-credit hour courses can be offered. She pointed out that this is a great opportunity for students to take courses that might bottlenecked, or to take short domestic trips for courses that offer experiential learning. She noted that the break between the end of the fall semester and the beginning of the spring semester will provide a longer break which could allow international students to travel. She reported that the spring semester will start a week later and will impact the start, and shorten, the summer session.

Vuran asked if there are any accreditation concerns for offering three-credit hour courses during a three-week session. Ankerson pointed out that the J-term is like our three-week pre-session that is offered in the summer and there are no concerns about accreditation since students will still have the same number of contact hours for a class.

Wilhelm reported that another successful Student Research Days was held on April 11-15 and included a Student Research Days Slam. He stated that the Nebraska Lecture series featured Professor Ray Hames, Anthropology, on April 14 who spoke on the truth about hunter-gatherers.

Wilhelm noted that the search for a new director of the Holland Computing Center is underway and reported that we had a good pool of candidates. He stated that efforts to identify a Director for Nebraska Energy Sciences have begun and noted that this program brings teams from across the campus and around the country to work on larger-scale research projects. He pointed out that this program coalesces with the Grand Challenges and to date 60 letters of interest have been obtained from faculty and he believes proposals will be going forward soon.

Wilhelm reported that in February and March there was a lot of recognition for faculty members across many disciplines. He stated that our award funding is up significantly, although the number of proposals is down which his office is looking into. He noted that the awards are very productive and are larger in size, and he stated that our faculty, staff, and partners are doing well in continuing and growing our research activity.

Boehm reported that he was happy to recently hand deliver the promotion and tenure letters to IANR faculty members. He wanted to thank the APC for the major advances that were made with the approval of the Statistics and the Data Science program proposals, and he also wanted to thank Heng-Moss for navigating the process to contemporize programs in CASNR. He pointed out that 32 majors needed some attention and Heng-Moss led the faculty driven process to make these improvements which benefits the students.

Boehm noted that funding is available through federal agencies and there are now six different mega grant RFPs that faculty are engaged in. He stated that UNL will be developing a Small Meat Processing Plant of the Future and a grant proposal will be made to the USDA which just recently announced that it has \$215 million in grants and other support to expand meat and poultry processing options. He stated that the USDA has developed a smart commodity platform and a team is working on a \$25 million grant proposal which is due May 11. He stated that at the state level the University has made a \$75 million request from the Legislature, with \$25 million of it slated for the USDA companion building and the remaining \$50 million for the Holland Computing Center.

Boehm reported that a woman and her two children arrived from the Ukraine and Heng-Moss, and Dean Stoltenow and others are working with her and other people in the Ukraine to see how we can reconstitute and rebuild agriculture in the Ukraine. He pointed out that agricultural technologies will be an important part of rebuilding the Ukraine and he believes that UNL will have many opportunities to help the Ukrainians.

## **9.0 Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the APC will be September 2022. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.