

MINUTES

February 9, 2022

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Button, Clarke, Doll, Hachtmann, Hebets, Latta Konecky, Moriyama, Rodene, 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.

1.0 Call

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

2.0 Approval of January 26, 2022 Minutes

Doll moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Wilhelm and approved by the APC.

3.0 Review of Special Education K-6 Bachelor of Science Program (Doll and Boehm)

Doll reported that the proposal was well written and seeks to create a major in Special Education K-6 for students interested in special education at the primary level. She noted that the program allows students to complete the program requirements for one of the endorsement areas that have been approved by the Nebraska Department of Education, and it would allow the students to enter the workforce more quickly. She pointed out that currently there is a partnership between the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders and the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education which provides a pathway for Elementary Education majors to pursue dual endorsements in elementary education and special education K-6, but to successfully complete the major students must have 130 credit hours and there is very limited flexibility in coursework which results in many students taking more than four years to graduate. She noted that the current program would continue as an option but having the Bachelor of Science in Special Education K-6 could potentially attract at least another 12-15 students into the program.

Doll reported that each of the courses are already offered so no additional resources would be required, but there would be a cost to the increased amount of funds needed for student teaching and practicum teaching, but the proposers think these costs would come from tuition.

Clarke asked what the difference is between endorsements and certification. Doll stated that with an endorsement the Department of Education reviews a program of study and verifies that it meets the requirements for a teaching endorsement. Boehm pointed out that without the endorsement a person cannot be a teacher in Special Education in Nebraska. He reported that

there is a huge need for elementary special education teachers in the State and this program would help fill this need and he would definitely endorse approval of the proposal.

Theiss-Morse thought the proposal was very good but wondered about how much demand there would be. She noted that the existing pathway seems to provide more options while the new program seems more limited. Doll pointed out that the existing pathway will still exist for those students who want to get a couple of endorsements, but currently the program isn't able to accommodate the students who want to work in elementary special education and there has been a profound increase in need for teachers in this area throughout the state. She stated that without the program, we would lose students to either UNK or UNO. Bloom asked if there is evidence that we are currently losing students. Doll stated that there is evidence and noted that this is an attractive major because students will always be able to find employment upon graduation.

The APC approved the proposal.

4.0 Proposal to Delete the B.S. Degrees in Agronomy, Horticulture, Turfgrass and Landscape Management

Hachtmann pointed out that last year the APC approved a new major in Plant and Landscape Systems which included options in agronomy, horticulture, landscape systems and design, and turfgrass science and management. Heng-Moss noted that deleting the three programs is a cleanup effort since the three programs are now consolidated into one program. Ankerson moved to approve the proposal. Motion seconded by Bloom and approved by the APC.

5.0 Implications of Recent Cybersecurity Decisions on the Teaching Mission Especially in Relation to Computing and Cybersecurity (Vuran)

Vuran reported that the faculty of the School of Computing (SoC) were recently informed of decisions made by ITS at Central Administration regarding cybersecurity that have direct implications on the teaching and research mission, particularly for SoC. He stated that the plan, 802.1X Network Migration Unified Edge Network, will soon be entering Phase II which means that all computers in all academic buildings will have non-routable IP addresses and all public-facing systems will need to be housed in ITS secured locations. He noted that Phase II is scheduled to be completed by the end of June and on July 1 of this year, the legacy network that is currently being used will be disabled.

Vuran stated that the move to the Unified Edge Network is motivated by the need for improved security, particularly due to the UNMC breach, and the fact that departments and colleges will be held liable for security breaches. He noted that these motivations appear to have spurred ITS to fast-track the plan without any shared governance and input from faculty members, particularly those who have expertise in the areas of computing and cybersecurity.

Vuran reported that for many years the Computer Science and Engineering department (now SoC) has maintained an administrative group of computing experts to develop, implement, and maintain computing services that are specific to the teaching and research needs of computer science and computer engineering disciplines. He pointed out that it is critical for students in computer science to be able to get "under the hood" to learn and understand computing and the changes implemented in Phase II will impede this ability. He noted that just about everyone uses

computers and data science for research and teaching so there is good reason to believe that the changes will impact the teaching and research mission across the campus.

Vuran stated that one impact will be with the Linux operating system which has an open-source policy that is a critical component to SoC and other disciplines. He noted that while Linux will still be available, it will be at a reduced capacity which will have significant impacts for instructors and researchers. He pointed out that ironically, the cybersecurity measures being put in place will prevent professors from teaching cybersecurity to students because of the limitations of the new network, and he noted that if you use the Cloud, you have used Linux because the majority of the Cloud runs on Linux.

Vuran reported that another impact with the changes is restricted networking. He noted that SoC offers many courses related to networking such as cybersecurity, emerging technologies, cryptocurrencies, and block chains and these courses require students to experiment with real-world testbeds and emerging networking protocols. He pointed out that SoC's robust research program in networking, IoT, and cybersecurity involves implementation of new networking protocols and paradigms and the faculty work with other researchers across the U.S. and the world. He stated that restricted networking will severely impact the faculty's ability to compete with other research institutions for funding and would affect the faculty's obligations to NSF and other agencies, both current and future funding agencies.

Vuran reported that currently SoC offers each of its students access to its laboratory facilities which provides students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to have equal access to tools, equipment, and ultimately learning opportunities. He stated that SoC has deployed its Authentication Domain which enables students to access their profiles and resources from any workstation in the labs, and there is full integration support between different operating systems such as Windows and Linux. He stated that with the new network, roaming profiles or Unix integration is no longer maintained.

Vuran pointed out that the move from Box to SharePoint for data storage greatly impacted research programs that rely on big data and data science. He noted that he had to move 80TB of research data which cost six months of a gap in data collection and required the help of many people from ITS, ORED, HCC, and students.

Vuran stated that the root of the problem lies in the fact that none of the faculty in SoC, some of whom are the top experts in understanding the severity of cybersecurity threats in Nebraska, were not asked for feedback on the impacts that changing the network would make. He pointed out that faculty in SoC have come up with potential solutions such as creating a dedicated research network that would be protected through ITS or hosted in SoC with the understanding that there would be clear guidelines. He wanted to stress that more shared governance in UNL's computer operations is needed, and we cannot follow a one size fits all model.

Boehm asked if SoC has engaged CIO Tuttle or Vice President Blackman about these concerns. Vuran stated that the SoC administrators have had conversations with ITS, but the needs have not been met yet. He reported that Professor Wolf, Director of SoC and Dean Perez will be meeting with ITS to discuss the problem. Zeleny asked if there were concerns that are specifically counter active to the new [Executive Memorandum 26 University of Nebraska](#)

[Information Security Plan](#). Vuran stated that he would be glad to review the memorandum and noted that he thinks the problem can be solved but there needs to be coordination between SoC and ITS.

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

Ankerson reported that spring enrollment numbers are down slightly from last year and this maybe in part due to fewer courses being offered in the January two-week pre-session compared to last year's three-week session. She stated that our head count is down by 2.2% from last spring and credit-hour production is down 2.7%. She noted that graduate student enrollment is down 2.9% but professional enrollment is up and there are a few colleges who have seen an increase in their enrollment. She stated that we are currently working very hard to recruit more students since this is recruitment yield season. She reported that we have a significant number of admittances for the fall semester, but the real focus will be getting those students to submit deposits which is a greater indicator of the number of students who will attend the University.

Ankerson stated that a message about Summer Session courses just went out to the faculty. She noted that Summer Sessions is a good time for faculty members to explore hybrid course design and collectively creative ways of teaching. She reported that Summer Sessions will allow flexibility for faculty members including their instructional mode, whether it be in-person, online, or with web conferencing pointing out that no special accommodations will be needed.

Ankerson stated that the search for the Dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts is underway, and interviews of the final candidates are being scheduled for mid-March.

Button noted that there is a taskforce being formed to look at the future of work and asked if there is a willingness to support summer as a normal academic semester. Ankerson stated that the focus of this first taskforce will be to look at staff issues such as time flexibility and remote working, but she does believe that we need to have conversations about faculty issues. Vuran stated that a particular concern for many faculty members is having the UNL spring break overlapping with the LPS spring break. He noted that having them coincide at the same time has tremendous impact on the faculty in terms of life balance.

Boehm reported that Dean Archie Clutter is scheduled to retire at the end of the year and the search efforts have begun with Heng-Moss and Professor Ed Cahoon serving as co-chairs for the search committee. He noted that the Dean of Agricultural Research Division is also the Director of the Nebraska Agricultural Center which has strong ties with the federal government because of the federally appropriated funds that the Center receives. He noted that it will be an international search which he hopes will be posted in mid-March and efforts have already begun to recruit possible candidates.

Boehm stated that IANR has been busy discussing alternative resource flows to the University and particularly IANR, but also some pan-university efforts such as cybersecurity efforts. He stated that the University is working on the \$50 million effort to shift and embellish the Holland Computing Center to NIC and to create a data center. He reported that next week the University will be speaking to the Appropriations Committee on LB 904, which is a \$50 million request in federal funds for the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Holland

Computing Center facility at NIC. He stated that fundraising efforts would attain an additional \$25 million which would be used to build an accelerator for the food science technology platform and would be a champion building to the USDA's Center for Resilient and Regenerative Agriculture facility.

Boehm stated IANR is aggressively in partnership with ORED in engaging our delegation across Congress in seeking federal appropriations and yesterday we received good news that the Senate and House appropriators have agreed on a top level of federal funding and will now work on the details. He stated that UNL could receive federal appropriations of \$75 million from the federal appropriations.

Boehm reported that Dr. Charlie Stoltenow has assumed the role of Dean of Nebraska Extension and is excited to be here.

Wilhelm reported that ORED continues to see good progress amongst our faculty in terms of scholarly work and creative activity with faculty awards at a much higher level this year. He stated that research expenditures are increasing again, although the accounting for total research and expenditures for 2020-2021 FY has not been completed yet and he anticipates that the total will be down since there were less institutional funds for research.

Wilhelm reported that work on the Grand Challenges continues and recently there was a one-day micro lab where faculty discussed their plans and then ORED helped them with how they could obtain funding. He stated that a Town Hall meeting occurred where people could discuss and ask questions and two more were being planned during the semester. He wanted to remind the faculty that this is the first year in what will be a four-year program and he is excited about what is happening with the Grand Challenges now but is equally excited about what we might anticipate over the course of the four years.

Wilhelm stated that in mid-April Research Days for undergraduate and graduate students will be held. He noted that approximately 300 students may be giving presentations.

Wilhelm stated that ORED is continuing to study and work with the other Big Ten institutions and APLU universities to consider the impacts of the National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 which has the goal of providing clear and effective rules for ensuring research and security and researcher responsibilities. He reported that some of the requirements of the Memorandum deal with the way faculty disclose what they are doing with their scholarly work or with outside entities. He anticipates that ORED will want to talk more with the faculty about institutional conflict of interest and noted that we might need to be more explicit with the details about what would be considered a conflict of interest.

7.0 Other Business

7.1 Backup for APC Representative for Academic Program Reviews

Hachtmann wanted to thank Moriyama for stepping in to be the APC representative on the Physics APR and suggested that we should have a backup person should the rare occasion happen that the person who volunteered to serve on an APR is unable to do so.

Hebets reported that she is scheduled to serve on an APR at the end of the month and asked if there is any flexibility with missing certain meetings. Hachtmann noted that there is also a campus internal representative on the APR that is appointed by AVC Walker and if that person is at the meetings, it would be helpful, or she suggested that the APC rep attend the meetings remotely. Tschetter pointed out that not all meetings take place in locations where remote interfacing is available. Theiss-Morse agreed that it would be difficult to bring someone in electronically to some of the meetings and there would be more flexibility if both internal people did not need to be present at every meeting. Bloom stated that faculty members have classes to teach, and the APC monitor cannot be available for every single meeting. He noted that the main job of the APC rep is to make sure that the APR process is being followed. Boehm stated that IANR oversees the APR platform for CASNR and some units in CEHS and noted that flexibility needs to be incorporated into the APR process. He pointed out that some of the best reviews have been done virtually. He stated that there would be a Zoom option for the Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications APR at the end of the month. Hachtmann asked if anyone could serve as back up to let her and Griffin know.

7.2 Update on Developing Guidelines for Program Proposals

Tschetter reported that she would be sending out an email to the members of the Long-Range Planning Committee seeking suggestions for developing a guideline for reviewing program proposals. Bloom noted that there have also been suggestions about revisions to the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions. Ankerson stated that the long-range planning committee might want to look at creating a framework of obtaining budget information ahead of time so the APC can be more proactive than reactive in dealing with budget cuts. Bloom noted that although his term on the APC ends in July, he would be happy to help the APC with developing the framework and revising the budget reduction procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.