

**MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2022**

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

**Members Present:** Ankerson, Button, Clarke, Doll, Donesky, Hiatt, Latta Konecky, Kelley, Moriyama, Ourada, Pechous (representing ASUN), Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Wilhelm, Zeleny

**Members Absent:** Boehm

**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**

Tschetter called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**2.0 Approval of April 20, 2022 Minutes**

Tschetter asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. Clarke moved for approval, motion seconded by Wilhelm and approved by the APC.

**3.0 Election of Vice Chair**

The APC voted and approved for Vuran to serve as Vice Chair.

**4.0 Appointments to Committees:**

**4.1 Long Range Planning Subcommittee (7 people needed: 4 faculty, two administrators, 1 student)**

The following APC members were identified for the subcommittee: Vuran, Tschetter, Donesky, Heng-Moss, Zeleny, Ourada, Button.

**4.2 Project Initiation Request Subcommittee (3 people needed):**

The following APC members were identified for the subcommittee: Hiatt, Latta Konecky, Zeleny.

**4.3 University-wide Aesthetics Review Committee (1 person needed)**

Wilhelm volunteered to serve on the committee.

**4.4 University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (1 person needed)**

Tschetter volunteered to serve on the committee again.

**5.0 APC Representatives Needed for Sociology APR (February 7-9, 2023) and Education Psychology (March 28-30, 2023)**

Moriyama volunteered to serve on the Sociology APR and Kelley volunteered to serve on the Educational Psychology APR.

## **6.0 Proposed Revisions to the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions (Professor Ken Bloom)**

Bloom noted that some revisions were presented to the APC at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, but it was felt at that time that some further revisions were still needed. He stated that the subcommittee that worked on the revisions met during the summer and the revised document was now before the APC. He noted that some of the language is now clearer and language referring to UAAD and UNOPA was replaced by appropriate representatives of the Staff Senate. He pointed out that the revisions needed to be approved by the APC, the Faculty Senate, ASUN, and the Chancellor. Zeleny reported that the subcommittee sought to modernize the current process.

Wilhelm moved for approval of the revised document. The motion was seconded by Vuran and approved by the APC.

## **7.0 Draft of Guidelines for Reviewing Program Proposals**

Tschetter reported that the draft guidelines are for new APC members to help them conduct reviews of proposals for new academic programs. Kelley asked if these reviews are just for new academic programs. Zeleny stated that the proposals are for academic programs for majors, certification of professional programs, and elimination of programs.

Clarke noted that a recurring question about the proposals is about the resources and costs associated with the proposed program. She pointed out that oftentimes this information is not provided in the proposal. Doll stated that the proposals should show what the balance is between the cost and benefit of having the program, whether new funds are needed to support the program, and whether the program is sustainable. Ankerson noted that a data sheet is to be included with the proposals which projects the resources for the program.

Heng-Moss pointed out that once the APC approves a proposal, it goes to the Chancellor and then to Varner Hall which reviews the proposals. She stated that in the past there was the belief that there should not be much focus on listing too many new resources, but she believes this has now changed. For instance, the data science program proposal listed more of the costs and had to show the revenue. She stated that in regard to indicating whether new faculty would be needed for a program, a market analysis is needed, not only for the current demand but also for looking at perspective individuals that might be interested in the program. She stated that this should be done in the beginning of developing a proposal rather than towards the end of the process. She pointed out that the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education wants to know what the demand is for new programs.

Doll stated that with multi-disciplinary proposals, there can be a lack of consistency from one part of the proposal to another. She noted that while it is a very natural pressure for folks to describe the proposal in positive terms, overstating it can make the proposal look weaker. Ankerson reported that the APC will be considering more multi-disciplinary proposals in the future.

Latta Konecky pointed out that in listing additional resources, some of the proposals just check things off as a standard resource, such as University Libraries, without checking to see if the Libraries actually have the resources needed for a program.

Button suggested that the question about enrollment should be a standalone question. He stated that proposers should provide evidence of the anticipated enrollment for a program, possibly showing a market analysis or whether they have done one. Also, what is the work force demand for students graduating with a degree in a program. He stated that it needs to be clear whether courses already exist or whether new ones are needed for the program. He stated that if a program is cross-institutions, it needs to be addressed how it would function. Clarke noted that the APC should determine if additional information would be needed for programs that are cross-institutional.

Heng-Moss reported that the Coordinating Commission reviews programs every seven years and has benchmarks set for the courses in a program to see if a program is still relevant or needs to be deleted.

Clarke, Doll, Tschetter, and Griffin volunteered to work on revising the draft document.

#### **8.0 Should the APC still consider proposals to delete all centers or only ones with budget implications?**

The APC discussed whether it needs to consider the deletion of all centers or only those that would have budget implications. Zeleny noted that some centers have little, or no money associated with it and Central Administration and the EVC's office coordinate periodic reviews of centers. The APC decided that it does not need to act on deletion of these kinds of centers, but it should be informed that they will be deleted.

#### **9.0 Graduate Student Assembly's Topics of Focus for 2022-2023 (Donesky)**

Donesky reported that two topics the GSA wants to work on this year is graduate health insurance and graduate student stipends. He noted that a survey is to be sent to all graduate students throughout the university system about health insurance. He stated that there are a lot of concerns and variables with graduate student stipends, but the GSA is hoping to collaborate with faculty and to get advice on how to improve stipends. He noted that other GSA committees are working on different issues.

Button suggested that the GSA reach out to the Deans to discuss stipends noting that the College of Arts & Sciences going through a thorough review of its graduate programs and looking at the graduate student stipend for each graduate program. EVC Ankerson pointed out that GSA should keep in contact with Dean Hope of Graduate Studies. Hiatt suggested contacting the departments to see what they are doing in regard to graduate stipends pointing out that some of the stipends are controlled by departments.

#### **10.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, and VC Wilhelm**

Wilhelm reported that the Faculty Connector was being held today noting that it gives faculty members a chance to network and find new research partners from different colleges and across the campus.

Wilhelm stated that the biggest story for the next three years will be the Grand Challenges Catalyst Competition pointing out that up to \$10 million is available for allocation each year beginning in 2022 through 2025. He stated that two types of support will be provided, planning grants and catalyst awards. He noted that information on how to apply for the funding will be available October 3.

Wilhelm reported that 15 UNL faculty members have been selected to participate in the third cohort of ORED's Research Leaders Program. He noted that the initiative is aimed at identifying and developing the next generation of research leaders and stated that the initiative is delivered in partnership with the Center for Executive and Professional Development in the College of Business. He stated that a new cohort program will be announced this fall that will seek faculty members to work together on NIH projects and a similar one will be done with Department of Energy projects. He reported that ORED will continue to do some targeted work on interdisciplinary programs.

Wilhelm stated that recruitment for a new Director for the Center for Energy Sciences Research is ongoing. He announced that Professor Hongfeng Yu has been named director of the Holland Computing Center.

Wilhelm reported that several announcements were made recently including the \$25 million federal award to establish the Heartland Robotics Cluster, \$10 million of which will build out robotics related research and teaching space in the new Kiewit Hall, Scott Engineering Center. He noted that the Department of Energy awarded a \$12.8 million grant which will be headed by Professor Cahoon who will lead an interdisciplinary team representing eight institutions. He stated that UNL is joining the NSF Great Lakes Innovation Corps Hub which is a regional National Science Foundation initiative aimed at helping to get university scientists research into the real world.

Ankerson reported that campus interviews for a new Vice Chancellor of Business & Finance will be occurring in the next couple of weeks. She stated that Joe Selig, the UNL Senior Development Director of the NU Foundation will be retiring, and he will need to be replaced. She pointed out that this is a very important position of UNL. She stated that the search committee for the Dean of Architecture is working on screening interviews and the hope is to have on-campus interviews between September 27 and October 12.

Ankerson provided a Covid 19 update stating that tests continue to be conducted on campus and our positivity rate of infection is below that of the county. She noted that no cases of Monkeypox have been reported and there are no students currently in isolation for Covid.

Ankerson reported that nearly 3,500 students participated in engagement events held across the campus and conducted by Student Affairs. She stated that Family Weekend is coming up September 23-25 and approximately 900 families have registered to participate in a number of planned activities.

Ankerson reported that the system-wide Graduate Council has unanimously approved changes to the Graduate College Policy Handbook and voting will now be done by each of the campuses to vote on the revisions. She noted that the changes primarily deal with Graduate Faculty Associates and the ability to reappoint them. She stated that another proposed revision is to give programs the ability to initiate being a graduate program versus a professional program which would allow for the development of an accelerated master's program.

Ankerson noted that overall enrollment for UNL is down by 2.6%, partly due to the high graduation numbers the last couple of years which has resulted in fewer students returning to campus. She stated that graduate enrollment is down, although some students were unable to come this semester due to delays with obtaining their visa, but they are expected to come in the spring semester. She pointed out that we have the most diverse student body this year than ever before.

Ankerson stated that each campus has selected four faculty members to participate in the NU Developing Excellence in Academic Leaders program which is a focused, two-year investment in personal growth and development where participants will refine their leadership skills while interacting with the context of many subcultures of the university. She stated that Kelli Kopocis, Durham School of Architectural Engineering & Construction; Deb Minter, English; June Griffin, Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences; and Martha Mamo, department head of Agronomy and Horticulture were selected from UNL.

Ankerson reported that UNL will be hosting the Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program October 13-15.

Heng-Moss noted that this is an exciting time for CASNR as it celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, noting that 50 years ago the Nebraska Legislature established the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Heng-Moss stated that there was a lot of activity at the greater Nebraska State Fair this year and great attendance at the 4-H programming event. She stated that next up is Husker Harvest Days.

Heng-Moss reported that the search is underway for a new Dean of Agricultural Research Division as Dean Clutter is retiring at the end of the year. She stated that a great pool of candidates was brought to campus for interviews and the search committee handed over feedback to VC Boehm who hopes to announce who will be the next Dean of ARD by the end of the month.

## **11.0 Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, September 28, 2022. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.