

MINUTES
August 23, 2023

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Boehm, Button, Clarke, Cressler, Davis, Doll, Heng-Moss, Hiatt, Kelley, Latta Konecky, Minter, Mowat, Ourada, Pechous, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Wilhelm, Haake

Members Absent: Boehm, Ourada, Tschetter, Wilhelm

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. This is a summary of the discussions at the Academic Planning Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call

Vuran called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2.0 Introduction of New Committee Members – Clay Cressler and Deb Minter

APC members introduced themselves to the Committee.

3.0 Approval of May 17, 2023 Minutes

Vuran asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for approval of the minutes. Ankerson moved for approval and motion was seconded by Doll. The APC then approved the minutes.

4.0 Election of Vice Chair

Vuran asked if anyone was willing to serve as Vice Chair noting that the person would become the chair next year. After several minutes of dead silence, Clarke hesitantly agreed to serve as Vice Chair.

5.0 Appointment to Committees

Vuran noted that APC members were needed to serve on the following committees:

- Long Range Planning Subcommittee: Clarke, Pechous, Heng-Moss, Latta Konecky, Hiatt, Cressler, and Minter agreed to serve.
- Project Initiation Request: Davis, Latta Konecky, Kelley
- University-wide Aesthetics Review Committee: Theiss-Morse
- University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Tschetter

6.0 Change in APC Representative for Biochemistry APR

Vuran announced that Latta Konecky would now be the APC representative for the Biochemistry APR.

7.0 New Undergraduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Proposal

Vuran asked for volunteers to review the proposal. Doll and Hiatt volunteered to review the proposal for the APC.

8.0 Social Entrepreneurship Undergraduate Certificate Proposal

Vuran asked for volunteers to review the proposal. Latta Konecky and Minter volunteered to review the proposal for the APC.

9.0 In order to speed up the process of approving undergraduate and graduate certificate proposals, is it necessary to have a few APC members review a proposal before the committee votes on it?

Vuran stated that to expedite the process for some program proposals such as graduate certificates through the APC process, the committee could act on these proposals when they are first presented to the committee rather than having two APC members review it and then report back to the APC at a following meeting. It was suggested that the agenda could identify those program proposals that could be expedited. Theiss-Morse stated that this was a good idea and the rest of the committee agreed.

Clarke stated that some guidelines need to be developed to help identify which proposals could be expedited. Heng-Moss suggested that some of the credentials could be if the classes already exist, if current faculty members will be teaching the courses, if existing resources are already available. Clarke pointed out that the APC always would have the option of doing a more intensive review if there are concerns about expediting a proposal. She suggested that the guidelines could be developed by Vuran, Griffin, and herself.

10.0 Proposal to Rename Space, Cyber and Telecommunications Law to Space, Cyber, and National Security Law

Mowat stated that there seems to be some confusion with whether the name change is for the program or whether courses within the program will also be affected. Hiatt noted that the curriculum changes have already been made and are just being provided in the proposal as context for the need to change the name of the program, so it more accurately reflects the learning outcomes of the program making it clearer for both students and employers. Vuran asked if the APC felt it was necessary to have two members review the proposal and report back to the APC. Mowat and Theiss-Morse volunteered to review the proposal.

11.0 Report on Sociology APR (Moriyama)

Moriyama reported that the APR process went well and noted that the Sociology department is a top-performing department with significant emphasis on research. He stated that the External Review Team was concerned about faculty retirements and sporadic courses availability and stressed the need for the department to quickly hire new tenure-track faculty. He noted that the department's response to the report included a timeline of when they plan to meet the recommendations of the External Review Team. He stated that there were no problems with the APR process and that no follow-up is needed.

12.0 APC Budget Reduction Process – strategies for dealing with the impending budget reductions.

Vuran reported that after several recent meetings with Davis and a request from Clarke this item was added to the agenda. Vuran pointed out that the APC needs to play more of an active role in dealing with the budget reductions. He noted that Chancellor Bennett came to his office to discuss how he would like the APC to be involved in the budget reduction process and asked if the APC would provide recommendations if data was presented to the committee. He stated that he appreciated the Chancellor's openness about the APC's involvement.

Vuran pointed out that there are still some unknown factors with the budget cuts. One is that we do not know what the 6-day census is on enrollment which could impact our revenue budget. The other is that we do not know whether the December 31 timeline will still be held. He suggested that the Chancellor be invited to speak with the APC soon before the budget reduction procedures are invoked.

Davis stated that previous Chancellor Green talked in the spring about UNL having a \$23.3 million deficit and the APC dealt with \$10.8 million of this deficit during the spring semester. He pointed out that we still have the remaining structural deficit for UNL and in addition we will get some portion of the University system's deficit which, at the end of June was projected to be a \$58 million shortfall by 2025. Minter asked if the figures are based on assumptions at this time. Ankerson stated that they are because there are other factors that can contribute to the budget such as inflationary increases for insurance premiums and increases in operational costs when a new building opens. Davis pointed out that the hiring freeze will have some impact on the budget numbers as well.

The APC then went on to discuss preliminary strategies for how it would work to identify recommendations for proposed reductions.

13.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson

Vuran asked about a hold up on new undergraduate program proposals. Ankerson stated that a lot of infrastructure needs to be put in place for some programs and her office is working on a few new things to create a better environment for student success. She noted that we want programs to be viable and to make sure that people proposing the programs have the appropriate data relating to the need in the marketplace for students majoring in these programs. She stated that AVC Shriner has a great deal of experience with online programs, and he is developing consistency in how we market our online programs. She reported that her office is waiting on a response six departments about accelerated master's program.

Ankerson reported that Button is heading the search for the Dean of University Libraries and the search committee is working with Korn Ferry consultants. She stated that the idea is to bring candidates to campus in late October or early November. Button reported that September 5 is the deadline date for applying for the position after which the search committee will do the first set of reviewing. He noted that it is a good search committee

and there already is a good pool of candidates. Ankerson pointed out that the Dean of University Libraries is a critical position, and it plays a leadership role in the consortium of libraries within the university system.

Ankerson reported that Bill Watts is serving as Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs until September 5 when Vice Chancellor Anderson will start her position. Mowat asked why the original search failed. Ankerson noted that three candidates were brought to campus for interviews for the position, but she determined the search to be unsuccessful.

Ankerson reported that AVC Walker has a great opportunity to conduct a research project and will be stepping down as AVC and will be rejoining the faculty in January. She stated that an announcement will be made publicly, and an internal search will be conducted to fill the position.

Ankerson stated that there are two deans, Dean Moberly and Dean Perez, who will have five-year reviews conducted this year.

Ankerson stated that the administration is optimistic about our projections for enrollment this year. She noted that many people are working hard at all levels to extend offers to add another graduate student to their program and we have good communication with perspective students. She stated that professional level enrollment should be flat for the year, incoming freshmen were up slightly, and transfer student enrollments were flat. She noted that we originally thought we would be down 1.5% in enrollment but currently we are projecting we will be down .9%, although we will not know final figures until the 6-day census.

Ankerson thanked the APC members for serving on the committee noting that this will be a challenging year.

14.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m. The next meeting of the APC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.