

**MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2023**

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

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

**Members Absent:**

**Note:** These are not verbatim minutes. This is 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 3:03 p.m.

**2.0 Approval of May10, 2023 Minutes**

Tschetter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Doll moved, Heng-Moss seconded approval of the minutes which were then approved by the APC.

**3.0 Report on Early Childhood and Family Policy Graduate Certificate (Boehm and Latta Konecky)**

Latta Konecky reported that the proposal was well written and noted that this is an online delivery, one-year program. She stated that it is unique in that it is multi-disciplinary involving UNL and seven other institutional partners who will all participate in recruitment and instruction. She stated that UNL will enroll five students and there will be 35 non-UNL students. She reported that UNL will participate by teaching one course every other year. Boehm moved to approve the proposal. Motion seconded by Ankerson and approved by the APC.

**4.0 Report on the Agronomy Graduate Certificate Proposal (Latta Konecky and Vuran)**

Vuran stated that the proposed Agronomy Graduate Certificate program is a 12-credit hour program comprised of existing courses and no additional resources would be needed. He reported that the proposal was well written and supported. Latta Konecky moved to approve the proposal. Motion seconded by Ourada and approved by the APC.

**5.0 APC Representative Needed for Entomology APR (February 5-9, 2024)**

Ourada volunteered to serve as the APC representative on the Entomology APR in February 2024.

**6.0 Proposed Budget Reductions**

The APC reviewed and discussed the comments received from faculty, staff, and students regarding the proposed budget reductions. Doll advocated having a more strategic approach to

the reductions and that the APC should be given more advanced notice of proposed reductions. The Committee discussed communications about the proposed budget reductions to the campus and within colleges and how there seems to be some misconceptions and confusion, particularly regarding alternative sources of funding. Ankerson stated that sometimes people assume alternative funding is soft funding that would have to come from grants, but she reported that there are other sources such as the tax revenue generated from auxiliary units, federal funding, and foundation funds. The Committee discussed the long-range outlook for higher education in the state and the need for a more systemwide approach to deal with budget deficits.

The APC then discussed the details of the proposed budget reductions. Vuran moved to eliminate the proposed reduction of \$20,000 for professorships. Ankerson accepted this as a friendly amendment. Motion seconded by Boehm and then approved by the APC. The APC then approved the remainder of the Chancellor's recommendations for budget reductions.

## **7.0 Report on the School of Natural Resources APR (Clarke)**

Report postponed.

## **8.0 Reports from VC Wilhelm and VC Boehm**

### VC Wilhelm

Wilhelm reported that research at UNL continues to progress and last week there was an announcement in IANR of a \$25 million program. He pointed out that there will be another announcement made soon and he noted that there are some nice programs receiving large-scale funding. He stated that the third cohort of mid-career faculty members, which helped to build teams that could pursue larger research projects in the future, was finished this year and another cohort of newer faculty members has just recently finished. He reported that the newer faculty members worked on developing their skills and research efforts.

Wilhelm stated that we continue to see growth across our main matrix in terms of awards and research expenditures and there has been a 6% growth in research across the campus. He stated that it is expected that we will continue to see increased growth during the remainder of the year.

Wilhelm reported that Dan Duncan has retired from Nebraska Innovation Campus and there was a search concerted effort to find the next leader of NIC. He stated that there were a few finalists, but we were unsuccessful in hiring them so there will be an interim plan with Kate Engel becoming interim director of Innovation Campus until another search is conducted.

### VC Boehm

Boehm reported that IANR had an amazing tenure and promotion celebration and last week an announcement was made that Dr. Deb VanOverbeke was selected as the next head of Animal Science. He noted that she is originally from Ashland, a UNL alum, and will begin her position on July 13. He stated that two candidates for director of the School of Natural Resources will be coming to campus for interviews, and he has relaunched the search for a new head for Agricultural Economics pointing out that Professor Wes Peterson will be serving as interim in the meantime.

Boehm reported that Beth Ford, the CEO and President of Land of Lakes, spent time at the Water for Food Conference where she spoke about food security being a national security and the need for a comprehensive, long-term water sustainability strategy. He noted that Ford also spoke with Dean Heng-Moss where they discussed the importance of funding agricultural research.

Boehm stated that Clarke recently had a lead role in hosting a three-day conference to foster discussion and ideas for creating a network of national ag data repositories. He noted that guest speakers included Tom Eickhoff, chief science officer leading the Science organization at Climate, and digital farming at Bayer Crop Science; Amy Winstead, vice president of business innovation and agronomy for GreenPoint Ag Holdings; Cynthia Parr, assistant chief data officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research, Education and Economics Mission Area; and Graham Plastow, professor of livestock genomics and CEO of Livestock Gentec at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta.

Boehm reported that ranking members of the U.S. Senate Ag Committee, Senators Boozman, Fischer, and Ricketts visited the Nebraska Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center where the University of Nebraska's dedication to ongoing ag innovations have led to leading-edge advances in research and education were highlighted. He noted that the U.S. Senate Ag Committee is responsible for writing the Farm Bill which can have a budget of \$1.5 trillion dollars.

Boehm reported that rural Prosperity Nebraska received a \$25 million cooperative agreement award from the USDA for the creation of the Heartland Regional Foods Business Center. He noted that this is one of the largest grants ever received by the University.

## **9.0 Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m. The next meeting of the APC is scheduled in the beginning of the fall semester. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.