

MINUTES
February 7, 2024

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Clarke, Cressler, Davis, Heng-Moss, Jones, Latta Konecky, Minter, Mowat, Russo, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran

Members Absent: Button, Doll, Ourada

Guests: Director Larkin Powell (School of Natural Resources), Director Scott McVey (School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences)

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 3:01 p.m.

2.0 Update on Phase II Budget Reduction

Vuran noted that he spoke with Davis about where things stand currently with further budget reductions. Davis reported that at this time we are not in the position to initiate the next steps for further budget reductions since we have not been provided by Central Administration with UNL’s share of the proposed reductions. He stated that there are still many moving parts, such as the ongoing Presidential search, that may be delaying any decision making. He noted that Vuran will be meeting with the Chancellor to have a discussion to see how we should move forward.

Bloom pointed out that at this point it is hard to predict the future and there are still a lot of questions concerning the past reduction effort. He stated that he hoped the APC could get some feedback from the Chancellor and Davis on the questions that were raised at the January 24th APC meeting. Davis noted that he does not know how helpful it would be to go back and reflect on the things that didn’t work well and thinks it would be better if we could find some constructive ways to move forward. Vuran stated that the APC wants to make sure that it will be able to make an impact in the next round of the budget reductions and the Committee wants to find the best way to do this. He stated that this will be discussed at the next meeting.

3.0 Proposal to Delete the Applied Climate Science Program

Minter moved that the proposal to delete the Applied Climate Science program be accepted. Tschetter seconded the motion.

Bloom noted that he understands the need for UNL to delete programs that do not meet the Coordinating Commission of Postsecondary Education’s (CCPE) threshold but pointed out that this program is not very old. He noted that we want long sustaining programs and asked what lessons could be learned for future program proposals. Boehm stated that there were six

students enrolled in the program but part of the recommendations from the APR External Review Team's report on the School of Natural Resources stated that the program could be recalibrated and recommended that it be decommissioned. He noted that in 2014 applied climate control was a focused topic in the Unicameral but stated that the curriculum is fluid and when it needs to be adjusted and contemporized, we do that. He stated that he is proud of Heng-Moss and the faculty in the IANR units for making these curriculum adjustments pointing out that when he first arrived at UNL IANR had 32 majors and it is now down to 27. He noted that the thinking nowadays is to have broader programs although he understands when a unit would like to have a program that is more specific.

Bloom said that people should not feel discouraged from trying to create a program. Heng-Moss reported that when new programs are being proposed AVC Batman and AVC Volkmer are very helpful in guiding the development of the proposal, conducting the required analysis, and identifying what the career trajectory is for a proposed program. She believes that the model for proposing a program has been refined and that this will be advantageous for the units looking to propose a new program. Theiss-Morse pointed out that it probably does not make sense for the APC to approve narrow niche programs and the APC needs to be cognizant of this, particularly because the CCPE will be more stringent with approving new programs and ensuring that existing programs meet the minimum enrollment requirements.

Vuran asked for the APC to vote on the proposal. Motion approved.

4.0 Proposal to Delete the Space Law JSD Program

Boehm moved for approval to delete the program. Heng-Moss seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously by the APC.

5.0 Proposal to Delete the Veterinary Science M.S. Program

Latta Konecky moved to accept the proposal to delete the program. Bloom seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously by the APC.

6.0 Proposal to Delete the Water Science B.S. Program

Mowat moved to approve the proposal to delete the program. Motion seconded by Cressler. Motion approved unanimously by the APC.

Bloom noted that eliminating programs, which might be done for good programmatic reasons, do not necessarily result in significant budget savings.

7.0 Approval of January 24, 2024 Minutes

Vuran asked if there was a motion to approve the January 24th minutes.

8.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, Interim VC Jones

Ankerson

Ankerson reported that the Office of Global Affairs space located in 231 Louise Pound Hall is now completed and she is looking forward to celebrating the grand opening of the office space. She noted that Global Affairs centralizes several offices: Go Abroad, International Student & Scholars, IANR Global, and Programs in English as a Second Language.

Ankerson stated that students who applied by November 1 received their announcement of the scholarships they are receiving, and it was fun to watch the number of the students who have already logged into MyRed. She reported that February 15 is the date that students who applied after November 1 will receive their announcement on scholarships.

Ankerson noted that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the annual application for financial aid in Nebraska and determines whether a student qualifies for grants, work-study, loans, and some scholarships. She stated that changes are being made for the 2024-25 academic year and one of the major changes is that it will not be available on the traditional date of October 1. Instead, it will be available at the end of December and students will have until March 1 to complete the application. She noted that at the student advisory board meeting last week students pointed out that the changes have raised anxiety levels for students. She reported that Scholarships and Financial Aid will be holding FAFSA workshops to assist students.

Minter stated that students may apply every year for FAFSA and asked if the later date for accessibility to FAFSA will cause students to delay making the decision to come to UNL. She asked if there is anything the faculty who teach undergraduate students should know or convey to students. Ankerson stated that communications are being prepared for the students and another will be prepared for the faculty.

Tschetter inquired about the new scholarships that were announced for students with high ACT scores. Minter thought that the funds were from the NU Foundation. Boehm stated that the first \$5 million was from the Foundation and Pechous noted that these are endowed scholarships. Ankerson pointed out that creating these kinds of scholarships takes the work of many people and Boehm noted that the scholarship has been discussed for several years and recently was finalized.

Jones

Jones reported that she recently went to Washington DC with the Chancellor, Boehm and many others. While there she attended the University Research Association meeting while others in the UNL contingency visited our Congressional delegation. She stated that they also visited the NSF offices and pointed out that while she met many people, the overarching themes that resonated repeatedly were alignment and partnership. She stated that by alignment she means things like end partnerships and how we are aligned with our local and regional economies, how we are connected with our local and regional priorities, and what do our local and regional partners bring to ensure success. Afterwards there was discussion among the group about partnerships and what that means in the types of proposals we submit and about the preparation of the proposals. She stated that there was also discussion about needing to craft our vision for 10-20 years in the future and how we are prepping ourselves and working with our partners to achieve our vision.

Jones reported that there will be announcements coming about a second round of regional innovation engines from NSF. She noted that NSF would like a goal of 50 engines across the country. She stated that at the end of February there will be an announcement about the Chips

Act which is advanced manufacturing in the civic innovation challenge and the first deadline will be in May. Another NSF effort is to advance the bio economy and there will be several townhall meetings about this so information will be coming out about it. She reported that a visit to NIH is being planned and she is thinking about inviting the Department of Transportation to the campus to spend time with us.

Boehm

Boehm stated that he was able to spend a little more time in DC and visited members of the Senate's Agriculture Committee that are putting the Farm Bill together and they are trying to get the budget set on the bill. He stated that the USDA Center that will be on Innovation Campus is slated to receive \$25 million in the Appropriations Bill and \$3 million from the House of Representatives. He pointed out that the chances of us receiving these funds is promising.

Boehm stated that the Association of Land Grant Universities is having a major meeting, and the Deans are working to organize it noting that students and people from across the state will be asked to speak about the importance of federal funds and how they help the state. He reported that two members of Senator Fischer's staff will be looking at the USDA National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture site on Innovation Campus and then they will be going out to the Animal Research Center in Clay Center.

Boehm stated that he, along with Jones and Button, had the privilege of serving on the Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors project which is an effort to help the Otoe-Missouria people to reconnect to their homelands and educating non-Native people about the history and ongoing presence of the Tribe and other Indigenous peoples in our region. He noted that the last place the Otoe-Missouri tribe could choose to live was in southeast Nebraska and they lived there for 300 years before being forcibly removed and relocated to Oklahoma.

Boehm pointed out that it has been quite the week for the Farritor family here at UNL with Professor Shane Farritor having his miniaturized robot being readied for a 2024 test mission aboard the International Space Station and then son Luke Farritor being a co-winner of a \$700,000 prize for deciphering at least four passages of text from burnt scrolls recovered from a library in the Roman town of Herculaneum.

9.0 Other Business

Minter reported that she feels compelled to report on the frustration voiced at the Faculty Senate meeting yesterday about the Chancellor and the University not responding to the proposed tenure bill in the Legislature. She stated that while she understands not wanting to give more oxygen to the matter, the choice leaves faculty unsure whether the campus leaders really understand what is at stake here. Davis stated that he understands peoples' frustration. He noted that the hearing on the bill will occur on February 13 and the university will oppose both the tenure bill and the bill against diversity, equity, and inclusion. Minter pointed out that when the CRT resolution was introduced to the Board of Regents several years ago, all four Chancellors signed a letter opposing the resolution and supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at the university but nothing like this has occurred with the introduction of these bills.

Vuran reported that, relevant to the Faculty Senate meeting, he gave a report to the Senate yesterday on the activities of the APC during the past year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.