

MINUTES

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee September 11, 2024

Members Present: Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Button, Clarke, Combs, Davis, Gay, Herbin, Heng-Moss, Jemkur, Jones, Kopocis, Ourada, Russo, Thomas, Tschetter

Members Absent: Cressler

Guests:

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

Clarke called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2.0 Welcome New APC Members

Clarke introduced new APC members Professor Combs, Management; Professor Gay, Physics & Astronomy; Professor Thomas, Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education; Professor Kopocis, Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction; GSA President Jemkur; and ASUN President Herbin.

2.1 Brief overview of APC: who we are and what we do

Clarke presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the responsibilities of the Academic Planning Committee. She pointed out that the information was obtained from the APC website <https://apc.unl.edu/> and UNL Bylaws <https://www.unl.edu/chancellor/bylaws/01>.

3.0 Approval of the May 15, 2024 Minutes

Clarke asked if there were any revisions to the May 15th minutes. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ankerson moved for approval. Motion seconded by Tschetter and approved by the APC.

4.0 Election of Vice Chair

Clarke reported that Cressler has agreed to a nomination to serve as Vice Chair but asked if there were any others that were interested in serving. Clarke nominated Cressler and Ourada seconded the nomination. The APC then voted to approve Cressler as Vice Chair.

5.0 Appointment to Committees

Clarke reported that APC members were needed to serve on the committees listed below and asked for volunteers:

Long Range Planning Subcommittee: Cressler (Vice Chair serves as the chair of the LRP subcommittee), Herbin, Heng-Moss, Kopocis, Tschetter, Button, and Ourada

Project Initiation Request: Davis (who chairs the committee since he is Chief of Staff), Combs, and Thomas

University-wide Aesthetics Review Committee: Gay

University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Kopocis

6.0 APC Planning Goals for 2024

6.1 Strategic Planning and Processes:

Clarke stated that she thought it would be good as a committee to identify goals for this academic year. She noted that in the recent past the APC has been consumed with budget concerns, however, Davis has been charged with overseeing the refreshing the N2025 strategic plan and since the UNL Bylaws state that the responsibilities of the committee include that the APC shall formulate and recommend to the Faculty Senate, Colleges, and the Chancellor, goals for UNL in the areas of education (resident and Extension), research and service the Committee should be involved in refreshing the campus strategic plan. She noted that last year the Committee discussed how to evaluate different programs on campus and members of the Committee looked at data that was provided but found it was difficult to prioritize programs based on the available data. She pointed out that every discipline is different in what it values, and it would be helpful to solicit from the units what their priorities and values are.

Gay noted that the campus' relationship with UNL Athletics is in flux, and it might be good to get input from the APC about this as it really impacts UNL. He stated that it would be helpful to get input from the campus as well.

Bloom pointed out that it is clearly within the APC's purview to play a role in the strategic planning process, and he believes the Committee can do a lot with this. He suggested that the Committee could review the current strategic plan to see if we achieved the goals and whether some of them should be continued.

Clarke asked the APC members to email her if they have any other suggestions for goals this year.

7.0 Proposal to Delete Meat Culinology Undergraduate Certificate

Clarke stated that the proposal to delete the Meat Culinology Undergraduate Certificate is straight forward and asked Heng-Moss for an explanation of the proposal. Heng-Moss noted that CASNR is always assessing its academic credentials and pointed out that there is a platform in Animal Science to get a minor in meat culinology. Bloom asked when the last time students were registered for the undergraduate certificate. Heng-Moss stated that she would have to check. She stated that CASNR has not been able to deliver the program as it was designed because some of the courses are no longer available. She stated that the minor in Animal Science is a better option for students than the certificate. Clarke asked for approval of the proposal. The APC approved the proposal.

8.0 Proposal to Rename the Mechanized System Management MS

Clarke asked if there were any questions regarding the proposal. Russo asked if the renaming of the program is more encompassing of where the field is going. Heng-Moss stated that it is, and it is more consistent with other institutions and relates to the career path of courses that follow along with the industry. Clarke asked for approval of the proposal. The vote was unanimous.

9.0 Proposal to Create the Internet of Things Graduate Certificate

Clarke noted that for new proposals the APC has at least two members review program proposals and then report back to the committee in a timely manner. She asked for volunteers. Bloom and Gay volunteered to review the proposal.

10.0 Proposal to Create the Irrigation and Agricultural Water Management Undergraduate Certificate

Clarke asked for volunteers to review the proposal. Clarke and Jemkur volunteered to review the proposal.

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

Ankerson

Ankerson stated that everyone has probably been reading about the good news of UNL's total enrollment growth which was the first increase in overall enrollment in six years. She stated that the engagement by everyone on campus has contributed tremendously to this success.

Ankerson reported that Maegan Stevens-Liska assumed the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs role and Monique Snowden assumed the Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management role. She stated that the national search for the General Manager and CEO for Nebraska Public Media has been completed and Stacey Decker has been hired and will assume the role October 14.

Ankerson stated that Patty Sollars, Director of Undergraduate Education, has agreed to serve as the HLC Accreditation Liaison Officer, and she will be working to plan and prepare for UNL's reaffirmation in 2026. She noted that the work for reaccreditation will accelerate significantly in summer 2025.

Ankerson reported that our undergraduate degree programs in the College of Engineering have been fully reaccredited with no shortcomings by the ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission, Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) and Applied and Natural Sciences Accreditation Commission (ANSAC).

Ankerson stated that there have been a number of compliance regulations that took effect July 1 and more are forthcoming. Teams in Financial Aid, Registrar's Office, EVC Office, Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions have been working closely to ensure compliance.

Ankerson noted that the College of Architecture remodel and addition project, as well as the Andrews Hall facility project are each complete.

Ankerson reported that the College of Education and Human Sciences dean search will be launched in the coming weeks.

Ankerson reported that UNL has received NSF funding to participate in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program with the University of Kansas, Pittsburg

State University, and three community colleges, including SCC. The LSAMP alliance is designed to diversify STEM fields, increase the transfer of STEM students from community colleges, and build a robust network of STEM undergraduates across the Alliance to increase the number of underrepresented STEM students who pursue graduate education. LSAMP will provide STEM undergraduates with stipends for faculty mentored research opportunities, STEM internships, and conference and networking opportunities. LSAMP will be run through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships.

Ankerson stated that the first ever Husker Student POWER (HSP) week runs September 16-20th [Husker Student POWER Week | Husker Student Power | Nebraska \(unl.edu\)](#) as part of the “re-launch) of the POWER framework (purpose, ownership, well-being, engagement, and relationships). The HSP survey also launches for first year and new transfer students on Monday, September 16th. The survey is open for two weeks and is used by campus teams to identify students with concerns and provide outreach and resources to support their success.

Ankerson noted that Luke McDermott, a first-generation student from Omaha, has been awarded a 2024-26 [Voyager Scholarship, the Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service](#). McDermott is a political science, economics and history major and University Honors Program member who is also working toward a Certificate in Public Policy Analysis. The Voyager Scholarship was created by former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama and Brian Chesky, co-founder and CEO of Airbnb, to support U.S. college juniors and seniors pursuing public service leadership careers. Luke’s application was supported by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships.

Ankerson reported that we had a very successful onboarding for incoming graduate and professional students with multiple points of contact and webinars prior to arrival that culminated in a very successful Welcome Resource Fair with over 40 vendors from on and off campus and over 600 attendees. She stated that this was the first year we actively coordinated across campus onboarding/orientation, and it went well.

Ankerson stated that our summer pipeline programs served nearly 100 students this year. Our Summer Research Program, funded primarily by federal research experience for undergraduates (REU) monies, is the largest in the BTAA. She said it brings students from across the country to campus for the summer with a major focus on first generation and students underrepresented in higher education. She noted that our McNair Scholars Program also had another successful summer, and the fall cohort is starting.

Ankerson reported that the Office of Graduate Studies has begun working toward implementing the new “Liaison” graduate admission system that will replace the existing “College Net” system. She stated that Liaison will provide more capabilities than College Net and UNMC has been utilizing an earlier version of Liaison for the past few years.

Ankerson noted that Faculty Affairs hosted the New Faculty Orientation and invited 132 new faculty members of whom 70 attended. This is an excellent opportunity for new faculty to learn about UNL and begin to develop networks across campus.

Ankerson stated that new cohorts of faculty leadership development programs have begun, including the FLAIR program on our campus as well as cohorts participating in the Big 10 Academic Alliance's Academic Leadership Program, DEO leadership program, and Dean's leadership program.

Bloom noted that having Director Sollars as the HLC Liaison is great news as is the news about the enrollment increase. He stated that he understands the enrollment increase is a retention success. He asked for an explanation about why we had an interim AVC of ASEM in place for two years and why we are not conducting a national search. Ankerson noted that our freshman class this year is the second largest class in UNL's history. She stated that the recruiting market for a leader of ASEM is very difficult right now and we need a couple more years of strong enrollment before we can attract well qualified candidates. Gay asked how Interim AVC Snowden will interface with Admissions. Ankerson stated that Admissions and the other ASEM offices will report to Snowden. Bloom asked if other universities were having challenges hiring enrollment managers. Ankerson pointed out that there is a lot of uncertainty across the university with new leaders in place and it is a tough market for hiring good people in this field.

Boehm

Boehm welcomed the returning and new APC members. He pointed out that IANR is a complex organization that focuses on research, teaching and learning, and extension and engagement. He noted that there are three deans: Dean Heng-Moss of CASNR, Dean McLean of Agricultural Research, and Dean Stoltenow of Cooperative Extension and Engagement.

Boehm reported that during the listening tour of the state last summer we talked with the citizens of the state who said that there was a strong need for placement of veterinarians in rural areas, both for large and small animals. As a result, the Nebraska Elite 11 Veterinarian Program was created, and it will provide students with top-level training and each Elite 11 student receives the Nebraska Production Animal Health Scholarship which covers 50% of their tuition for the first two-years the student is in CASNR. After their second year, 13 are chosen for a continuation scholarship that covers 100% of tuition during their third and fourth year and from there the Elite 11 students are selected from Nebraska's Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine to have all tuition and fees paid for while they attend the university's dual Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program with Iowa State University. Associated with the full tuition is the agreement that students sign a contract promising that they will return to rural Nebraska for eight years to practice. Gay asked if there is a constraint on whether the students are large or small animal vets. Boehm stated that the expectation is that these students will come back to Nebraska to serve in a community of 40,000 or less and most vets in these areas have a mixed practice. Heng-Moss noted that depending on the location, 50% of their clients are with production animals.

Boehm stated that Dean McLean and Dean Heng-Moss are working together on a new pilot program for agricultural security excellence for the National Department of Homeland Security. He reported that the program is designed to provide curriculum that is currently available to our graduate professional and undergraduate students, and the program will be helpful to Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Justice Practitioners who

might know a lot about terrorism and the human dimensions of targeted violence but are not well equipped in the agricultural world.

Boehm stated that another program is the 3+1 program with the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in China which we have now had for 12 years. He noted that each year 50 students from across China are selected to get into a dual degree program where they earn a degree from our Food, Science and Technology program and the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry program. He reported that he and Heng-Moss will be flying to China to welcome the latest cohort of students, and to launch a new 3+1 program in plant protection.

Boehm reported that IANR has partnered with the College of Engineering and the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) to put forth an engineering research center proposal which is a large NSF center and ours would focus on agriculture, cyber security, and physical security. Gay asked which division of the NSF the center would be connected with and what are our chances of getting it. Boehm stated that this is the second bid he has been connected with for an engineering research center and the idea is that once a university has demonstrated proficiency and excellence and garnered extramural and industry support funding they are looked at more favorably for winning the bid. Jones stated that she believes UNL has a very good chance of getting the center and that all of our resources are being pulled together so we can put forward our best proposal.

Boehm reported that IANR is working with UNMC on the avian influenza that recently jumped from birds to humans earlier this year. He noted that this is a major concern for the CDC and USDA and UNMC and Nebraska Extension Educators are making sure that we are helping our producers of poultry and dairy to control this influenza and to keep the animals, and people, safe.

Boehm stated that UNL has taken a play out of UNO's playbook and is creating a Security Operations Center in Nebraska Hall where students will be hired to focus on agriculture cyber security and physical security, and they will look to detect cyber abnormalities and cyber intrusions.

Boehm reported that ground has been broken on Innovation Campus for the USDA National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture, there was just a ribbon-cutting ceremony on a new feedlot innovation center at the Northeast Research and Extension Center, and new graduate student housing for the northeast is about halfway completed in North Platte. He stated that the East Campus Legacy Plaza hardscape should be completed by the end of November, and Agricultural Hall renovations are now completed.

Jones

Jones noted that the Office of Research and Innovation does not take a break over the summer and has in fact been very busy. She pointed out that the office name has changed, and she has heard a lot of positive feedback about it. She stated that the website will be updated accordingly.

Jones reported that the ORI tried to keep up with all the announcements of the great awards that people have received over the summer, and she noted that the Nebraska Center for Prevention of Obesity Diseases received its third phase of funding a five-year, \$5,808,886 renewal from the

NIH's Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence Program, known as COBRE. She stated that there is really good work happening around and opportunities for additional COBRE funding.

Jones pointed out that an announcement came out recently about our Grand Challenges awards. She stated that there were two catalyst awards given and seven planning grants. She noted that the Grand Challenges is an initiative that has a lot of support but also there are mixed emotions across the campus about it. She pointed out that this is an initiative that is helping the campus to come together in ways to solve complex problems and noted that the funding agencies are also promoting ways of working together which are aligned with what we have been supporting through the Grand Challenges.

Jones stated that the annual memo about F&A distributions will be coming out soon. She stated that it will reflect a 6% increase in the F&A distribution which speaks to the increased research expenditures that couldn't happen without the increased research awards generated by the great work that is being done by our faculty, staff and students involved in research. She noted that anyone with questions about the F&A distribution should contact her.

Jones reported that the Faculty Connectors start this Thursday and this year there will be an interactive program. She encouraged faculty to come and provide their input.

Jones stated that Morrill Hall is initiating a Cosmos and Cocktails adult only event which allows people to explore the newly renovated Morrill Hall. The week of November 11-15 is Research Week, and it will be done a little differently this year. She reported that a book launching initiative will be coming out soon which will support faculty to get more books published.

Jones announced that we have hit a record for the number of NSF career awards and a story will be coming out soon about this!

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.