

**ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE UNL
FACULTY SENATE**

Mehmet Can Vuran, Chair

December 2022 – December 2023

Presented to the Faculty Senate on February 6, 2024

Responsibilities:

- A. Formulate and recommend to the Faculty Senate, to the Colleges, and to the Chancellor goals for UNL in the areas of education (resident and extension), research, and service.
- B. Recommend action to achieve the goals of UNL.
- C. Review with the Chancellor or appropriate Vice Chancellors the relevant campus physical planning documents as they relate to academic program needs and education research and service goals, and the Committee shall make recommendations.
- D. The Committee is empowered to approve or disapprove proposed new academic programs and changes in existing programs, including elimination.
- E. Concern itself with goals, needs, and resources for a future period as long as is prudent and reasonable in view of the information and advice available.
- F. Changes or elimination of existing programs shall include time and opportunity for existing personnel to qualify for a position in another program within the University whenever this requirement will not materially interfere with UNL achieving in full measure the goals of education, research, and service.
- G. Encourage academic planning within the colleges and other units of UNL on continuing basis through joint faculty-administrative-student action.
- H. Assist the Chancellor in seeking remedies for a financial exigency.
(To see the complete list of responsibilities, go to UNL Bylaws
<https://www.unl.edu/chancellor/bylaws> Section 1.2.7 Academic Planning Committee)

Current Members:

- Mehmet Can Vuran, Chair, School of Computing
- Beth Doll, Educational Psychology
- Elizabeth Theiss-Morse, Political Science
- Anna Hiatt, School of Biological Sciences
- Susan Ourada, Glenn Korff School of Music
- Christine Kelley, Mathematics (December 2022-October 2023)
- Ken Bloom, Physics and Astronomy (October 2023-present)
- Ann Tschetter, History, Non-tenure track faculty representative
- Joan Latta Konecky, University Libraries
- Clay Cressler, School of Biological Sciences
- Jennifer Clarke, Vice Chair, Graduate Council Representative
- Faculty Senate Representative: Deb Minter, Past President, Faculty Senate
- Dean Representatives:
 - Tiffany Heng-Moss
 - Mark Button
- ASUN Representatives:
 - Paul Pechous (Natalie Hole for Fall 2023 Semester) (Undergraduate)

- Katie Mowat (Graduate)
- Ex Officio Representatives:
 - Josh Davis, Associate to the Chancellor
 - Katherine Ankerson, Executive Vice Chancellor
 - Mike Boehm, Vice Chancellor of IANR
 - Bob Wilhelm, VC of Research and Economic Development (December 22, 2022-October 9, 2023)
 - Sherri Jones, Interim VC of Research and Economic Development (October 9, 2023-present)
- APC Coordinator:
 - Karen Griffin, Coordinator of Faculty Governance

The Academic Planning Committee met eight times during the spring semester and thirteen times during the fall semester.

Recommendations for Action by the Senate:

None

Summary of Regular, Annual Activities:

Academic Program Reviews (APRs)

Members served on the following APRs:

- Sociology (February 7-9, 2023)
- Educational Psychology (March 28-30, 2023)
- Biochemistry (September 18-22, 2023)
- Agronomy & Horticulture (October 2-6, 2023)
- Special Education & Communication Disorders (October 10-12, 2023)

Five APR reports were submitted, and accepted, to the APC during 2023:

- Mathematics (presented May 10, 2023)
- School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences (presented May 10, 2023)
- Food Science and Technology (presented May 10, 2023)
- Sociology (presented August 23, 2023)
- Plant Pathology (presented September 6, 2023)

Summary of Activities (complete details can be found on the APC Minutes website

<https://www.unl.edu/apc/minutes>:

- The APC considered and approved revisions to the Guidelines for Academic Program Reviews.
- The APC worked on drafting guidelines for Reviewing Program Proposals to assist new APC members when new program proposals are received. There was also discussion about reviewing and possibly revising the proposal template. Ankerson stated that she would bring the suggestions to her office staff to begin discussions on redesigning the template to improve the proposal process.

- Chancellor Green met with the APC on March 8, 2023, to report that he was setting in motion the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions to address UNL's structural deficit. He noted that this initial reduction would be \$10,770,191 to our permanent budget but he pointed out that we will probably need to make further reductions in the fall.
- Chancellor Green met with the APC on April 19, to present a memo outlining the proposed budget reductions. In following meetings, the APC worked on reviewing the proposed reductions, raising questions, and seeking further information detailing the proposed reductions. The APC finalized its recommendations on the proposed revisions at its May 1, meeting.
- On August 23, meeting the APC began discussions about strategizing for the next round of budget cuts to address UNL's remaining structural deficit. The APC then met with Chancellor Bennett on September 6 to learn more about UNL's deficit and to discuss the work facing the APC this semester.
- The APC met with VC Zeleny on September 20, who presented an overview of UNL's budget showing the sources of funds coming into the campus but also showing the expenditures and the increases in expenditures which have contributed to the structural deficit.
- On October 4 Chancellor Bennett met with the APC to officially implement the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions. Chancellor Bennett also informed the APC of the NU system deficit of \$58 million, the System's plans to initiate a hiring freeze for non-academic personnel, issuing a budget rescission, and had developed a 5-point plan which involves a zero-based budget to address the System's budget deficit. Chancellor Bennett met again with the APC on October 18 to discuss a revised budget framework which addresses only UNL's structural deficit of \$12 million and does not address any additional reductions that may come after the first of the year due to the NU system's deficit.
- The APC met weekly from October 18 through December 6 to review the proposed budget reductions and to make its recommendations. On November 15, the APC met with VC Barker to discuss the proposed reductions for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- Reports were given at most of the meetings from Executive Vice Chancellor Ankerson (Academic Affairs), Vice Chancellor Boehm (IANR), and Vice Chancellor Wilhelm (Office of Research and Economic Development) and Interim Vice Chancellor Jones (Office of Research and Economic Development).

New Graduate Program Recommended for Approval

- Masters' of Science in Athletics Training

Modification of Ph.D. Program

- Geography Ph.D.

New Graduate Certificate Recommended for Approval

- Entomology Graduate Certificate
- Early Childhood and Family Policy Graduate Certificate

- Agronomy Graduate Certificate
- Modify the Medical Family Therapy Graduate Certificate

New Undergraduate Certificate Recommended for Approval

- Undergraduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Social Entrepreneurship Undergraduate Certificate

Change of Name for Programs Recommended for Approval

- Rename Space, Cyber and Telecommunications Law to Space, Cyber, and National Security Law
- Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Deletion of B.S., M.S., Ph.D., and Graduate Certificate Programs Recommended for Approval

- B.S. in Food Science and Technology for Companion Animals

Appointments 2023-2024:

APC representatives were appointed to two University-wide committees:

- Aesthetic Review Committee – Elizabeth Theiss-Morse
- University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee - Ann Tschetter

Members were appointed to APC subcommittees:

- Project Initiation Request Subcommittee (standing committee): Josh Davis, Joan Latta Konecky, and Christine Kelley
- Long-range Planning Subcommittee (standing committee): Jennifer Clarke, Paul Pechous, Tiffany Heng-Moss, Joan Latta Konecky, Anna Hiatt, Clary Cressler, and Deb Minter
- Budget Reduction Phase 1 Subcommittee: Mehmet Can Vuran, Jennifer Clarke, Sara Haake, Susan Ourada, Ken Bloom, Deb Minter, Elizabeth Theiss-Morse, Jordan Gonzales, Natalie Hole
- Budget Reduction Phase 2 Subcommittee: Mehmet Can Vuran, Jennifer Clarke, Sara Haake, Susan Ourada, Ken Bloom, Deb Minter, Elizabeth Theiss-Morse, Beth Doll, Clay Cressler, Joan Latta Konecky, Paul Pechous, Anna Hiatt
- Subcommittees were created to review program proposals (see above under Summary of Activities for list of proposed programs)

Upcoming Issues:

- Work on UNL's portion of the NU system's budget deficit.

Summary of Additional Activities:

None

Recommendations for the Committee for the Next Year: