

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

Jennifer Clarke, Chair

December 2023 – December 2024

Presented to the Faculty Senate on February 4, 2025

Responsibilities:

- A. Formulate and recommend to the Faculty Senate, to the Colleges, and to the Chancellor goals or 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 a continuing basis through joint faculty-administrative-student action.
- H. Assist the Chancellor in seeking remedies for 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:

- Jennifer Clarke, Chair, Graduate Council Representative
- Clay Cressler, Vice Chair, School of Biological Sciences
- Sabrina Russo, School of Biological Sciences
- Susan Ourada, Glenn Korff School of Music
- Ken Bloom, Physics and Astronomy
- Ann Tschetter, History, Non-tenure track faculty representative
- Max Mueller, Classics and Religious Studies
- Gwendolyn Combs, Management
- Amanda Thomas, Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education
- Tim Gay, Physics and Astronomy
- Faculty Senate Representative: Kelli Kopocis, Past President, Faculty Senate
- Dean Representatives:
 - Tiffany Heng-Moss
 - Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg
- ASUN Representatives:
 - Elizabeth Herbin, Undergraduate

- Venn Jemkur (Graduate)
- Ex Officio Representatives:
 - Josh Davis, Associate to the Chancellor
 - Mark Button, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor
 - Mike Boehm, Vice Chancellor of IANR
 - Jen Nelson, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation
- 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:

- Entomology (February 5-9, 2024)
- Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (September 29-October 1, 2024)
- Classics and Religious Studies (October 27-29, 2024)
- Child, Youth, and Family Studies (November 3-5, 2024)

Three APR reports were submitted, and accepted, to the APC during 2024:

- Educational Administration (presented January 24, 2024)
- Biochemistry (presented May 1, 2024)
- Entomology (presented November 6, 2024)

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

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

- The APC discussed the Fall 2023 budget reduction process reviewing what worked well and what didn't work and discussed what activities the campus could undertake to mitigate the negative impacts of the budget reductions.
- The APC met with Chancellor Bennett on April 17, 2024, and he provided an update on the search for a new University President, discussed the hiring of the new Athletics Director, gave an update on the proposed stadium renovation, and reported that he was in the process of meeting with approximately 20 faculty members at each of the colleges. Chancellor Bennett noted that the campus will be facing another budget shortfall but pointed out that it would be inappropriate to initiate any reductions due to the transition of having a new system-wide President. The APC also discussed with the Chancellor the goal of getting readmitted to the AAU, the need for a system-wide strategic plan, and possible restructuring of the university.

- During the first APC meeting of the fall semester (September 11, 2024), APC Chair Jennifer Clarke provided an overview of the APC's responsibilities. The APC then discussed strategic planning and goals for the committee. The discussion on strategic planning continued at the following meetings. Prior to this meeting, APC Chair Clarke met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to encourage cooperation and communication between APC and Faculty Senate.
- Davis provided the APC with periodic updates on the budget reporting that the Chancellor was still in discussions with President Gold about the final budget numbers for UNL.
- The APC discussed the Business Simplified initiative which is set to examine whether UNL is using the most effective and efficient processes to do the work of the university. The discussion included lack of transparency with processes such as the hiring of faculty members which takes a lot of coordination and communication and the lack of information about the business centers' processes.
- Identified APC members to serve as the committee's representative on upcoming APRs: Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Classics & Religious Studies, Child, Youth & Family Studies, University Libraries, Chemistry, School of Global Integrated Studies, Animal Science.

For each new program proposal two or three APC members volunteered to review the proposals and present their findings to the Committee. The programs listed below were reviewed and then approved.

New Graduate Program Recommended for Approval

- Master's of Science in Athletics Training
- Ph.D. in Computer Engineering
- Master's in Artificial Intelligence

New Graduate Certificate Recommended for Approval

- Entomology Graduate Certificate
- Sports Promotion Graduate Certificate
- Internet of Things Graduate Certificate
- Artificial Intelligence Graduate Certificate

New Undergraduate Certificate Recommended for Approval

- Irrigation and Agricultural Water Management
- Wildlife Habitat Management Undergraduate Certificate
- Esports Undergraduate Certificate

New Center Recommended for Approval

- Nebraska Children's Justice and Legal Advocacy Center

Change of Name for Programs Recommended for Approval

- Mechanized system Management MS to
- Graphic Design Undergraduate to Graphic Arts

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

- Applied Climate Science Program
- Space Law JSD Program
- Water Science B.S. Program
- Veterinary Science M.S. Program
- Mathematics M.A. Program
- U.S. Legal Studies LLM
- Mathematics MScT Degree
- Meat Culinology Undergraduate Certificate
- Civil Engagement Undergraduate Certificate
- MS in Architecture

Appointments 2023-2024:

APC representatives were appointed to two University-wide committees:

- Aesthetic Review Committee – Tim Gay
- University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Kelli Kopocis

Members were appointed to APC subcommittees:

- Project Initiation Request Subcommittee (standing committee): Josh Davis, Gwendolyn Combs, Amanda Thomas
- Long-range Planning Subcommittee (standing committee): Clay Cressler, Elizabeth Herbin, Tiffany Heng-Moss, Kelli Kopocis, Ann Tschetter, Mark Button, Susan Ourada. This committee has been communicating with Josh Davis about the NU Strategic Planning Process.
- Subcommittees were created to review program proposals (see above under Summary of Activities for list of proposed programs)

Upcoming Issues:

- Work on developing the strategic plan for UNL. Address budget reductions if the procedures to address significant budget reallocations and reductions are invoked. Discuss how best to reduce/remove redundancy in academic programs within UNL and across NU.

Summary of Additional Activities:

None

Recommendations for the Committee for the Next Year: