MINUTES

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

January 13, 2016

Members Present:

William Wagner  William Nunez  Nancy Busch
Mike Hoffman   Patrick Shea   Maria Marron
Michael Farrell  Guy Trainin    Eva Franke-Schubert
Tyler White    Gerry Harbison   Ron Yoder

Members Absent:

Leslie Delserone   Ronnie Green    Prem Paul
Melanie Simpson    Curtis Walker   Thien Chau

Others Attending:

Amy Goodburn, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, on behalf of Ronnie Green
Christopher Marks, Associate Dean, Hixson Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts
Peter Pinnell, Art & Art History

Wagner called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.  A quorum was present.

1.0 Approval of November 18, 2015 and December 9, 2015 Minutes
Wagner noted that Vice Chancellor Green made some changes to the November 18 minutes that were objected to by Shea.  Shea reported that he spoke with Vice Chancellor Green and they were able to resolve the problem.  He stated that one of his concerns was in regards to department heads not being the same as department chairs because heads are 100% administration.  Yoder pointed out that not all heads in IANR are 100% administration.  Shea stated that he accepted the minutes as revised with the changes agreed to with Vice Chancellor Green.  Trainin moved for approval of the revised minutes.  Farrell seconded the motion.  Motion approved with one abstention.

Trainin moved for approval of the December 9, 2015 minutes.  Shea seconded the motion.  Motion was approved.

2.0 Recommendations from Subcommittee Regarding Proposed Graphics Design Majors
Farrell and Marron both agreed that the proposal was well-written and would be a great addition to the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts and to a number of
other departments and recommended that the APC approve the proposal. The APC voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

3.0 APC Representative Report on Academic Program Review of Agricultural Economics
Shea stated that the self-study document was well prepared and succinct, the review team was of high quality, and the process went very well. He noted that there was adequate time throughout the process for discussion and the faculty of Ag Econ had opportunities to visit with the review team. He stated that the recommendations of the review team were good and appropriate in his view. He noted that the department has not made a formal response yet to the review. He said no hearing is recommended.

Busch asked for clarification on when the APC representative needs to submit their report because the guidelines state that the APC representative will give the APC a report within 90 days of the program’s response. Nunez stated that the APC had made a decision that the APC representative could give the report earlier. Hoffman stated that typically the APC representative wants to see the department’s response before writing the report.

Hoffman moved to accept the report. Motion seconded by Trainin and approved by the APC.

4.0 APC Ad Hoc Committee on Proposed Revisions to UNL Bylaws – Recommendations Regarding Retaining Current APC Language
Wagner noted that he, Shea, Simpson, and Chau serve on the ad hoc committee and initially reviewed proposed changes to section 1.10.1 Academic Planning Committee of the UNL Bylaws. He stated that the proposal is to remove most of the information on the APC from the Bylaws and put them into the operating procedures, but the ad hoc committee objects to this because the Bylaws, in effect, are a contract of the campus. Nunez pointed out that the intent of the suggested changes was to move the more detailed and internal aspects of the membership out of the Bylaws in order to facilitate a less time consuming process for making changes to the Committee. He thought a more appropriate path for approving changes would be through the Faculty Senate rather than having to go through the lengthy process of getting Board of Regents approval. Hoffman stated that he believes it is essential that the APC membership and responsibilities remain in the Bylaws. Nunez indicated he appreciated the feedback and indicated that leaving it in was fine.

Shea reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has a subcommittee that is also looking at the proposed changes and there will be coordination with the APC ad hoc committee. He stated that one particular concern is the timeframe of making the changes. He noted that Faculty Senate President Bender stated that he hoped to have recommendations by the end of the semester. Nunez stated that he hoped that the upcoming change in the leadership of the campus does not elongate the process. Shea stated that it would be best if recommendations could be completed before the new Chancellor begins. Nunez pointed out that collaboration on the proposed revisions between the Faculty Senate and the APC makes a positive statement.
Wagner stated that the proposed revisions preclude the APC in financial exigency. Nunez stated that this needs to be corrected because the APC needs to be involved if financial exigency is declared.

Hoffman asked if the ad hoc committee plans to share drafts of the proposed revisions with the APC. Shea stated that the plan is to periodically share information with the APC as the ad hoc committee progresses through the Bylaws. Nunez stated that drafts of the revised Bylaws could be posted on Box.

Shea stated that the ad hoc committee wants the APC to have real meaning in academic affairs and to be more than just an advisory committee. In some cases there should be the requirement that there must be APC approval on certain programs. He stated that the idea is to allow the APC to do a better job and to be more helpful to the university.

Farrell asked who has to approve changes to the Bylaws. Nunez stated that APC, the Faculty Senate, and ASUN must approve the changes. Next will be the Chancellor, then the President, and finally the Board of Regents. Shea asked what happens if the Chancellor does not accept the revisions approved by the APC or Senate. Nunez stated that the Bylaws will be returned to the Senate, APC, and ASUN for further work until the revised document is accepted by all parties. He pointed out that the Chancellor has to approve the changes before it can go forward to Central Administration. He noted that the idea to the proposed changes was to make the Bylaws more current and to allow some flexibility to the campus in order to make internal, operational changes more readily. He pointed out that there has never been any intention to eliminate the authority of any committee.

5.0 **Matters from Vice Chancellors-Academic Affairs, IANR, Research & Economic Development**

No reports were given.

Harbison moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by Shea and approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Colonial Room A. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.