

MINUTES
November 1, 2023

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Boehm, Button, Cressler, Davis, Doll, Heng-Moss, Hole, Jones, Latta Konecky, Mowat, Ourada, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Haake, Gonzales, Zeleny

Members Absent: Bloom, Clarke, Hiatt

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 3:07 p.m.

2.0 Approval of October 25, 2023 Minutes

Vuran asked if there were any revisions or comments on the minutes. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ankerson moved for approval. Motion seconded by Tschetter and approved by the APC.

3.0 Budget Reduction Process

Vuran reported that two subcommittees were formed, Phase 1 is working on the proposed reductions to address UNL’s current \$12 million structural deficit. He stated that Phase 2 will consider the approach the APC would take in dealing with any additional budget reductions this academic year that may come from the NU system. He thanked those APC members who volunteered to serve on the subcommittees.

Vuran wanted to highlight that the APC needs to move at a very fast pace because of the demands of the structural deficit shortfall. He stated that he has appreciated the numerous conversations he has had with Chancellor Bennett and Davis and noted that these conversations have helped clarify the budget situation and APC’s role in the process. Davis pointed out that during the spring budget reduction process the committee expressed the desire to be engaged earlier in the budget reduction process and the Chancellor is trying to be responsive to the APC.

Ankerson reported that once the Chancellor invoked the budget reduction process and received direction from the Chancellor’s office, and once the APC approved the budget framework, her office could then add more guidance and provide overall budget targets to colleges and EVC units. She stated that the deans have been informed of their targets and she pointed out that the prime objective is to do the least damage to our mission areas. She noted that each college has different sources of funds, and no two colleges are identical in their funding sources which is one of the factors of why flexibility in meeting the recommended target numbers was given. She stated that the colleges are asked to provide their recommendations to her office by November 6.

The APC then went into closed session to address questions raised by APC members regarding the proposed recommendations for reductions.

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

Boehm reported that IANR is spending a lot of energy on the budget reduction process, and he appreciates the amount of data that is being provided to IANR and the APC. He noted that IANR is working on the zero-based budgeting inventory and reported that his response to the Chancellor on this inventory is due by November 8.

Ankerson pointed out that there was a good article in the Lincoln Journal Star about the Nebraska Promise program and the impact that it has had for students.

Ankerson stated that the College of Engineering had its accreditation visit recently with twelve reviewers evaluating the college. She reported that comments made by reviewers were very encouraging and positive. She stated that the College of Journalism and Mass Communications will have its accreditation review November 11-14.

Jones wanted to remind everyone that Nebraska Research Days will be the week of November 6 and that there will be events each day throughout the week with the faculty recognition event ending the week on Friday, November 10.

Jones reported that there will soon be an announcement about the largest humanities grant the University has received, the University Press has sold the rights to one of their books to Paramount which plans to make a movie based on the book, and recently Ron Howard has bought the film rights to another book noting that both of these purchases helps us diversify our revenue streams. She reported that the State Museum has finalized a donor gift of 2,000 ceramics along with a 6-figure gift to sustain that curation. She pointed out that the ORED office is creating a number of student internship roles in the office and Innovation Campus already has 100 internship opportunities for students.

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, November 8. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.