ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE  
APPROVED MINUTES  
November 5, 2003

Members Present
Matthew C Hansen  
Jeffrey F Keown  
Richard M Kettler  
Marjorie J Kostelnik  
Ronald E Lee  
Nancy Mitchell  
William J Nunez  
Prem Paul  
Barry T Rosson  
Wendy R Weiss

Members Absent
Lloyd Ambrosius  
Sarah B Campbell  
Richard Edwards  
Derrel L Martin  
Cynthia H Milligan  
John C Owens

Others Present
Alan Baquet, Associate Vice Chancellor of IANR (for John Owens)  
Arnold Bateman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Extended Education and Outreach

Rosson called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes
The minutes for October 22 were approved.

Appointment to the Curriculum Committee
Rosson read a list of faculty members who had submitted their names to the Academic Senate for service on the Curriculum Committee. Lee nominated Professor Deborah Minter. Hansen seconded the nomination. Minter was chosen unanimously to represent APC on the Curriculum Committee. Rosson designated the last meeting of the year, May 12, for the Curriculum Committee member’s report to APC.

Academic Program Review Subcommittee
The chair of the subcommittee, Derrel Martin, was absent. Rosson said Martin told him he intended to make his report at a later date.

Discussion of the School of Architectural Engineering and Construction proposal
Kettler, chair of the subcommittee, met in Omaha with faculty and department heads who are involved with the merger. People in Omaha were generally in favor of the merger. The proposal went through numerous revisions. There was some uncertainty about the new roles of each department and its faculty. Chancellor Perlman was in Omaha on November 5 to address the concerns of the faculty there. The structure of the new school, faculty training differences, tenure criteria, and the differences between the merging units’ missions were items for discussion. Kettler said he had not yet talked to the Lincoln faculty involved in the merger.

Keown asked about the origins of the proposal. Kettler said Construction Systems initiated it. Paul said the proposal might be a response to the Chancellor’s State of the University challenge to collaborate in new ways. Lee noted that some of the merging departments were in applied fields and some were in research. He wondered how collaboration could occur. Kettler said a number of faculty were close to retirement age. Gradually new faculty would be hired with a view to expanding the opportunities for
collaboration. Kettler said the school planned to develop a construction engineering program. Rosson said that persons practicing as construction engineers may have training in civil engineering, architectural engineering, architecture or some other engineering field. Few formal construction engineering programs exist. Most of the faculty members have industry experience. Rosson also indicated that Construction Management, Construction Systems Technology and Architectural Engineering have their own accreditation bodies and standards.

Paul approved of the proposal. He said it was an excellent fit for the University of Nebraska. Nebraska is a national leader in construction and civil engineering, and the leading companies in the U.S. are in Omaha. There will be opportunities for students in the program to gain on-the-job experience with local industries. [Kostelnik arrived.]

Kettler said the merger includes a program with the largest undergraduate enrollment in the College of Engineering and Technology, so there is an opportunity for expansion and specialization. He said the University of Texas had an Architectural Engineering program under the umbrella of Civil Engineering. Rosson added that there were many models throughout the country that had Architectural Engineering, Construction and Civil Engineering. The programs at the University of Kansas, Wyoming and Colorado have Architectural Engineering programs within a unified department that includes Civil Engineering. But that the model to create a School of Architectural Engineering and Construction would be unique.

Kostelnik said it would be helpful for the proposers to talk to other units that have experienced the merger process. Merged units make the transition in steps from separate tenure committees to integrated ones. She said the proposal was missing an integration plan. [Arnold Bateman arrived.]

Rosson asked the subcommittee to have its report ready for APC consideration at the November 19 meeting. Goedert, Wentz, Yuill, and a representative of the College of Engineering and Technology were planning to attend that meeting. Kettler said he would like to have comments on the proposal from APC members by November 14.

**College credit for high school students**

Rosson said Vice Chancellor Edwards sent him an email saying he had to be in Kearney at the time of the APC meeting. Bateman was present to participate in the discussion of dual enrollment in high school and college, but he was not prepared to make a solo presentation. An article from U.S. News & World Report titled “Earning Two Diplomas in One” was distributed. [Bateman left.]

**Update by the Long-range Planning Subcommittee**

Keown and Nunez met on October 29 to discuss data that Institutional Research and Planning could obtain to help the subcommittee. Keown distributed copies of a subsequent email exchange. Possible information items to be requested from UNL’s peer institutions include:

- What is the tenure location (or home) of faculty – institutional or departmental?
- How is a program defined – entire department, or other?
- What is the number of tenured faculty versus non-tenured faculty for the past five years? Does a gap exist, and if so, is it widening?
- What is the total FTE in teaching, by department, for the past five years? Is it increasing or decreasing?
- What is the impact of grants on teaching?
- What activities and changes in administration, staff and faculty numbers, by college or service unit, have occurred over the past five years?
• Who maintains faculty tenure records? Who ensures accurate coding of tenure status, tenure dates, tenure department, etc?
• What is the average age of faculty lost due to reduction in workforce?
• What are the recurring costs for campus enterprise systems (e.g. Lotus Notes, SAP, etc.)?

Nunez suggested that faculty senates or university councils at other institutions would be good sources of information. Paul said asking the universities’ provosts would be a more academic way to do it. Nunez agreed. He said provosts were also more likely to respond quickly. Kostelnik said the tenure question could be more easily answered than the request to define “program.” Rosson suggested sending the University of Nebraska’s definition of a program to other institutions as a reference for comparison.

There was discussion of what might be learned by investigating the differences in class sizes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the variety and number of courses offered, the trends in minority faculty, and whether lower-level classes were being taught by senior faculty. Kostelnik said there is a well-documented trend among land-grant universities across the U.S. toward less state funding and fewer tenured faculty members. Paul said it could be useful to investigate changes in grant activity and research space. He suggested that APC look at indicators of quality and the Blue Sky report.

Kostelnik said all kinds of data might be obtained, correlated and analyzed, but the work would be wasted if the right questions aren’t formulated. APC needs to ask whether UNL has the right mix of people—not necessarily tenured faculty, or faculty at all—to accomplish its mission. Rosson said APC should be the group to start asking these questions.

Issues from the Vice Chancellors
Baquet had no issues from IANR to present. Paul reported on a number of Research Division activities. He said UNMC is one of four finalists for the National Center for Emergency Preparedness. The Director and the Deputy Director of Homeland Security attended a meeting in Omaha to discuss the Center. Besides UNMC, other units that would be involved are the College of Business Administration, CALMIT, the School of Natural Resources and the Mid-America Transportation Center.

Other University of Nebraska proposals being developed are food security and the ADVANCE program to increase the number of women in mathematics and science. He said a steering committee for the Water Initiative is being formed. A retreat about funding opportunities will take place in January. The steering committee for the retreat is identifying research resources on campus.

The Alexander Building West has been renovated to bring together research support units. An open house for that facility will be held soon.

Other Business
Rosson remarked that six proposals for Programs of Excellence funding had been delivered to the APC members and asked for comments. He said APC’s actions on this round of proposals should be similar to those in the earlier round. He said that the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors took APC’s comments seriously, although they did not necessarily reach the same conclusions as APC.

There was discussion of publicity related to the J.D. Edwards proposal. Hansen asked whether APC should make an official statement on its recommendations so the proposers could respond. Rosson said some programs might want public discussion on their proposals and others might not. He said APC
should review all the proposals and vote on recommendations before making a public statement. He also said that any calls from the press should be referred to him as the Chair of the APC.

The APC decided that comments from the members regarding the proposals should include:
(1) suggestions for making each program stronger, assuming that it will be funded;
(2) any fatal flaws that immediately eliminate a proposal;
(3) the member’s approval, neutrality or disapproval on each proposal.

Committee members were asked to forward comments to Bill Nunez by 5:00 Monday, November 17. The Institutional Research and Planning office will collect the comments. APC will consider the compiled comments and finalize its recommendations on November 19.

There was discussion of the requests from UAAD and UNOPA to change the UNL Bylaws to allow representation from office/service and managerial/professional employees on the APC. The requests will be distributed to the APC members and considered at the December 10 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lona Kramer, APC Coordinator