Rosson called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The minutes for December 10 were revised and approved.

**Briefing on UNL parking policies and long-range traffic plan**

Rosson said safety, access and parking are related to the academic mission of the University, and so are concerns of the APC. Tad McDowell, Director of Parking Services, attended to provide information on the short- and long-term parking plans. McDowell handed out four maps of City Campus showing current and projected roadways and parking facilities. He began with the impact on parking and traffic due to the Antelope Valley Project.

The campus’s first traffic change, which will continue for two years, is the formation of a loop north of Nebraska Hall to accommodate two-way traffic on 16th and 17th Streets. McDowell said the change will not affect transportation between the two campuses. The Antelope Valley project will remove railroad crossings that currently disrupt the shuttle route north of campus.

Milligan asked whether the city and the university had coordinated planning efforts. Nunez said that UNL is a Joint Antelope Valley Authority (JAVA) partner. Clark de Vries and Rich McDermott are UNL’s liaisons with the city on the project. Kettler said nearby neighborhoods have been involved in the planning since 1997.

McDowell said most parking stalls to be lost during the Antelope Valley construction are student stalls. Eventually parking garages will replace them. In 2006-2007 the last of the large surface parking lots will be closed. A planned 700-stall parking structure cannot be started until the Antelope Valley Project is completed in late 2007.

McDowell said planned parking facilities are based on projected enrollment increases. Rosson questioned whether undergraduate students, particularly first- and second-year students, should be allowed to park so close to the core of City Campus buildings. McDowell said discussions of parking were part of campus master planning in 1994 and 1998. It was thought that students banned from parking on campus would bring cars anyway and park off-campus, causing conflict between the
community and the university, and discouraging students from living on campus. Student parking permits and transit fees provide revenue to build and maintain parking facilities. [Weiss arrived.]

Lee asked whether parking fees are in line with other universities in the region. McDowell said fees for reserved parking are high, but overall the fees are not. He said the number of permits purchased has not decreased. UNL’s fees were too low in the past to allow a reserve for future needs. Lee said remote parking is not a good solution for faculty who have to leave campus and return during the workday. Mitchell said faculty gave parking as a reason not to serve on committees.

Lee said the city bus system is impossible for people who have to be on campus after 6:00 p.m. Rosson asked about more off-campus pickup locations for the University’s shuttle service. McDowell said Parking had considered it but the cost was prohibitive.

Several members remarked that on-campus students were storing their cars for extended periods in some of the most desirable short-term parking spots. McDowell said students as well as staff want convenience. Rosson said faculty and staff should have priority for parking closest to City Campus buildings, not just for convenience, but for access to work with colleagues on joint research and serve on committees. McDowell said no lots between 11th to 17th and Q to W are open to students. Brinkerhoff said the Campus Master Plan set the goal of making UNL a pedestrian campus. Peripheral parking and busing promote that goal.

Lee said the Stadium Garage should be open to faculty permits. McDowell said the University makes far more money from cash parking than it would from permit parking at that location. He said UNL’s first parking garage was made a cash facility so it would pay off the bonds quickly. The location is good for visitor parking. The 14th and Avery garage will begin with 843 stalls and will add 1600 stalls later, all for permit parking. The 17th and R garage has unrestricted stalls, open to visitors as well as to student and staff permit holders.

Brinkerhoff asked what happened to the plans for retail space in the 17th and R garage. McDowell said demand for retail space dropped sharply just after the garage was built. The University Police Department recently rented the entire space. Rosson thanked McDowell, who then left.

Preliminary proposal for a major in Ethnic Studies
The preliminary proposal was distributed to APC before the meeting. Rosson asked for comments. Brinkerhoff said this is an interdisciplinary major. The Institute of Ethnic Studies has had a minor for some time and wants to raise it to a major. Lee said it appears courses will be offered by several departments. He asked if the students would be double majors. Brinkerhoff said the major fills a need but is not expected to attract a large number of students. Ambrosius noted that seven or eight majors are expected in the first year.

Lee said he worries about students counting classes twice to get two majors. He said it was a policy question: does the faculty want to allow a second major that only requires 50 percent more work beyond the first major? Ambrosius said he didn’t see that as a problem. He said the Ethnic Studies major will most likely attract students who want to double major. It would be a useful credential.

Kettler asked about facilities for the program. Brinkerhoff said they want to move into the second and third floors of Seaton Hall to be closer to the core of campus. A PIR for the remodeling will be coming to APC soon. Rosson called for a subcommittee to consider the proposal. Mitchell, Keown and Ambrosius volunteered. Mitchell is the chair.
Academic Program Review Subcommittee
Rosson observed that Martin, chair of the subcommittee, was not present. Kramer said Martin sent her an email saying he planned to send a report for APC. Ambrosius said the subcommittee had not met. Rosson said the report should be the product of the whole subcommittee. He asked for another volunteer for the APR subcommittee. Mitchell said she would move from the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee to the Academic Program Review Subcommittee. Rosson said he would contact Martin to see how much time he can contribute to APC this semester.

Long-range Planning Subcommittee Report
Keown said the subcommittee conducted a survey of peer institutions to determine their definition of program and where their faculty’s tenure resides. Responses to the survey were distributed to APC members before the meeting. A list of recommendations from the subcommittee follows.

1. Conduct a thorough audit to ascertain every faculty member’s proper tenure home. Records of tenure homes and records on all faculty members should reside at both the College and Academic Affairs.
2. Determine the tenure home of all tenure-track faculty members who are located in Centers.
3. Develop a policy on where tenure resides.
4. Make every effort to find faculty members a position of similar rank when their programs are eliminated due to budget reductions.

Brinkerhoff said the survey shows there is variation among institutions on the location of tenure, and having a flexible tenure-home policy allows faculty to move to other units. Lee said having a policy on tenure might stop the termination of tenured people when their program is eliminated. [Nelson and Jacobson arrived.] Lee said APC learned during the budget reduction process that some people were tenured in departments that no longer exist. He said he was concerned about people in centers not feeling secure. Nelson said people in centers are not tenured but are contract employees. Ambrosius said center faculty may have joint appointments, which raises the question of what department or college will be the tenure home. He said the matter should be clarified. Brinkerhoff questioned whether those concerns were compelling enough to designate colleges as tenure homes.

Rosson asked APC members if they felt that having a policy would be helpful. Brinkerhoff said that, for instance, uncertainty about a tenure home has made it hard to hire a director for the Othmer Center. He wondered if APC’s concern about tenure home was related to budget reductions. He said tenure is not a critical issue in budget reductions.

Rosson said a decision on tenure policy should start with a resolution from APC, which would then go to the Academic Senate. He asked if the subcommittee was prepared to draft a resolution. Keown said the subcommittee would first look at policies of the universities that participated in the survey. Brinkerhoff said tenure decisions are traditionally made at the department level, even though some faculty are tenured at the college level. Ambrosius said Academic Affairs and others should be involved in policy development. Rosson suggested a university-wide task committee.

Lee asked if Institutional Research and Planning could figure out each person’s tenure home. Nunez indicated he will investigate the codes in the Human Resources System to ascertain the availability of a home department data field. There was discussion about how the location of tenure home could be determined. Nunez said he could query the College of Architecture and the College of Journalism and Mass Communications to ascertain how colleges without departments code their faculty. Rosson said schools might also be tenure homes. He will talk to John Wunder, President of the Academic Senate, about the approach to take.
Simplification of the Academic Program Review process
Rosson introduced Darrell Nelson and Evelyn Jacobson, the IANR and Academic Affairs coordinators for the APR process. He said the Academic Senate’s Wasted Time Committee asked APC to look into the amount of data required in self-studies. Jacobson agreed with the goal of reducing paperwork. She said it takes most units a whole semester to write a self-study. She said there is a broad audience for the APRs. The departments and colleges should have input on what is included.

Jacobson said Academic Affairs’ guidelines were tailored to the requirements of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE). Brinkerhoff said Academic Affairs didn’t want to have departments meet the requirements of two separate reviews. He said the Guidelines provide what APC and CCPE wanted at the time they were published. They also serve as a forward-looking document for the department being reviewed. He said CCPE requirements have relaxed over the past six or seven years. The CCPE is comfortable with getting only a summary of accreditation reviews, which are separate from APR reviews, so this seems to be a good time to simplify the guidelines.

Nelson said the USDA sets the guidelines for IANR unit reviews. IANR has tried to match their guidelines with those of the USDA. Self-studies in IANR are simpler than those in Arts and Sciences and focus more on future staffing needs and programs.

Rosson asked what in the APR Guidelines is required by CCPE. Jacobson said Institutional Research and Planning developed a grid of CCPE and UNL requirements. She said it shouldn’t be too hard to pull out what CCPE requires. Lee said the requirement for demonstrating centrality to the mission of the institution is unnecessary. Brinkerhoff said the requirement can be met with a single paragraph about full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty and student credit hours (SCH).

Kettler said his department is comfortable with the current format for the self-study and makes minimal changes from one APR to the next. He said making projections of future needs and plans is more difficult, but is likely to be more important. Lee said the self-studies are repetitious. Kettler said it is hard for the APR team to sift through the self-study and find what is important. Brinkerhoff said the self-study requirements were not intended to waste the APR team’s time.

Rosson asked what requirements can be taken out. Nelson said the section on facilities is not needed if the APR team tours the facilities while they are on campus. Jacobson suggested eliminating the section on the department’s history. She said the Dean of Arts and Sciences should be consulted for his suggestions on the simplification. Milligan agreed, and said the meeting to revise the guidelines should be held before March 1 when Brinkerhoff is scheduled to leave. Brinkerhoff, Jacobson, Nelson, and Dean Hoffmann will meet to review the guidelines.

Jacobson said most departments take the self-study very seriously. The School of Natural Resources’ self-study was only 40 pages, but it was very forward-looking and had a lot of details in the appendices. Keown said APRs are expensive. They should be designed to maximize their usefulness.

Issues from the Vice Chancellors: None

Rosson reminded the members that the next APC meeting will be on February 11. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lona Kramer