Rosson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The minutes for January 28 were discussed, revised and approved.

Project Initiation Request for Renovation of the Second and Third Floors of Seaton Hall
Nunez said the PIR Subcommittee met with Latta and Miller to discuss the PIR. The purpose is to renovate the second and third floors of Seaton Hall, a former residence hall, for its use as office space by several academic and academic support units. The central air conditioning system will be extended from the first floor to the second and third floors. Minor room reconfigurations and accessible restrooms on each floor are necessary to convert the space to its new uses.

Offices selected to move into the renovated building are those that need to be closer to the academic core of campus. Mitchell said having Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies close together would promote synergy between them and would emphasize their academic functions. Candidates for third floor space are the Cather Studies Program, the Plains Humanities Alliance, the Ethnic Studies Program and the International Studies Program. Nunez said the units to be moved fully support the relocation.

Funding of $1.1 million for the project will come from private sources and year-end surpluses transferred to Academic Affairs.

Motion
Rosson said the subcommittee’s favorable report served as a motion and second. After discussion, the motion to endorse the PIR passed without dissent. [Miller, Latta and Ambrosius left.]

Preliminary Proposal for a Major in Ethnic Studies
Mitchell, Keown and Ambrosius met with Anne Kopera and Marcela Raffaelli on February 16 to discuss suggestions APC brought up in their January 28 meeting. Raffaelli agreed to add a statement to the proposal that no more than half the courses required for the major may be taken in one discipline. The statement is intended to address Lee’s concern that students might “double-dip” or count the same
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courses twice to obtain a second major cheaply. Also discussed at the subcommittee meeting were funding for distance education; whether study outside Nebraska was encouraged; the program’s focus on African-American, Native American and Chicano populations; efforts to include courses from other colleges; physical space needs; and expected impact on availability of Essential Studies (ES) courses in the Race, Ethnicity and Gender category.

Lee said the proposal should include a plan for interaction between students majoring in Ethnic Studies. Mitchell said the major was similar to International Studies. Weiss said the Women’s Studies program has camaraderie between its majors. She thought the location in Seaton Hall near similar programs would encourage collegiality. Brinkerhoff said sociology is an academic discipline born of interaction between other disciplines. Rosson asked what examples of programs similar to Ethnic Studies exist at UNL. Mitchell cited Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Asian and European Studies, Great Plains Studies and Religious Studies. Lee said courses in other disciplines also have ethnic content.

Brinkerhoff said faculty are appointed 60 percent in other departments and 40 percent in Ethnic Studies summing to about five FTE faculty in Ethnic Studies at this time. Several more joint appointments are being negotiated. Rosson thought the size of the faculty would be sufficient to handle instructional and governance issues. Lee said faculty with joint appointments focus primarily on the discipline in which they are to be tenured.

Mitchell wondered whether additional courses should be required for all Ethnic Studies majors besides those in the freshman and senior years. Lee agreed the program should be more coherent. Kostelnik suggested a capstone experience for majors, a common thread unifying the various courses, or some other integrating pedagogical commonality. She said faculty in the program should look for a way to get a sense of community. Rosson said freshmen and sophomores in the College of Engineering take an orientation course designed to bring students from all the departments together. Brinkerhoff said the lack of coherence was a valid point. The proposers should be asked to address that concern.

Rosson questioned the proposal’s statement that no new resources would be needed. He said curriculum development and seminar speakers have costs. Keown said speakers from other parts of the country should supplement local diversity. Mitchell asked how a new program could be justified when other programs are being cut for lack of funds. Brinkerhoff said there might be sources of funding. Under a new reversion policy, surplus funds in departments are returned to Academic Affairs and can be used to meet a variety of one-time funding needs.

Rosson said the final proposal for the Ethnic Studies major is expected in March.

Dual High School and College Credit
Rosson reminded the members that Senior Vice Chancellor Edwards gave APC copies of a draft policy for dual credit at the December 10 meeting. The draft was written by Rita Kean and Arnold Bateman and was dated October 2003. At the same time APC received data on the number of students who enroll in dual credit courses instead of taking AP tests for college credit.

Rosson said Kean has been updating agreements and evaluations of credit from various colleges and high schools. Keown added that IANR units review courses constantly to be sure they meet standards. Keown said departments might set their own standards for credit from dual enrollment. Rosson said the University might require passing the AP test before credit is granted. Campbell said she knew of credit being granted for high school courses without the AP test. Rosson said the university accepts transfer credit from other colleges without questioning whether the courses were taken in high school or college.
Lee said high school courses are less rigorous, and the university would not be considering dual credit if money were not an issue. Lee and Mitchell questioned whether the push for dual credit was due to competition for students or teaching opportunities for faculty members. Kettler asked what the process was for making the decision about dual credit. Rosson said it was an administrative issue that was brought to APC to invite comments.

Kostelnik asked if the APC members worry that dual credit could undermine the national AP system. A major strength of the AP system is its quality control. She wondered whether a university might have liability if its students are not capable of doing well in their advanced course work. She said the dual credit system seems to parallel the AP system, possibly with a lower standard. That is something the Regents should consider, she said. Keown said we need to be sure that we are preparing students adequately. [Mitchell left.] Lee said high schools use the best teachers and offer them additional training before they can teach AP courses. Highly selective colleges want AP scores. Keown said UNL’s standards should be higher than those of state colleges; so those colleges’ granting of dual credit should not excessively influence UNL. Lee said UNL should encourage students to take AP courses. Rosson said during Kean’s evaluation of courses for credit, she has found that most of those offered for dual credit are AP courses. He speculated that might change if the University of Nebraska changes its dual-credit policy. Lee said it seems backward that UNL wants assessments on campus to assure quality while considering a policy that would eliminate assessments for high school transfer credits. Hansen said he thought courses don’t count as dual credit if they are used to meet high school graduation requirements.

Rosson said the APC could write its own standards and or could wait for the Regents to decide. He said UNL does not teach dual credit courses but needs to decide how to evaluate the ones proposed for transfer credit. Rosson asked how the APC wants to proceed on the issue. Kostelnik said she wants the Regents to know that dual credit is a two-edged sword. [Lee left.] Brinkerhoff suggested tabling the issue. He said he will see what UNO is doing and what the context was for their decision. Rosson agreed with that suggestion.

Simplification of the Academic Program Review Process
David Brinkerhoff, Evelyn Jacobson, Darrell Nelson and Dick Hoffmann met and compared the IANR, CCPE and UNL program review requirements. Brinkerhoff said they concluded that the APR self-study requirements are redundant and ask for unnecessary information. A self-study of 30 to 40 pages could satisfy the needs of a program review. He asked if APC wants to go in that direction. Rosson said that seems like a good idea. He suggested that an APC task subcommittee be formed to take on the task of rewriting the guidelines. Kostelnik said Human Resources and Family Sciences combined their accreditation review with their APR. They chose to include some but not all items in the APR guidelines. The federal evaluators were pleased with the results. She said the subcommittee might decide to keep some core requirements and make others optional. Brinkerhoff said UNL’s accreditation by the North Central Association was partly based on our academic review process.

The APC discussed the makeup of the APR Process Subcommittee. Members nominated were Nunez, Nelson, Jacobson, Hoffmann, and one department head each to be chosen from IANR and City Campus. [Baquet left.]

Charge for the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee
Rosson thanked the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee for its work on the charge to get data from UNL’s peers about tenure and the definition of program. He and John Wunder were to meet on February 28 to discuss the results. He solicited suggestions for other projects for the subcommittee.
Keown said some parts of the earlier project are not complete. Nunez is researching a sample of UNL faculty and their tenure homes. Nunez said his report would not be done for a few weeks because of other urgent projects. He said APC’s requested count of faculty lost due to budget cuts is also in the queue for him to do.

Brinkerhoff said the subcommittee could keep APC informed about other planning occurring on campus. A strategic plan for distance education is in the works, and that should be an APC concern. Keown said he would discuss that with Arnold Bateman.

Rosson said graduate students from other countries are having trouble getting into the U.S. Graduate enrollments in some departments are down. UNL’s standing in comparison with its peers depends on the strength of our graduate program. The first rounds of budget cuts took out funding for support staff, GRAs and GTAs. He asked the subcommittee to investigate the impact of those developments on UNL’s research and teaching missions. Hansen said in the English Department there seem to be more GTAs than in the past. The slow economy has sent more people back to get their PhDs. Keown said he would look at the University-wide GTA and GRA picture.

**Issues from the Vice Chancellors**
The Vice Chancellors for IANR and Research were not present. Brinkerhoff said Academic Affairs is working on filling the voids created when the Teaching and Learning Center was eliminated. A half-time person was hired to evaluate faculty development needs. He said Graduate Studies has improved the training of GTAs.

Rosson reminded the members that the next APC meeting is March 10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lona Kramer