

ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES
March 8, 2006

Members Present

Barbara Couture
M. Susan Hallbeck
Robert S. Haller
F. Edwin Harvey

Jeffrey K. Keown
Richard M. Kettler
Nancy Mitchell
William J. Nunez

Giacomo M. Oliva
Prem Paul
Megan E. Weil

Members Absent

Mary K. Bolin
John Owens

Steven S. Waller
Nathan M. Walters

Ellen M. Weissinger

Others Present

Douglas R. Beals, Facilities Planner, Facilities Management and Planning
Richard F. Sinovec, Chairperson and Professor, Computer Science and Engineering
David R. Swanson, Director, Research Computing Facility, Computer Science and Engineering
Stephen M. Goddard, Associate Professor, Computer Science and Engineering
Fayrene L. Hamouz, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences
Billie V. Strand, Program Specialist, Extended Education and Outreach
Steven J. Jones, Professor, Animal Science
Evelyn M. Jacobson, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Dean L. Sicking, Professor, Civil Engineering
Michael J. Zeleny, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Research

Mitchell called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Introduction of new APC member

Mitchell introduced Robert Haller, Professor of English, to the Committee. He was elected as a representative of the Arts and Humanities faculty to complete a term vacated by Deborah Minter. His term ends July 31, 2007.

Announcements

Mitchell gave the members a copy of her letter [attached to the permanent record] responding to Jeffrey Gerard of Ecology Now! Gerard wrote APC on October 12, 2005 concerning UNL's recycling efforts since the Recycling Coordinator position was eliminated in 2003.

Mitchell requested the members' help in cleaning up several long-standing items on the list of issues to be considered in the future:

- A note to invite the director of the J.D. Edwards program to speak to APC. Hallbeck, Kettler and Keown said they want to know about the program's costs and budget. Oliva suggested that a list of APC's questions be sent to the program's director before he speaks to APC. The item was retained on the list.
- A request from the Academic Senate Executive Committee to open Academic Program Review reports to the university community. Keown said the Executive Committee was interested in using the APRs for prioritizing budget reductions. Kettler and Oliva thought APR reports would be less candid if they were to be used for budget decisions rather than

for program improvements. There was consensus that the reports should not be available to the public. Mitchell suggested that the APC representative's reports be posted on Blackboard and that the Deans be given Blackboard access to view them. APC agreed.

- Establishing processes for reviewing centers, certificate programs and accredited units. The APC agreed that Academic Affairs' new guidelines for Academic Program Reviews addressed those concerns. The items were dropped from the list.
- Requests from Academic Senate Executive Committee that APC look into Academic Rights and Responsibilities and student cheating. The APC removed those issues from the list.
- A resolution on Graduate Assistantships. The item was retained until Mitchell can ask Graduate Studies whether APC action is needed. [Couture arrived.]

Minutes

Minutes from the February 8 APC meeting were discussed and approved without dissent.

Project Initiation Request (PIR) for Renovation of the South Stadium Office Building

Sincovec, Swanson, Goddard, and Doug Beals from Facilities Management appeared in support of the PIR. Nunez said the PIR subcommittee met with representatives of the project the previous week.

Sincovec said researchers and faculty in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering are scattered. They have space in Avery Hall, 501 Building, Miller and Paine Building, and Ferguson Hall. Renovation of the South Stadium Office Building will allow the department to consolidate its activities in that building and in Avery Hall, next door.

Beals said the project will be about \$3 million. The University Foundation found a donor who was attracted to the new façade it will give to the south side of Memorial Stadium. The façade will feature a stainless steel wire screen wall and uplighting. It is a high-technology look that will make the building stand apart from the athletic functions around it. Hallbeck said the Aesthetics Review Committee will consider the project at its meeting March 9.

Motion

The PIR Subcommittee's support of the concept served as motion and second for its endorsement. Hallbeck asked whether windows in the building would be changed. Beals said the interior would be updated but not the windows. He said 18,000 square feet would be renovated. The only area in the South Stadium to be retained by Athletics would be the visiting team's locker room. [Strand, Hamouz and Jones arrived.] Couture said renovation of the space for Computer Science and Engineering had been desired for some time. Nunez noted that the project would save the cost of the Miller and Paine lease.

Mitchell called the question. The APC voted without dissent to recommend approval of the PIR. [Beals, Sincovec, Swanson and Goddard left.]

Certificate program in Meat Culinology®

Hamouz, Strand and Jones appeared in support of the proposal. Jones said Culinology® is a trademark. The program is a six-course sequence that covers all aspects of meat harvest, purchase and preparation. Three courses are new to UNL. There will be both resident and distance courses. The distance courses will be for people already in the food industry and for those who have earned Associates Degrees in culinary arts. The Quartermaster Corps has expressed interest in on-line courses for military food service workers.

Hamouz said the certificate program in Meat Culinology® would be part of the new Hospitality, Restaurant and Tourism Management program. Meat is the most expensive commodity in food service and it is important to know how to make the most of it. Sixty percent of Research Chefs Association members have associates degrees and many are looking for bachelor's level programs. The certificate program is the first step in development of a distance education bachelor's degree in Culinology® through the Nutrition and Health Science Department.

Keown asked if courses would be offered in Spanish. He said one-third of workers in the food industry speak Spanish. Jones said the program would be presented in modules, making it amenable to customizing for particular needs. He said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as a land-grant institution, has facilities that other Universities don't. There is potential for UNL to become a leader in the hospitality industry.

Motion

Keown moved and Oliva seconded to recommend approval of the certificate program in Meat Culinology®. The motion was approved without dissent.

Oliva asked what steps beyond APC endorsement would be required for approval of the program. Couture said undergraduate certificates do not require Central Administration approval, but they do have to be approved by the campus administration. Arnold Bateman approved the business plan of the program and Academic Affairs approved the resources. Strand said students in the program would be classified as non-degree-seeking undergraduates. Couture said graduate certificate programs require approval by the University of Nebraska Council of Academic Officers. [Jacobson arrived. Strand, Hamouz and Jones left.]

Report and Recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Academic Titles

Associate Vice Chancellor Jacobson chaired a committee that was appointed to review the use of academic titles at UNL. She presented the committee's report [attached to the permanent record] to APC. It was presented previously to the Vice Chancellors for IANR, Academic Affairs and Research; the Chancellor; the Council of Deans; and the Academic Senate.

Concerning non-tenure track faculty the committee recommended changes in appointment titles, qualifications for hiring and promotion, and rights and responsibilities. The report noted that non-tenure track instructional faculty have been devalued as compared to non-tenure track research faculty and extension educators and have received lesser promotion increases. The recommendations were intended to validate the contributions of instructional faculty and to encourage excellence in instructional practice. The committee recommended that new appointments for non-tenure track instructional faculty be titled Assistant, Associate and Full Professor of Practice; that the title Senior Lecturer be phased out over the next few years; and that the title Lecturer be used for semester-by-semester appointments of less than 0.5 FTE.

The Council of Academic Deans suggested that apportionment (sixth bullet under each title on the last page of the report) should be left up to the departments and the colleges. Couture said the second paragraph of the sixth bullet, "Required additional apportionment in service and/or in research/creative activity" would be changed to "other responsibilities assigned." Research was eliminated as a requirement because some colleges have less than a 0.5 FTE research apportionment for tenure-track appointments. College of Business Administration accreditation requires professional activity for all faculty, tenured or not, rather than a research or service requirement. Oliva said the professional activity requirement distinguishes the Professor of Practice track.

Jacobson said the Professor of Practice title is becoming more common than Teaching Professor. "Teaching" suggests classroom performance, a more limited connotation than that of "practice." Instructional faculty duties also include curriculum development, advising, training teaching assistants, and professional development. Jacobson said the title "Senior Lecturer" still exists. Movement to the new track is encouraged but not required for individuals already at the University. Each college has its own requirements for faculty positions. The recommendations of the committee encourage colleges to reevaluate their policies and develop their own criteria for the new ranks. Mitchell said it looked like some colleges could end up with the entire faculty non-tenured.

Hallbeck said the requirement for a "terminal degree or equivalent professional experience" (fifth bullet) is a higher bar than Research Assistant Professors have to meet. Jacobson said Research Assistant Professors are not credentialed through Academic Affairs. Hallbeck said Academic Affairs approves initial appointments and promotions. Jacobson said the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor Owens and Senior Vice Chancellor Couture approve the appointments.

Mitchell asked what action Couture wanted from APC on the academic title recommendations. Couture said she would like the APC's comments and questions. Mitchell asked the members to email their comments to Couture and Jacobson. She said the recommendations represent a lot of work on the part of the Ad-hoc Committee on Academic Titles. [Jacobson left.]

Proposal to create the Nebraska Transportation Center

Zeleny and Sicking appeared on behalf of the proposal. Mitchell said the APC members had read the proposal, so an overview was all that was necessary.

Zeleny said there is a critical mass of people involved in transportation work, but an identifiable entity is needed to leverage proposals. The Office of Research strongly supports the proposal and wants to make the Nebraska Transportation Center a regional Center of Excellence. Sicking said there are large, interdisciplinary teams in modern transportation research. In order to make the most of grant opportunities, teams that include economists, human factors psychologists and many other disciplines need to be put together. The Nebraska Department of Roads supports creation of the center.

Keown asked what proportion of the researchers in the center would be at UNL. Sicking said 75 percent would be UNL faculty and the other 25 percent would be at UNK, UNO and UNMC. The other campuses are expected to contribute more in the future. Keown asked why Principal Investigators would want to be based at UNL where indirect support costs are much higher than at the other campuses. Zeleny said the overhead costs help fund facilities and core services at UNL that support research. Sicking said his previous research experience showed a good return on an investment of an extra 4 or 5 percent for overhead at a well-equipped and -staffed university.

Keown asked whether research that is currently underway would be moved from the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility, the Mid-America Transportation Center, the Center for Infrastructure Research, and the Nebraska Safety Center. Sicking said research programs are in different stages at any point in time. As grants are renewed they will be moved to the Nebraska Transportation Center. New research grants will start there. Some contracts state that research is to be conducted in a specific center, so those projects will remain where they are.

Couture said the Chancellor is in favor of this proposal, and that the University of Nebraska Chief Academic Officers and the Regents will soon review and are expected to approve the proposal. Granting agencies increasingly expect the reliability and oversight that centers can provide. Sicking said there is an expectation of competence when a powerful organization backs a proposal.

Working with senior faculty in such a center promotes the development of young faculty and is a good draw for new hires.

Hallbeck said her name appeared on the list of faculty backing the center, but she and others she knows on the list did not endorse the center. Sicking said a mailing was sent about two years ago asking who would be interested in participating, and she was one of the people who responded. He offered to give her documentation. Kettler and Keown asked about faculty from other universities in the region that would be collaborating with the Nebraska Transportation Center. Sicking said the University of Missouri-Rolla, Kansas State and the University of Kansas had signed on, and negotiations were in progress with the University of Iowa. He said Professor Laurence Rilett was working on that section of the proposal. Hallbeck said calculation of the overhead charges was confusing and needed to be explained in the proposal.

Mitchell asked for volunteers to form a subcommittee to review and make recommendations on the Nebraska Transportation Center proposal. Keown and Kettler volunteered. Couture said there was a time constraint on approval of the proposal. The Chancellor hoped to present it at the Regents' April meeting. Kettler said if the APC's questions were answered the subcommittee could make a recommendation at the March 22 meeting. Zeleny said he would be in contact with Kettler and Keown. [Zeleny and Sicking left.]

University Academy Proposal

Oliva said the Long-range Planning Subcommittee had looked at strategic planning. They sent a white paper to Couture in November suggesting structures within which students and faculty could participate in interdisciplinary activities. In December Couture asked that APC develop the suggestions further.

Oliva distributed a list [attached to the permanent record] of the next steps that need to be taken. He requested APC's advice on how to change the culture, funding and UNL Bylaws to make the University Academy work. He asked for APC's suggestions on connecting it to general education and senior projects requirements. Faculty who participate in the University Academy should not be penalized in terms of their other work.

Oliva said he had the sense that APC was supportive of the concept. He requested that the members send him responses to the steps he had outlined. He planned to collect the responses and meet with the other members of the Long-range Planning Subcommittee in a couple of weeks to develop a more detailed proposal. He said he was working with Rich Sincovec on digital research in the arts, which could be a prototype of a University Academy project. Hallbeck asked when a new course would have to be submitted in order for it to be taught next spring. Mitchell said new courses do not necessarily have to meet the deadline for publication in the class schedule. There are other ways to let students know about new courses. Hallbeck asked if Academy courses would be like Honors program courses. Oliva said Patrice Berger's assistance would be welcome but the Academy would not compete with the Honors Program.

Couture said two things the proposal must have are a clear statement about what need the University Academy meets, and an integrative educational structure. It needs to add value to the University. Faculty support of the proposal is vital. Oliva asked APC to send him comments by March 24.

Issues from the Vice Chancellors

Couture said she and Nunez would be meeting with the Chancellor about general purpose classrooms later in the day. She said 35 proposals for Programs of Excellence had been received. They requested a total of \$6.8 million in funding. About \$1.5 million will be available. Eight of the

proposals were combined, 11 were eliminated, and the rest were developed into final proposals. Couture said she would have the proposals to APC by March 15 so they can be posted on Blackboard. APC is asked to make recommendations at the March 22 meeting. Each proposal will be three to five pages in length, including budget information. She said the Center for Virology and the Center for Redox Biology are top priorities for funding, but other proposals will be funded to the extent possible. Criteria for evaluations will be given to APC at the time the proposals are posted. Nunez said classrooms are in a queue for one-time funding. [Paul arrived. Weil left.] Couture said she and Nunez have talked about asking Deans for their priorities for classroom improvement.

Paul said he had just come from a meeting at Central Administration about NASA and EPSCoR. He had three items to share with APC:

1. The Center for Digital Research in the Humanities was one of eight projects nationally selected for National Humanities Alliance and National Historical Society funding. The National Endowment for the Humanities has given digitization of manuscripts a high priority.
2. There will be a Research Fair April 4 through 6. He gave a brief overview of the schedule.
3. The Research Advisory Board will be sponsoring a faculty retreat in May at Nebraska City. Focuses of the retreat are transportation research and science and math education.

Paul, Nunez and Couture left.] Mitchell reminded the members to respond to Oliva's request for input on the University Academy. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lona Kramer
APC Coordinator