Mitchell called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She indicated the start of the meeting was delayed because the Chancellor was not able to attend. Nunez said APC will meet with the Chancellor in the fall.

Minutes
Minutes from the March 8 and March 22 APC meetings were approved without dissent.

Project Initiation Request (PIR) for the Barkley Center Addition
Bernthal and Beals appeared in support of the PIR. Nunez said the PIR subcommittee met with Bernthal and Beals to discuss the project.

Bernthal summarized the project indicating the three-story addition is intended to update the Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic and to provide research space and offices for the Doctor of Audiology program. The original Barkley Center was built in 1976. More recent practice uses technology instead of observation booths and focuses on groups rather than individuals. Larger rooms in a more condensed area are needed. The present configuration of the Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic does not meet the privacy requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

The addition will be to the north and east of the present building. The precise location depends on future Housing apartments in that area. Beals said the Barkley Foundation will pay for the construction.

Nunez asked about the administrative structure of the Barkley Center. Bernthal said he reports directly to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences. Owens said the Center serves a lot of people across the state, in accordance with IANR’s land grant mission. He favors the project.
Motion
Support by the PIR Subcommittee, Bolin and Nunez, served as motion and second for its endorsement. The APC voted unanimously to recommend approval of the PIR. [Beals and Bernthal left.]

Proposal for a major in Plant Biology
Lee presented the proposal. Bolin and Haller served as a subcommittee to review the proposal. The major is a cooperative effort of the School of Biological Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Natural Resources and the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Lee said agronomy majors have traditionally come from an agricultural background. Agriculture is more complicated now and requires more education. The Plant Biology major will provide training for future farmers. In addition it will attract new people from urban areas who want to work with plants.

The major will also attract a new group of students to Biological Sciences. The School presently enrolls many students who are interested in the medical field. This new major will serve more students who are interested in biological sciences other than medicine.

The major is a compromise between Agronomy’s applied science approach and Biological Science’s pure science or medical-related approach. The new program’s success will depend in large part on good advising. The capstone course is a senior research project. In order to complete the project, students must engage with faculty all the way through their college careers.

Mitchell said that students are the winners with this program. It is a bridge between the campuses that was envisioned by Life Sciences faculty in 1997. Haller said the subcommittee supported the major even before they saw the letters of endorsement from the Deans and Vice Chancellors.

Oliva said it was exciting to see the connections between disciplines. He applauded the spirit of compromise that was evident in the proposal. He suggested that participating units find ways to reward the faculty who developed the new program.

Oliva said innovative team teaching might benefit the program. Lee said there are people in plant-related professions outside UNL who could teach using distance education technology. Oliva agreed that professional people are a valuable resource and require less of a commitment than tenure-track faculty. [Fritz arrived.]

Oliva asked about the structure of the program. He said it would be important to future members of the steering committee to keep a record of how advising, selection of the chair, assignment of students to a department and other details were worked out. Lee said students would be assigned to their advisors’ departments. Freshmen are to take a five-week introduction to Plant Biology that would present educational options and career paths from the points-of-view of advanced students and practicing professionals. The course would help students develop a portfolio and identify matching faculty.

Lee said students might take into consideration the degree requirements of the colleges that participate in the program. Arts and Sciences and Agricultural Sciences and Natural
Resources might have different Integrative Studies and Essential Studies requirements. Haller agreed. Mitchell suggested that courses be cross-listed in the two colleges to make them more accessible. Lee said some courses were already cross-listed.

Weil said the new program would be attractive to students. She congratulated Lee and Fritz on the accomplishment. Couture said it was a pleasure to have Academic Affairs work with IANR on a joint program. Oliva said many cross-disciplinary programs might be developed following this one's lead. He said the program helps move the university culture toward compromise and cooperation. Oliva and Keown both recommended publicizing the program’s success. Lee said that Ellen Paparozzi had been tireless in her efforts to get the program going.

Motion
The subcommittee’s support of the proposal served as motion and second. The APC unanimously approved the proposal for a major in Plant Biology.

Issues from the Vice Chancellors
Couture said Strategic Planning efforts were going well. She said the Interdisciplinary Task Force report and the International Task Force report had been reviewed by the Chancellor’s Senior Administrative Team. The reports will be posted on the Academic Affairs website.

Couture said the Professors of Practice proposal from the Committee for Academic Titles would be presented to the Board of Regents. After Regental approval, colleges must develop guidelines for putting the policy into practice. The Chancellor also asked the Committee for Academic Titles to consider how tenure policies accommodate life events, particularly for female faculty. The Committee is soliciting comments from the deans.

Owens said the University of Nebraska Medical Center is contemplating a College of Public Health that would include UNL. Mitchell said the APC would need to review such a proposal. Owens said the Board of Regents was considering the contract between Iowa State and UNL for veterinary medical training at their next meeting.

Oliva asked about contracts for new faculty to accommodate the Professors of Practice titles. Owens said he and Couture talked about promotion within the new ranks. They agreed it should not be tied too closely to the tenure/tenure track requirements. The new titles apply to a distinctly different professional focus.

Other Business
Nunez said the final meeting of the year was scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 3. He asked the members’ preference for altering the meeting times should there be less than three hours’ worth of business. Consensus was to keep the starting time at 9:00 a.m. and end the meeting early if business allows.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lona Kramer
APC Coordinator