

**University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee**

**Approved Minutes
November 15, 2006**

Members Present

F. Edwin Harvey	Robert S. Haller	Dwayne Ball
Jeffrey K. Keown	Barbara Couture	
William J. Nunez	David Fowler	

Members Absent

David Solheim	Steven Dunbar	Prem Paul
Steven S. Waller	Mary K. Bolin	John C. Owens
Giacomo M. Oliva	M. Susan Hallbeck	Curtis A. Wray

Others Present

Kenneth Merkel, Professor, Architectural Engineering

Harvey called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the November 1, 2006 meeting were tabled as a quorum was not present.

Follow-Up Discussion on the NCA Review Team Visit

Couture summarized that in a meeting with the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellors, the NCA external review team, chaired by Dr. Phillip Jones, handed out a preliminary report. Dr. Jones also read a summary of 8 preliminary statements that were very complimentary of the university. Some of the statements were: integrity of the university's tripartite mission, firm commitment to research and creative activity, and a priority for excellence reflected in ITLE (Initiative for Teaching and Learning Excellence) and IANR (Institute of Agricultural and Natural Resources). Couture continued that the review team did cite an issue in Information Systems. The review team indicated that the university should 1) address the leadership and level of investment in IS and 2) look closely at future planning efforts.

The review team noted that both faculty and staff have trust in UNL and the leadership. Couture said that the review teams' recommendation was that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln be accredited and that additional focused visits would not be necessary. Couture said the review team will produce a written report by the end of the academic year. Couture said the review team stated they were very impressed, made to feel welcome, and the campus was aware and prepared for their visit. For these achievements, the team congratulated UNL. Couture said that according to Owens and Juan Franco who are very active and experienced in accreditation visits, this was a very "smooth" exit meeting.

Couture referred to the APC meeting with a small group of the accreditation team on November 6, 2006. Couture said that she was happy to hear Marlene Strathe, leader of the special emphasis review team, discuss APCs role in campus governance. She indicated the conversation was very productive and hopes much of the conversation is included in her report. Couture ended by saying that Dr. Strathe mentioned the APC was constructive and well informed on UNL during this meeting.

Proposal for Food Technology for Companion Animals – Appointment of Review Subcommittee

Harvey indicated that the Food Technology for Companion Animals proposal would be on the agenda at the next APC meeting for consideration. He asked for volunteers for this Review Subcommittee. Fowler volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Members Hallbeck and Bolin were nominated by APC membership. Nunez said that he would inform them of this nomination. Harvey asked Fowler to serve as the Chair of this committee. [Copy of full proposal attached to permanent record]

Proposal for MS in Architectural Engineering [Report attached to permanent record]

Haller stated that the subcommittee of Haller, Dunbar, and Harvey read the full proposal carefully and recommend it without reservation to APC for approval.

Harvey asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none and the proposal was approved by APC membership. (Dunbar provided an email correspondence in favor of this proposal thus creating an APC quorum for this specific proposal).

Harvey congratulated guest, Kenneth Merkel and thanked him for his attendance.

Report Review: *The Strategic Plan for Diversity at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln* [Report attached to permanent record]

Haller referred to the *Strategic Plan for Diversity* report and asked the committee if there were implications for the APC. Ball spoke to say that he would like APC's comment on Goal 2, bullet #1 and bullet #3. Ball said that these particular items seem to imply that faculty should have certain requirements mandated into their curriculum. He indicated that, in general, most faculty would find this a good thing but the statement implies that no choice exists. This fact concerns him as a matter of academic freedom.

Nunez stated that feedback could be generated by the APC and provided collectively to the Diversity Plan writing team. Couture agreed that is a good thing to do. She said the Chancellor is committed to this initiative but is also aware that the draft report will require revision. She also stated that the Chancellor is encouraging campus-wide feedback. Couture continued that APC should respond on the full document and also on the question of curriculum. Haller agreed. Kweon suggested that Haller and Ball draft a statement from APC regarding the report for discussion at the subsequent APC meeting.

Issues from Vice Chancellors

Couture said that she had four information items. First, the NCA visit had concluded, as mentioned previously, and all indications are that the review was very successful. She thanked APC for their assistance. Second, Strategic Planning Process memos were distributed to the Deans earlier this week. She indicated the process this year is a “check-up” of progress made to date and that each college will review and revise their plans as necessary, taking into account the feedback provided. Third, she attended the NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges) Conference in Houston on November 12, 13, and 14 and at that conference, Peter McPherson, President of NASALGC, presented the document “Addressing the Challenges Facing American Undergraduate Education.” This document provides an overview of the central issues facing American education and presented “next steps” for NASULGC and other national associations. Among the central issues are: 1) Expanding college access to low-income and minority students, 2) Keeping college affordable, 3) Improving learning by using new knowledge and instructional techniques, 4) Preparing secondary students for higher education, 5) Increasing accountability for educational outcomes, 6) Internationalizing the student experience, and 7) Increasing opportunities for lifelong education and workforce training. Last, she informed the group that she is leaving on November 29 for Ethiopia on a collaboration trip with representatives from the College of Journalism and Mass Communication. While in Africa, she will meeting with the Ambassador to Ethiopia.

Other Business

Harvey informed the committee that an updated “Officers, Subcommittee Member and Representatives on University-Wide Committees” handout was included in their packets.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Green
APC Coordinator