

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

**Approved Minutes
January 24, 2007**

Members Present

F. Edwin Harvey	Robert S. Haller	Dwayne Ball
Craig Eckhardt	M. Susan Hallbeck	Mary K. Bolin
Jeffrey K. Keown	David Fowler	Giacomo M. Oliva
David Solheim	Steven S. Waller	Curtis A. Wray
William J. Nunez	John C. Owens	Prem Paul

Members Absent

Barbara Couture

Others Present

Donald Beermann, Department Head, Animal Science
Roger Mandigo, Professor, Animal Science
Margaret Miller, Manager, Facilities Planning and Construction
Steven Willborn, Dean, College of Law

Harvey called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the November 29, 2006 meeting was moved by Haller. Fowler seconded and the Minutes were approved without dissent. [Eckhardt and Oliva arrived]

Diversity Plan Working Committee with APC Member and Academic Senate

Harvey indicated that the Academic Senate requested participation from a member of APC to serve on a working committee to review and respond to the Chancellor's draft Diversity Plan. Due to his past involvement, Harvey asked if Haller would be interested in serving. Haller agreed to be the APC representative for the Diversity Plan Working Committee. His appointment was supported by APC membership.

Project Initiation Request (PIR) - College of Law [Report attached to permanent record]

Nunez introduced guest, Dean Steven Willborn and asked for a brief overview of the project. Willborn thanked Nunez and reviewed the PIR. [Paul arrived]

As indicated in the project request, the project will involve renovation of the existing auditorium and construction of an addition to the building to house two classrooms. Renovation of the auditorium will involve removal of the existing movable walls, new platforms, new acoustical ceiling and wall treatments, new lighting, classroom technology, and fixed tables and chairs. The space will also include a technology support room adjacent to the teaching well and a storage

room for storing a movable judge's bench, counsel tables and additional chairs. The room will seat approximately 290 students in classroom setting and approximately 344 in presentation setting.

Nunez mentioned that the proposal will also result in facade improvements along the East Campus Loop to the College of Law. Willborn showed APC members renderings of the proposed addition.

Solheim asked where the funding will come from? Willborn replied that the source of funding is from private donations and dedicated student fee funds. This project will not increase student fees.

Harvey called for a vote. APC unanimously approved. Harvey congratulated and thanked Willborn. [Willborn left]

Project Initiation Request – Animal Science [Report attached to permanent record]

Nunez introduced guests, Dr. Donald Beermann, Chair of Animal Science, Dr. Roger Mandigo, Professor of Animal Science, and Margaret Miller, Manager, Facilities Management and Planning. Miller stated that this is an LB605 –funded project budgeted at \$21.3 million. She indicated that the central problems with the building are life-safety issues, electrical capacity, and backup systems. Beermann added the main reason is to replace heating and cooling systems. He continued that the State Fire Marshal had inspected the building and issued a list of 21 items that must be addressed. Among the issues are:

- Installation of a sprinkler system
- Monitor rooms with animals
- Water damage from leaking roof
- Provision of four generators
- Improvement to small animal labs

Beermann also indicated that there is a desire to repair and repaint walls, but that expense might exceed the existing budget.

Miller stated that they have a “laundry list” of items so if funds are available, they will have a prioritized list.

Nunez asked about class disruptions with the project? Beermann responded that they have developed plans to move and accommodate the construction, shifting students and faculty as needed, and that they will create a committee to assist in the implementation.

Fowler asked if asbestos removal was in the budget. Beermann replied that it was and the asbestos removal was manageable.

Paul spoke to say that every three years his department has to file documents for accreditation to house small animals. This has not been automatically renewed. Beermann replied that with these renovations they will have much better conditions for both animals and humans.

Eckhardt warned that the contract should be checked for precision in work and “end-product” as, for example, ventilation work done in Hamilton Hall makes building spaces very loud. Often people have to shout to be heard. Owens agreed and said that these elements should be in writing. Owens mentioned Hardin Hall had similar aggravations.

Harvey asked if there were any additional questions. There were none. Harvey called for a vote and APC members unanimously approved. Harvey thanked Beermann, Mandigo, and Miller. [Beermann, Mandigo, and Miller left]

Tax Free Textbooks Resolution [Handout attached to permanent record]

Solheim explained that LB 32 is a bill that would exempt textbooks intended for higher education from the sales tax in the state of Nebraska. Solheim said the tax free textbook resolution is one solution to the rising cost of textbooks. Solheim indicated that if enacted, LB 32 would save the average full-time UNL student about \$65 per year and that the anticipated lost revenue to the state of Nebraska would be \$2.5 million per year. Solheim indicated that ASUN has been talking with Chancellor Perlman and other Administrators and ASUN would like feedback from APC members to know if there were any questions and to solicit feedback about this resolution.

Nunez said that at one time virtually all textbooks were bought at bookstores. However, now the buying seems to be shifting to purchasing on-line, which is generally already tax-free. Nunez questioned how this differed from the proposal. Solheim replied that studies show that students are purchasing on-line and that 65% buy at least one book. However, the savings from taxes is generally offset by the cost of shipping.

Oliva brought up the fact that the Music department has to purchase not only textbooks but media and series of recordings. This could complicate the proposal since the recordings are not textbooks. Solheim replied that it is difficult at times to define and interpret, but they believe they have done their best. Oliva said if this is supported, audio materials should be items that receive a tax break and that there should be an agreement on interpretation of what qualifies beyond the “written word.” He indicated that often visual and artistic resources are forgotten.

Eckhardt stated that in order for this to potentially function, the institution would have to hire someone to compile textbook information, provide to the retailers, etc. Solheim agreed that there would have to be clear definition that this is the students’ responsibility to show proof of ID. Wray said that these things would need to be resolved but this proposal is not new. The Nebraska legislation is modeled after similar legislation in states such as Connecticut, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin.

Fowler asked if the Nebraska Bookstore buys back books that were originally purchased on-line. Wray replied that they do buy back these books. Fowler stated that it seems like the cost of used books is also rising.

Solheim said there are a lot of competing proposals. This may be incorporated into something larger. Wray stated that in all likelihood the money saved would be spent on something that is taxed, but regardless, the money would stay with Nebraska companies.

Keown mentioned that he can't see that this resolution would save money. Keown said that 80% of people know what is needed and go to the bookstore. Nunez said that we have a vested interest to keep the bookstore in business and at UNL. Harvey suggested that it might be advantageous to expand the proposal to include all education related items such as audio, computers, etc and not just textbooks and for students at all educational levels and not just those in the university to garner support from a larger statewide block of constituents.

Bolin agreed that the sole idea of printed textbook is quaint to the many emerging options in media. What about tax breaks on computers? Software? Eckhardt asked about the book order form that needs to be completed and returned each year. Where does this form go? Fowler asked who accounts for this form? Owens said that there is a form that should be filled out at the end of the year to pay State of Nebraska taxes. Solheim stated that when they spoke to Nebraska Bookstore, they informed him that this process was simple as they already have a "tax free" button on their registers.

There were no further questions or comments from APC members. Solheim thanked the committee.

Issues from Vice Chancellors

Owens informed the group that IANR contracted with the Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle), a nonprofit corporation based in Columbus, Ohio that, among other activities, operates five of the national laboratories in the United States as a consultant to review research, Extension, and teaching (CASNR) programs in the Institute and their economic impacts on the State of Nebraska. Battelle was selected due to their extensive experience and impressive portfolio. About a year and a half ago, they began their work in Nebraska and did a thorough review. While the final report has not been received, early findings revealed that IANR's research returns a minimum of \$10 for every \$1 spent. The final report will be unveiled in mid-February.

Ball asked what changes or actions would be enacted based on the findings? Owens said the first step is to review the report when received and then future actions, or a "Phase 2," might be formulated.

Owens indicated the report highlighted economic impacts such as the IANR muscle profiling research which has led to the development of new, value-added meat cuts such as the Flatiron Steak which has an impact equal to \$114.6 million per year for Nebraska, alone. Paul reported that discussions in SAT had focused on the importance of the university's research activities and the tremendous impact of the university on the state as well as the need to communicate the university's impact to the public. Owens said the Medical Center (UNMC) had released a highly positive impact report on their activities right before Christmas, 2006.

Paul wanted to bring attention to two upcoming Spring events. The first being the Research Fair from April 10 through April 12. Paul stated that Dr. Michael Teitelbaum, Vice President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, would be at this event. Paul also mentioned that on April 10, the Office of Research will have a breakfast function to recognize faculty. The second item Paul discussed was the Faculty Retreat, to be held next May 15 and 16 in Nebraska City. This will be the second year of this retreat. Paul indicated at this retreat, the Research Advisory Board has decided on two major topics, which are energy and diversity.

Other Business

Nunez asked APC members to review two proposals in their packet for the next meeting. The proposals are to add the BS degree to existing programs in Ethnic Studies and Film Studies, both are in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Green
APC Coordinator