

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

**Approved Minutes  
April 4, 2007**

Members Present

F. Edwin Harvey	Robert S. Haller	Dwayne Ball
Craig Eckhardt	M. Susan Hallbeck	Sarah Morris
Barbara Couture	David Fowler	David Solheim
William J. Nunez	Mary K. Bolin	
Giacomo M. Oliva	Jeffrey F. Keown	

Members Absent

Steven S. Waller	John C. Owens	Prem Paul
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Others Attending

Jennifer Dam Shewchuck, Campus Planner, Institutional Research and Planning  
Susan Fritz, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Harvey called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the March 7, 2007 meeting was moved by Hallbeck. Ball seconded and the Minutes were approved without dissent.

Diversity Committee Update [handout attached to permanent record]

Haller stated this committee was formed by the Academic Senate to produce a Diversity Plan for UNL. Haller said this Diversity Plan could be part of the State of the University address on August 30, 2007. Haller indicated that the Committee looked at drafts of plans from other institutions (University of Ohio and the University of Arkansas) and the consensus was that those plans were very thorough and carefully constructed. Each plan took approximately 18 months to complete.

Haller discussed two potential directions the Committee could take with regards to Plan development: 1) review the current draft plans and existing comments,; rewrite, reconcile, and submit to the Senate and APC for further comment or 2) this semester, propose a process to produce a plan comparable to the best available at peer institutions, secure resources, and set a time line of at least a year. He asked APC members for advice on how to proceed.

Haller commented that a problem is that he is retiring at the end of this semester so he can't continue as Chair.

Eckhardt asked about the original charge. Haller replied that there was not an original charge per se and the task at hand is the result of Academic Senate's critical response to the draft Diversity Report submitted to the Chancellor in the Fall term. The main argument was the draft plan infringed on the academic freedom of faculty. The Chancellor suggested that, if the draft plan was unacceptable, Academic Senate could take the initiative to craft an alternate version. Eckhardt suggested that the Diversity Committee propose a charge for the committee where traditional academic values be preserved. This suggestion was supported by APC and Ball moved for approval. Hallbeck seconded this motion.

Solheim asked if students are serving on the Committee. Haller replied, yes, there are two students serving on this Committee. Solheim offered assistance in recruiting more students for this Committee if necessary. Ball stated Solheim's comments seem like something else to put in the charge.

Harvey asked if there were any additional questions. There were none and APC members approved the motion.

#### Subcommittee Appointment – Proposal to Create a MA in Art History

Harvey indicated to APC that subcommittee members were needed to review the proposal to create and MA in Art History. He asked for volunteers. Keown, Bolin, and Fowler volunteered to serve on this review subcommittee. Harvey asked Keown to serve as the Chair of this committee. The appointments were supported by APC membership. Harvey reminded the volunteers that they would need to report on this at the next meeting. [Copy of full proposal attached to permanent record]

#### Signage and Wayfinding Process

Nunez informed the committee that the university has been in the process of updating campus building signage with a new design standard over the past couple years and is ready to move to the next level with full campus signage and wayfinding. Nunez introduced Jennifer Dam, the university's Campus Planner in his office, Institutional Research and Planning (IRP). Dam thanked Nunez and stated that IRP contracted Corbin Design, a professional design company out of Michigan, to develop a comprehensive wayfinding system for UNL. Dam explained in Phase I the designers will conduct an analysis of the campuses and formulate a plan for not only interior and exterior signage, but highway, arterial streets, and connection signage between both campuses. She stated that Phase II will be a proposal with design alternatives from Corbin Design, and Phase III will be costing forecasts and full construction schematics. Dam invited APC member to attend the April 26, 2007 campus stakeholders meeting to voice their comments and suggestions.

Nunez mentioned that Bolin is a member of the Aesthetic Review Committee, an APC subcommittee, and will be invited to all meetings by default.

Haller asked about signs in other languages. Dam responded that this was a great suggestion and she would add this to the list of considerations for the consultants.

Harvey asked if there were any further questions. There were none. Harvey thanked Dam. [Dam left]

#### Issues from Vice Chancellors

Couture stated the Teaching and Learning Exposition for the Initiative for Teaching and Learning Excellence (ITLE) event on March 29, 2007 went very well. She indicated that the keynote speaker, Chris Gallagher, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Composition, Department of English, did an excellent job. The poster session, an event after the keynote address, had over 40 projects exhibited and was very well attended. Couture said that it was great to see all ITLE work in one area.

Couture invited APC members to the Strategic Planning sessions on April 25 and 26, 2007. Couture said that one issue that has been raised by our deans and chairs is the absence of a university-wide academic strategic plan. Our current plan is the accumulated plans of our academic units. We have also adopted a set of university-wide Core Values. Couture communicated the lack of a university-wide strategic plan was mentioned in the final North Central Association report. She said that in an effort to begin this conversation, a mini retreat with the Deans is scheduled on May 8, 2007 in which the Deans will be asked for their input.

Couture indicated the final *Report of the Task Force on International Initiatives* is now posted on the UNL Academic Affairs website (<http://www.unl.edu/svcaa>). The co-chairs of this committee were Ken Cassman and Harriet Turner. In addition, a subcommittee, chaired by Dean David Allen, was asked to respond to the taskforces recommendations. One main recommendation of this subcommittee was to clarify the mission of the office of International Affairs. Couture said that she and Owens have met with the Chancellor and Senior Administrative Team members to discuss this topic and other recommendations of the subcommittee, and it was determined that a University-wide committee for advising international programs would be established. This International Advisory Committee will be co-chaired by Susan Fritz, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources representative, and David Wilson from Academic Affairs.

Solheim added that one key initiative of his campaign was additional emphasis on and representation of international students. Solheim asked for student participation on this Advisory Committee. Couture supported this request.

Couture mentioned the existence of several proposals for international collaboration, generally being 2+2 programs. Couture indicated that Chancellor Perlman was presently in China finalizing one such program with Xi'an Jiaotong University. Couture stated that part of the effort will be to call together stakeholders across the university to see what other initiatives are being planned.

A discussion ensued with members regarding the demand for higher education overseas, especially in Asian countries. Eckhardt suggested that India was a particularly good market. Couture said that there are also research collaboration opportunities such as in Africa. Keown shared an initiative working toward a land grant office in Mexico which will have extension-related programming.

Eckhardt said it is critical that every student spend time in a foreign country for at least a semester. Couture responded that UNL is beginning to move down that path and that these issues are mentioned in the International Affairs plan.

Eckhardt asked if agreements already exist between UNL and foreign universities providing a “one for one” study abroad arrangement. Ball and Keown both replied yes.

Couture asked Solheim if students are aware of the International Affairs office and existing programming. Solheim replied that generally they are but the major factor preventing large levels of participation is high cost.

Morris voiced she thinks students are aware of specific programs, such as one with Oxford, but do not know they could just walk into the International Affairs office for assistance or ideas. Couture responded that students are informed of this program but perhaps part of this process could be a stronger communications plan.

Harvey asked if Fritz had any comments for IANR and Vice Chancellor Owens.

Fritz indicated that the *At Work for Nebraska* report has now been released and today the Agriculture Builders meet to discuss the information contained in the report produced by the Battelle Memorial Institute.

#### Other Business

Keown advised that UNL would host a forum on immigration issues between U.S. and Mexico October 7, 8, and 9 in 2008. Speakers would be from both the United States and Mexico.

Harvey introduced and welcomed APC’s newly appointed member, Sarah Morris.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Green  
APC Coordinator