

University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Academic Planning Committee

Approved Minutes  
April 18, 2007

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Jeffrey F. Keown	Prem Paul
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Others Attending

Harvey Perlman, Chancellor  
Michael Zeleny, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Research  
Scott Hunt, Facilities Planner  
Edward Forde, Professor, Art and Art History

Harvey called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Chancellor's Annual Briefing

Chancellor Perlman discussed the following topics.

*Virginia Tech*

Perlman, in response to the Virginia Tech tragedy, noted that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln does have disaster plans in effect and annually runs emergency exercises. He said that these plans are being reviewed given these new circumstances to make sure procedures are in place to respond and communicate to an event. Perlman also indicated that since UNL's police communications are on the same frequency as Lincoln Police, Lincoln Emergency, and state patrols, significant resources are available very quickly if necessary. Perlman stated that it is very difficult to plan for these events since each circumstance is very different, but we are taking this seriously.

*Budget*

The Legislature's Appropriation Committee approved a preliminary budget which is now going to the floor for debate. Perlman stated that the University of Nebraska increase is proposed at 4.0% and 4.1% in the next biennium. If approved, the budget goes before the Governor who has voiced support for a much more conservative budget. Therefore, he may veto the budget either prompting a budget revision or a veto override by the legislature.

Perlman indicated that if the budget holds as is, UNL may have a \$1 million deficit to overcome. This could potentially be handled without vertical cuts.

Oliva asked Perlman if there would be a need for the Academic Planning Committee (APC) to be involved and how during the summer hiatus APC could assist. Perlman said that these decisions would take place after July 1 so any reductions would occur during the next academic year.

Harvey asked if there were any further questions on this topic and there were none.

### *Salary*

Perlman mentioned the proposed salary increases that came forward through collective bargaining with UNO and UNK faculty. These are 4.4% and 4.3% respectively. Perlman said President Milliken believes UNL and UNK salaries lag UNO and the Medical Center and that similar increases will help UNL faculty salaries remain competitive. However, these decisions are not final.

### *Other Issues*

Perlman referred to several other important initiatives:

- The revision of General Education Program is still ongoing. Progress is good and moving along effectively.
- Perlman said that Accreditation is over and it was a very successful process. He thanked members for all of their assistance during this process.
- UNL signed an agreement with China and a Confucius Institute will be established on the UNL campus. It will begin this Fall. We signed an agreement with China's Xi'an Jiaotong University for a 2+2 program that will bring students from XJUCC to the UNL campus in Fall 2008. In addition, we have ongoing opportunities with other universities and are pursuing these.
- A large amount of effort is ongoing for the "2015 Vision" for the City of Lincoln. This vision is an amalgamation of the many independent proposals and plans that have been discussed for a number of years. This is the first time that people have come together as a group to support the full vision and we should see tremendous progress in the next several years. Items that impact the university include:
  - a) Development of the old Starship Theater lot. The idea is to build a hotel, parking spaces, a condominium, and an office building. The Chancellor commented that this is potentially a large and complicated project right at UNL's front door. [Morris arrived]
  - b) Research Corridor. The vision of the Antelope Valley project is to build housing, business, and university-related research adjacent to the east edge of City campus. This will also include a new park, bridges, trails, and roads. The Chancellor noted that money for the Antelope Valley channel and roadway is identified and he is beginning to feel confident that funds will be available for these other common areas.
  - c) State Fair Park. The 2015 Vision group advocates turning State Fair Park into a UNL research park and moving the fair to 84<sup>th</sup> and Havelock. Perlman indicated that a study will be conducted on what a potential cost might be for moving the park.
  - d) Arts and Humanities Center. In the Haymarket area there are plans to convert a Haymarket block into an Arts and Humanities Center. The Bison Books / Nebraska Press warehouse would be torn down and replaced with potentially a five-story building with about 40 condos, parking and first-floor commercial space. The Nebraska Press Association building and the parking lots would become a sculpture garden and other arts-related areas.
  - e) Other ideas in the 2015 Vision include redevelopment of P and Q Streets, a Convention Center, Hotel, and Arena in the Haymarket as well as a Haymarket "Sports Triangle."

Nunez asked for an update on child care. Perlman replied that he is optimistic now that the Whittier building renovations are moving forward. The north side is programmed for this use and with new infrastructure the start-up costs will be lower.

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

### Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the April 4, 2007 meeting was moved by Oliva. Hallbeck seconded and the Minutes were approved without dissent. [Solheim left]

### PIR for Whittier Building [Copy of full proposal attached to permanent record]

Hallbeck said that she, Nunez, and Bolin meet with Mike Zeleny and Scott Hunt regarding the renovation of Whittier. Hallbeck indicated that renovation of Whittier is long overdue however the subcommittee voiced concerns about the cost of the project (\$22 million) versus the limited number of occupants listed in the proposal.

Zeleny replied that the \$22 million renovation is for ½ of the building. The idea is to provide space for two very successful research programs and shell the rest in anticipation of future grant funding.

Scott said this proposed project will renovate the main building and will include abatement of all hazardous materials, repair or replacement of the building's roof and HVAC, plumbing, electrical, telecommunications, and structural systems. In addition, code-related modifications will be made to correct any life-safety and accessibility deficiencies. This also includes an elevator. This represents the major expenses of the budget, approximately \$15 million. Zeleny added that the auditorium will not be remodeled but could possibly be in the future with help from private donor(s).

Nunez asked what will be done about the exterior of the building. Scott replied there would be a 120 space parking lot, new windows throughout (almost 200 openings in the building), and will be heavily landscaped.

Eckhardt asked if this was cost effective with the age of the building and if this was coming out of overhead money.

Hallbeck said the committee discussed this point and noted that the building is significant and very visible. While costly now, would be more costly the longer it sits idle.

Hallbeck also stated that since this building will be the main entrance to campus and "crowned jewel" to ensure full landscaping treatments as proposed in the PIR. With the proposed parking lot and service drive, lack of attention to proper landscaping could ruin this project. Scott said this is the intent and will also go before the Aesthetics Review Committee in the future. Zeleny reinforced that there is a strong commitment to make this the new entrance to the campus and that landscaping is critical to achieve this.

Harvey asked if there were any further questions and there were none. Harvey called for a vote and the majority of APC members approved with one dissent.

### Proposal to Create an MA in Art History [Handout attached to permanent record]

Harvey introduced guest, Edward Forde, who attended to answer questions regarding the proposal. Forde indicated that there is a definitive need for individuals qualified to work in the field. Even in Omaha, they are unable to find graduates in Art History. Forde said that the general consensus among people is one of excitement and asking when the program begins.

The review subcommittee commented that the program seems to be well documented and was thoroughly vetted within the college. The subcommittee recommended the program be approved by the Academic Planning Committee and forwarded to the Chancellor.

Harvey asked if there were any questions for Forde. There were none. Harvey called for a vote and APC members unanimously approved. [Forde left]

APC Representative APR Report for Animal Science [Report attached to permanent record]

Oliva stated that in his report he tried to capture the main issues the unit was seeking to accomplish after the review. Oliva said that from his perspective, this was a very effective review and he was included as much as he wanted plus there was very strong student interaction.

Waller commented that Oliva went out to visit the Department of Animal Science before the review to become familiar with this department. Waller stated that this is an excellent idea for all reviewers. Oliva thanked Waller and completed his summary of the APR.

APC Representative APR Report for Engineering Mechanics [Report attached to permanent record]

Fowler stated that the APR External Review Team was good and that Professor Walter Haisler and Dr. Loren Zachary were well prepared and wrote a helpful and very thoughtful review. Fowler mentioned a couple of concerns noted by the Review Team were lack of a Strategic Plan and there is a need for an Undergraduate Materials Engineering Degree program. Fowler noted that the Review Team answered all questions and documented them in their report.

Eckhardt said he assumes Dr. Joseph Turner was not a participant or a member of the Internal Review Team although his name is listed on the document. Fowler said that Dr. Turner, as the Chair, was just an organizer, not a participant. Fowler also commented that the review team was small with only two members. Owens and Couture responded this is a very small department so two members is probably adequate. Fowler asked APC members if he should modify and resubmit his report accounting for the Chair not being part of the review team. APC members determined that a section should be added on this report entitled "others involved".

Harvey asked if there were additional questions. There were none.

Issues from Vice Chancellors

Couture informed the committee of on-going discussions about the process for allocating promotion money. UNL currently offers a flat increase between ranks and this procedure often results in unfair allocations. Couture said a number of peer institutions have percentage increases. Couture said to address this issue, UNL is planning to shift to a system where the existing flat rate or an equivalent percentage (7% promotion increase for Assistant to Associate Professor and 9% for Associates to full Professor) would be used - whichever is higher. Eventually, UNL's faculty salaries will have increased to the point where the percentage increase can be applied in all cases. Couture stated that the Deans were in favor of this route and that the Faculty Compensation Advisory Committee also supported this.

Fowler asked if the 9% increase on the base is applied following annual salary increases. Oliva commented that promotions were based on previous work done and Owens responded that they are viewed separately.

Couture invited APC members to the Strategic Planning Hearings on April 25 and April 26, 2007. Harvey indicated that he would be attending as the APC representative.

Owens informed APC members of the Board of Regents meeting this Friday, April 20, 2007. He mentioned two agenda items were the Architecture selections for the renovation of the Animal Science Complex and also for the renovation of Keim Hall.

Owens also said that UNL celebrated Arbor Day and a Bur Oak tree was planted on the East Campus. The President of the National Arbor Day and Dean Waller were in attendance. Owens commented that since the late 1970's, due to insects, ice storms, and other causes, Nebraska has lost half of its trees. Owens mentioned that "ReTree Nebraska" is an initiative to raise public awareness of the value of trees and to reverse the trend of tree loss. The main goal is to plant one million trees in one decade.

Harvey asked if there were any questions for Owens and there were none.

Other Business

Nunez reminded APC members that one meeting of the APC remained this academic year and any final business items would need to be added to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Green  
APC Coordinator