

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

**Approved Minutes
February 13, 2008**

Members Present

Mary K. Bolin	Dwayne Ball	Greg Gifford
William J. Nunez	Jerry Renaud	Steven S. Waller
Craig J. Eckhardt	David H. Allen	David Solheim
Jamie Radcliffe	John Bender	Jeffrey F. Keown
Barbara A. Couture		

Members Absent

Prem S. Paul	John C. Owens	F. Edwin Harvey
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Others Attending

Robert Haller, Professor Emeritus, English
Michelle Waite, Assistant to the Chancellor for Community Relations, Office of the Chancellor
Susan Fritz, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Mike Riese, Student, Majoring in the Hospitality, Restaurant, and Tourism Management Degree Program

Bolin stated a quorum had been established and called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M. She thanked Eckhardt for chairing the last Academic Planning Committee (APC) meeting as she was unable to attend and welcomed Greg Gifford, the newly appointed ASUN (the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska) Graduate representative, to the APC. (Gifford replaced Sarah Morris as the ASUN Graduate representative.)

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Approval of the Minutes from the January 16, 2008 meeting was moved by Eckhardt and seconded by Bender. Bolin commented Couture had made some minor revisions in the “Matters from Vice Chancellor(s)” section and noted these revisions were in the members’ handout packets. Bolin inquired if there were any further discussion, there were none, and she called for a vote. The Minutes were approved without dissent.

APC Representative APR Report for Mathematics [Report attached to permanent record]

Bolin welcomed Haller and inquired if he had any comments on his report. Haller drew attention to current member Radcliffe, who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and noted Dr. David Manderscheid is presently at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus, where before he was at the University of Iowa. Haller expressed he himself had always been enormously impressed with the Department of Mathematics and to have the opportunity to view this department close-up was an inspiration. He commented the Review Team’s report described an excellent department and they could not have been more praising of the department. Haller stated he hoped that in the future some of the recommendations could be fulfilled as the committee recommended.

Bolin inquired if there were any questions or comments from APC membership and asked Radcliffe if he wished to add any comments as a member of the department. Radcliffe stated he had nothing to add. Bolin thanked Haller for his report and presentation. [Haller left]

Revision of APC Bylaws in Regards to APC’s Summer Recess Operating Procedure [Handout attached to permanent record]

Bolin drew attention to the members’ packets in which revisions to the APC’s Summer Recess Operating Procedures were included and noted the revisions were prepared by Nunez and Solheim. Solheim began by recalling the last necessary summer meeting where reaching a quorum was a struggle and resulted in a vote via email. He said the practicality of a physical summer meeting was basically unrealistic. Therefore, the committee concluded that revisions were needed to remedy the situation. Thus, it was determined that summer meeting

operating procedures should include the following criteria: 1) notice given to the public, 2) public opportunity to comment, and 3) minutes would be kept and distributed after the meeting.

Nunez voiced the existing policy or bylaw stated APC shall seek a quorum and if a quorum cannot be established after five working days, the APC secretary would inform the President of the Senate, who would then appoint faculty members to fill those absences. Nunez recalled previous conversation among APC members (at its November 14, 2007 meeting) in which this matter was discussed and noted that physical meetings are difficult if not impossible during the summer months. Therefore, electronic communication channels could be used to bring APC members together. Nunez communicated this is a major proposed revision in Section C and Section F. He then proceeded to read Section C and Section F to APC members.

Discussion ensued regarding Section F, specifically APC's options if a quorum cannot be identified. Ball commented an option could be to appoint a surrogate if a member could not be available. Eckhardt suggested going to immediate past members as they would already be aware of the issues. Keown and Ball agreed with Eckhardt. Bender remarked calling on members-elect could be another option. Solheim pointed out if a member has awareness of an upcoming absence during the summer, the member should make provisions or be available for a conference call. Bolin noted the idea of an electronic quorum as a good idea that makes it easier to reach a quorum and expressed the revisions were an improvement on the current procedures.

Eckhardt suggested in Section B, for PIR's (first phase), the wording should be changed to reflect if both the APC Chair and the Vice Chair are absent, the APC Secretary or a faculty member, would request the PIR subcommittee to consider the PIR.

The discussion concluded with a few minor revisions in Section B and Section F to be made by Nunez and Solheim, who would then bring this matter before APC membership again at the next meeting.

Bolin thanked Nunez and Solheim for their efforts in these revisions.

Bolin asked Waller to introduce his guest. Waller introduced Mike Reise, a student in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources that was "shadowing" him for a day. She then announced guest, Michelle Waite, had not arrived yet as the meeting had moved quicker than anticipated and inquired to Couture if she had any matters to discuss.

Matters from Vice Chancellor(s)

Couture announced she had three items to discuss and are as follows:

First, Couture stated approximately two weeks ago, the NU Central Administration requested the Chancellor or a representative to speak about Strategic Planning at UNL. Couture said that she was deemed the campus representative for academic strategic planning, and she spoke to President Milliken and his personal cabinet regarding the process of academic and strategic planning and some of the ways in which we have been modifying and improving these processes. Couture stated the President and his cabinet were mainly interested in how the campus's responded to the NU Strategic Framework document and asked us to examine the framework and respond back with suggestions for ways it might support campus efforts. Couture mentioned the NU Strategic Framework is available at the NU website on the web. She informed membership that the academic Quality Indicators, which is published each year through the Office of Academic Affairs, this year, will also include a set of indicators for UNL on those items from the NU Strategic Framework for which benchmarks have been established.

Secondly, Couture mentioned an innovation in Academic Strategic Planning this year. This year as has been done in the past a written version of the plans will be posted on the Academic Affairs website (in fall 2008); also, the Deans have asked to have a half day retreat just for them prior to the annual Deans Retreat to discuss among themselves about how better to coordinate among the colleges with their planning. Couture expressed this retreat was an excellent addition to the process, and it will occur on May 1.

Third and lastly, Couture stated another innovation in Academic Strategic Planning that will be adopted in response to the ten-year Accreditation visit. She reminded the committee that particular Chapter Three of the Self-Study was devoted to the UNL strategic planning process. Couture conveyed we are in the process of examining and responding back to the report that came back from the outside Accreditation Team. One of their suggestions was to share the plans specifically with the Academic Planning Committee for their discussion. Couture will share the academic plans with APC membership this fall.

Bolin asked if there any questions or comments for Couture. There were none. [Waite arrived]

Bolin asked Fritz if she had any comments to make on behalf of Owens. Fritz responded she wished to relay that IANR (Institute of Agricultural and Natural Resources) has been working with Ron Roeber in Academic Affairs, to tailor a digital measure, which is an on-line reporting system. She announced they were going to Beta test this fall and stated a presentation on the digital measures to APC would be forthcoming.

Bolin asked if there were any questions or comments for Fritz and there were none. She thanked Couture and Fritz for their comments.

[For reference the NU Strategic Framework document can be viewed online at: <http://www.nebraska.edu/>].

Legislative Issues: NI Campus [Handout attached to permanent record]

Bolin introduced and welcomed guest, Michelle Waite. Nunez began by displaying an aerial concept plan of the proposed Nebraska Innovation (NI) Campus and the locations of City and East Campuses. Nunez explained the Innovation Campus, modeled after the Centennial Campus at the University of North Carolina, would link the City and East campuses and would include public and private technology development space as well as UNL research faculty. He stated the Nebraska Innovation Campus concept has generated considerable interest at the legislature and that is why Waite was invited to explain the current legislative issues.

Waite began with a history and timeline of the Nebraska Innovation Campus concept and explained the five Legislative Bills that would be heard at the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature Committee Hearings on February 26, 2008 concerning the State Fair. The bills, with bulleted comments from Waite, are as follows:

- 1) LB861 – Change State Fair Provisions
 - This bill would propose to remove Lincoln as the site for the state fair.
- 2) LB1044 – Create and Provide Duties for the State Fair Future Commission
 - This bill would propose to move the fair to a new location by a date certain, creates a commission that recommends a new location for the State Fair and plans for its transition and relocation.
 - The commission would be required to report its recommendations by December 31, 2008. This bill would require relocation of the fair to be complete by August 1, 2012.
- 3) LB1114 – Require a Vote of the People to Approve County Fairground Bonds
 - This bill was introduced by Senator Erdman. The bill would propose to require a vote for county fairground bonds as well as harmonize provisions.
- 4) LB1115 – Change Nebraska State Fair Board Membership
 - This bill would propose to change the membership of the Nebraska State Fair Board and would remove the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the ex officio member, and replace with the State 4-H Program Administrator.
- 5) LB1116 – Change State Fair and Nebraska State Fair Board Provisions
 - This bill has stated that should the location of the fair change, the acquiring agency would be required to pay compensation up to \$30M for the property to the Nebraska State Fair Support and Improvement Cash Fund.
 - The \$30M amount is a result of the second consultant report. The first report was \$175M for the “perfect” fair.

Waite commented the City of Grand Island, among many, had expressed interest in becoming the new State Fair location and had hired a consultant. She finalized by stating UNL had not taken an official position on the

location of the State Fair and the interest would only be if the land became available. Waite believed this would be a win-win situation for both entities.

Bolin inquired if there were any comments or questions.

Eckhardt inquired if essentially the proposal was to create a research park. Waite replied yes and said this would be a public private partnership, in which 1/3 would be University participation with the majority private participation. She pointed out the private sector would pay taxes, rent on land, would be responsible to build their own facilities, and that such development could assist in offsetting the cost.

Eckhardt commented he could see what the University has been striving for, however, he foresees one of the developing concerns that the University could face would be the scientific and technological resources would be spread all over the UNL campuses and this might make it difficult for collaboration and noted this concept should be more concentrated. Nunez responded the plan was intended to be flexible and detailed planning would need to take place before any decisions were made that would impact the academic enterprise.

Discussion continued. Several APC members voiced the general feeling among faculty was while the concept of a Nebraska Innovation Campus was a good idea; the faculty feels their level of involvement should be higher. Waite responded the Nebraska Innovation Campus is only conceptual at this point and explained something was needed to be taken to Legislature to get conversations moving. She conveyed that the Chancellor strongly supports faculty inclusion and conveyed that a campus-wide effort would commence prior to any specific decisions being made about development of the property. Couture agreed with Waite and conveyed she regards the Nebraska Innovation Campus as a vision for potential use for UNL. Couture also noted that it's important to remember that the University does not own this property and that it would be premature to initiate such discussions until such time.

Bender questioned if the fairgrounds would be the only possible location for the Nebraska Innovation Campus to be built. Nunez replied basically yes. He stated there are areas designated on the Master Plan for university expansion (the Textron property for example), however, large parcels of land contiguous to the university simply do not exist that would support such a substantial development plan. Waite stated that proximity is the key in successful research parks and noted the current agreement the University and the Malone Neighborhood have, which is not to encroach on the neighborhood east of Campus.

Bender inquired to Nunez if he could brief the APC at a meeting in the not-too-distant future on his research into projects similar to the Nebraska Innovation Campus concept proposal. Nunez replied yes, he would be willing to do so at a future meeting as time allows.

The discussion concluded with APC membership asking if Waite would return after the February 26th Hearings to give members' an update. Waite agreed.

Bolin asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none. Bolin thanked Waite for addressing the APC. [Waite left]

Other Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green
APC Coordinator