

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

**Approved Minutes  
March 11, 2009**

Members Present

Craig J. Eckhardt  
Barbara Couture  
Jeffrey F. Keown  
Dwayne Ball  
Prem S. Paul

William J. Nunez  
Rochelle L. Dalla  
Clarissa Steele  
Jennifer Brand  
John Bender

Emily Zimmer  
Shelley T. Fuller  
David Fowler  
Gary L. Cunningham

Members Absent

David Allen

John C. Owens

Others Attending

Susan Fritz, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources for John Owens  
John Richmond, Director, School of Music  
Glenn Nierman, Music Graduate Committee Chair

Eckhardt stated a quorum had been established and called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

Approval of January 28, 2009 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the January 28, 2009 meeting was moved by Keown and seconded by Ball.

Eckhardt asked if there were any questions or discussion and there was none. The Minutes were approved without dissent.

Approval of February 11, 2009 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the February 11, 2009 meeting was moved by Fowler and seconded by Ball.

Eckhardt asked if there were any questions or discussion and there was none. The Minutes were approved without dissent.

New Ph.D. Program in Music [Copy of full proposal attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt introduced guests John Richmond and Glenn Nierman to represent the proposal and answer any APC questions. He also stated that Fowler chaired the ad-hoc subcommittee.

Richmond began by stating this proposal would complete the transition of music education from the Teachers College (now the College of Education and Human Sciences) to the Hixon-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts (H-L CFPA), more specifically the School of Music. [Couture arrived] He said the transition has been fairly smooth and uneventful with one exception – the relocation of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) As explain in the proposal:

Currently, students interested in preparing themselves to be music teacher educators in research oriented universities or who aspire to be leaders in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade settings (one of the foci of the proposed for this new doctoral of philosophy degree with a major in music) do so through an interdisciplinary program currently in place with CEHS. While this program has been successful in meeting the needs of these students in the past, the movement of music education faculty from CEHS to the School of Music in the H-L CFPA have made doctoral studies in the more generic curricular framework of CEHS much less attractive and relevant to these students. Offering an educational program to these students in the specialized environment of the School of Music would greatly assist with the recruitment of graduate students in this area.

Richmond said UNL currently offers a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) with emphases in performance, composition, and conducting. He said, that if this proposal is approved, the focus of the students in the Ph.D. program with a major in music, would be on research; this would greatly benefit UNL graduates to be more competitive nationally for positions in higher education. He asked if there were any questions and there were none. [Fritz arrived]

Eckhardt asked Fowler to address the APC membership. Fowler stated he and other subcommittee members, Fuller and Eckhardt, believed this proposal was well prepared and the rationale was well documented and clearly explained. He said it seems all faculty are in favor of this proposal, including the Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences, so it appears there is no reluctance to move this degree from one college to another. Fowler indicated the subcommittee moved approval of this proposal.

Discussion then ensued on the curriculum overview and cross listing. Richmond explained, that initially, the curriculum will be developed around a focus in Music Education and that other foci in music history or perhaps music theory will be developed. He said Dean Jack Oliva and he were very involved in this planning process because they lead similar proposals at their respective previous universities which were quite successful. He also noted that at both institutions the programs had been, and continue to be, a terrific boost to doctoral education.

Keown commented that with likely upcoming budgetary discussions and with a limited number of enrollments, he wondered if there had been discussion on joint programs with other Universities that are in our peer group. Richmond responded that in this discipline this was not a common practice and noted “we are trying to improve our competitive position”. Ball inquired where the expectation is to place the doctorates that graduate. Richmond replied graduates often gain positions in higher education such as college professors and music administrators, and also in the public schools’ administration. He also commented there is a real dearth of qualified doctoral holders for organizations to recruit. Dalla noted the Ph.D. degree in Music, with its projected areas of focus, is not available at UNO (University of Nebraska-Omaha), UNK (University of Nebraska-Kearney), or at the state colleges at Wayne, Chadron, and Peru and inquired to what extent there was an offering of on-line courses. Richmond replied that a few things such as: relocating the entire course so one may complete entire masters’ degree in four summers of study, additional on-line courses, and possible virtual classrooms. Nierman noted UNO and UNK have shown interest in such courses as music education.

Eckhardt asked if there were further comments, discussion, or questions and there were none. Eckhardt stated the subcommittee's recommendation in favor of the proposal served as a motion and second and called for a vote. The APC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal.

Eckhardt thanked the guests for attending. Richmond and Nierman thanked APC membership.  
[Richmond and Nierman left]

#### Department and Center Funding Discussion

*NOTE: At a prior APC meeting, Eckhardt communicated an issue that came to him regarding the distribution of overhead funds. Specifically, overhead funds returned from grants by individuals who are both in a department and a Center. With the endorsement of APC membership, Eckhardt appointed an ad-hoc subcommittee of Nunez, Brand, and Cunningham to investigate. Paul was in attendance to clarify and answer any questions on Facilities & Administrative (F & A) costs.*

Paul distributed a handout overview describing Research Policies from the Office of Research, in particular, *Policy on Distribution of F & A Costs at UNL* and *Approved UNL Center or Initiatives for Purposes of F & A Cost Distributions* [attached to permanent record] and noted this handout information was located on their website. He stated he would provide a brief background and then would answer any questions. He stated that when he first came to UNL in 2001, he learned that distribution of F & A amongst various units was a very hot topic and tension existed between departments, centers, and all of the units. At that time, as a result of this, a task force with representation from deans, department chairs, and center directors was created. He stated guidelines for centers emerged from this task force.

Paul then described a few specifics from the guidelines. For example, in the case of a 5-year center grant (fully-competitive, full F & A –bearing grants) for large research initiatives with a budget in excess of \$1M per year, 70% of the funds would be distributed to the Center and 30% would be distributed to the college. At the college, the Dean would propose what portion would be shared with the department. He commented that centers do have needs and believes that sometimes we are not quite aware that to keep the center infrastructure going, they need funds and noted many of the centers are underfunded.

He drew attention to the list of *Approved UNL Centers or Initiatives for Purposes of F & A Cost Distribution* (as approved by the Vice Chancellor for Research) for further discussion.

Eckhardt commented he has heard some discord that some departments feel they bear more of the costs than the centers actually do, for example, personnel costs, and that is not fairly reflected in the F & A. Paul replied occasionally matters do come up and with consultation with the appropriate individuals these matters are resolved on a case-by-case basis.

Eckhardt asked if there were further comments, discussion, or questions. There were none. Eckhardt thanked Paul.

[For reference the research policies from the Office of Research is located at the following URL:  
<http://research.unl.edu/sp1/researchpolicies.shtml>]

Academic Program Review Monitor Appointment – English/JS Program

Eckhardt indicated to the APC that a member was needed as an APR monitor to the department of English/JS Program and asked for a volunteer. [schedule attached to permanent record] There was brief discussion on what “JS” meant in “JS Program”. Green was charged to find out.

Eckhardt volunteered to serve as the APR monitor dependant on his potential reappointment for AY2009-10. The appointment was supported by APC membership.

Academic Program Review Monitor Appointment – Classic/Religious Studies/Judaic Studies

Eckhardt indicated to APC that a member was needed as an APR monitor to the departments of Classic /Religious Studies/Judaic Studies and asked for a volunteer. [schedule attached to permanent record] Keown commented the date of the review team visit seemed longer than normal. Green was charged to verify the dates.

Fuller volunteered to serve as the APR monitor. The appointment was supported by APC membership.

Matters for Vice Chancellor(s) of Academic Affairs, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Research and Economic Development

Couture stated she would update APC membership on a few projects. She informed the group that the Academic Affairs newsletter was published a couple of weeks ago and that this newsletter featured two projects that membership had already heard about. One is the review of the English proficiency requirements that continues to be ongoing. The second is the “Best Practices to Recruit and Retain Diverse Faculty” document.

Couture said representatives from the Educational Testing Center were on campus recently to assist at a Workshop in reviewing our undergraduate admissions TOEFL cut scores for non-native speakers of English and noted there was a very good faculty turnout for that session. This presentation was followed by a Workshop in the afternoon where representatives from academic departments across the university worked on setting “set scores” for the TOEFL exam that would indicate English proficiency, and they determined how scores might be used to place students into ESL courses. Couture said the results should be available within a few weeks and hopefully UNL could implement the new standards for the English proficiency requirements in the fall. She expressed that she was very happy to see such extensive faculty involvement.

Couture stated the “Best Practices to Recruit and Retain Diverse Faculty” document has also undergone some revision based on input from this Committee, as well as from the Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate. She said that the deans are currently reviewing this document and the hope is to have that activity ready for potential implementation at the end of this spring. She noted the deans will be discussing this document during their quarterly Deans’ Retreat on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Dalla commented – concerning English Proficiency and TOEFL scores – that she had heard on the news recently that a high school level student was suspended for refusing to take an English proficiency exam saying it was discriminatory and wondered if this topic had ever come up in discussions. Couture replied she would first have to know what kind of English proficiency exam it was and without knowing the question would be difficult to answer. She then explained the UNL requirements for basic English proficiency and said there are many ways that a student can demonstrate English proficiency. There also is sensitivity to that fact that now UNL is bringing more

international students as well as American citizens who are not native English speakers to our campus.

Eckhardt commented on another aspect in trying to increase international student enrollment is the difficulty for students, especially in certain countries, to get a visa to come here to study is unbelievably difficult and asked if the University was doing anything with other Universities to try to get a more rational approach to student visas. Couture replied that Graduate Studies and International Studies might be the appropriate offices to offer an answer to this question and also more information on student visa opportunities and processes for admitting international students. She also commented that Graduate Studies is very well versed on this issue. Discussion ensued on International Studies students and admissions processes. In conclusion, Couture suggested Harriet Turner, Director, International Studies, might be a possible person to invite to the APC to discuss issues of support for international students.

Paul commented that he had the honor of serving on a NRC (National Research Council) Committee on National Academics regarding the role of international students and this was a very interesting experience. He believes the academic committee came together and made a strong case to make sure the U.S. is a friendly country and believes there has been improvement. Also, President Milliken has named Thomas Farrell as the new Associate Vice President for International Affairs at the University of Nebraska. Paul said Farrell is from the U.S. Department of State, is well-known and well-connected around the world and in the United States, and believes Farrell will be a huge asset to UNL.

Eckhardt inquired if there were further questions, comments, or discussion and there were none. He asked Paul if he had any matters to discuss.

Paul stated he would mention two items. The first item was the stimulus package. Paul said, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law and this package calls for federal agencies to invest more than \$20 billion within two years for research activities. He announced an open forum for faculty and staff to discuss the stimulus legislation will be held tomorrow, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center. He noted this open forum will be webstreamed live and will also be recorded. He commented this legislation is very good news and UNL has many opportunities to participate in this process; however, he noted, there might be more additional duties such as more reporting, having to be able to separate these funds from other federal funds, and the knowledge that distribution of funds will be on a grant by grant basis, as in the past distribution was just one lump sum of money. He said the next three months would be full of activity.

Paul stated the second item he wanted to communicate was a great number of conversations nationally about conflict of interest. He shared that he recently attended a meeting in which a very high profile case was discussed. He said Senator Charles (Chuck) Grassley of Iowa has initiated government examination at how the National Science Foundation (NSF) manages financial conflicts among its researchers as was done in the past for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Paul commented this is one area that generally involves emotion and we want to make sure that we both manage it but also support the public and private partnerships.

Eckhardt inquired if there were any questions, comments, or further discussion. There was none. He asked Fritz if she had any matters to discuss on behalf of Owens.

Fritz stated that “two weeks from today; we have the IANR (Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources) Life Sciences External Review of our teaching and research and noted an external review team will be on campus.” She stated in anticipation of the review teams’ visit, a self study was prepared, and is posted on the IANR website. She commented the review team schedule is also posted on the website and noted an open forum for faculty is scheduled on the second day of the visit.

[For reference the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources is located at the following URL:  
<http://ianrhome.unl.edu/home>]

Other Business

None

Closed Session

The APC moved into a closed session for the purpose of holding a discussion on the following subjects: general budget framework discussion and planning.

The APC went into closed session at 4:13 p.m. and reconvened the open meeting at 5:05 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator