

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

**Approved Minutes  
April 8, 2009**

Members Present

Craig J. Eckhardt  
Barbara Couture  
Jeffrey F. Keown  
Dwayne Ball  
John C. Owens

David Allen  
Rochelle L. Dalla  
Clarissa Steele  
Jennifer Brand  
Emily Zimmer

Gary L. Cunningham  
Shelley T. Fuller  
David Fowler

Members Absent

William J. Nunez

Prem S. Paul

John Bender

Others Attending

F. Edwin Harvey, Associate Director, School of Natural Resources

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

Approval of March 11, 2009 Minutes

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

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

Appointment of Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Review the Creation of the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences [Copy of full proposal attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt indicated to the APC that subcommittee members were needed to review the proposal for the creation of the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and asked for two to three volunteers for this subcommittee. He also asked that this subcommittee report back to APC membership, with either its approval or disapproval, at the next APC meeting.

Ball [subcommittee chair], Keown, and Dalla volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

APC Representative APR Report for Electrical Engineering [Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt introduced the next agenda item and asked Harvey to present his report. Harvey stated the review went very well with no major problems. He noted as the College of Engineering was new to the program review process, there were little “hiccups” that took place that were ultimately fixed as the review progressed. He did point out that the APC representative was excluded from several sessions due to some confusion on the part of the department as to whom was to attend the review team meetings. Harvey stated this should not have happened as, according to the APR (Academic Program Review) Guidelines; the APC representative should be included in all aspects. He conveyed this was brought to the APC’s attention the week of the review and that the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

assured this oversight would be corrected in future reviews. He said one item the review team recommended was combining Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering into one unit in the College of Engineering, or moving Computer Science and Engineering into the College of Engineering, which he thought was interesting. He concluded by stating a formal hearing was not needed.

Eckhardt commented that while serving as the APC representative on a recent APR, he and also an internal team member were not invited to the meeting where the review team met with the administrators. Couture stated from her knowledge of the process, the APC representative should be involved in the initial and final meeting with the review team and said she would check with Evelyn Jacobson on this process. Keown commented he was included in the initial and final meeting with the review team while serving as the APC representative on a recent APR.

Eckhardt inquired of Harvey if the Electrical Engineering department emphasized the graduate program more than the undergraduate program in the review as normally they undergo the ABET reviews for the undergraduate program. Harvey said they did not emphasize the graduate program more; however the undergraduate program certainly came up. The team met with both the graduate and undergraduate students and there was discussion on changes and adjustments with curriculum. Allen noted the ABET process of accreditation is only at the undergraduate level. He said an accreditation is really related to process rather than quality and that is why, when contacted by the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to initiate the APR process in the College of Engineering, he was in favor of it.

Eckhardt asked if there were any further questions, comments, or discussion. There were none. Eckhardt thanked Harvey. [Harvey left]

APC Representative APR Report for Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences [Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt introduced the next agenda item and asked Ball to present his report. Ball stated the review team was very good and active in every aspect of the review process. Additionally, they were extremely thorough. He said that, as a result of the review team observing and visiting many departments and units, a few of their recommendations involved fine-tuning. He commented that the response from the Department was very thorough as well and in general agreement with the review teams' recommendations and either were making the suggested changes or were making plans for such changes. The only recommendation that appeared to be a major issue was the recommendation to not develop an undergraduate program in Biomedical Sciences as this would dilute the focus of the department beyond its resources. Ball stated, in conclusion, he did not observe a need for a hearing.

Eckhardt inquired if Ball was incorporated by the review team into the framing of the report. Ball replied that he was involved quite a lot and noted he was included in the visit to the Great Plains Veterinary Education Center in the Hastings area; however, he could not attend due to a schedule conflict. Eckhardt inquired to Ball if he was invited to attend the exit meeting with the review team and the administrators. Ball replied that he believed that he was invited; however he was away and couldn't have attended anyway. Owens commented within the Institute it has been their practice to invite and involve all members.

Dalla noted one of the review teams' recommendations was to "continue to seek debt forgiveness from the state of Nebraska for PPVM graduate returning to practice in the state." Ball replied that during 2008 the Veterinary Incentive Act was passed by the Nebraska legislature. This act provides financial support total up to \$80,000 for veterinary graduates who agree to serve in a designated underserved area of the state.

Eckhardt inquired if there were any further questions, comments, or discussion. There were none. Eckhardt thanked Ball.

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

Couture commented that Chancellor Perlman had met with the Deans and Directors this morning. He indicated we are awaiting the state forecasting report on April 24. If this report is as predicted, the recommended funding level for the university is likely to remain at a 1.5%. Couture said Michelle Waite has sent a memorandum to the deans and directors indicating that this is the time to contact your State Senator regarding support for the university.

Couture mentioned that the deans will have another quarterly retreat on April 21. She said in this retreat they will discuss the implementation of the “Best Practices to Recruit and Retain Diverse Faculty” document as well as the Quality Indicators report, which was released earlier this semester. She said discussion will continue on the issue of progress of suggested “benchmark for success” in each of the colleges. She noted one area to be studied for specific strategies is undergraduate graduation rates. She indicated that there is some strategies already in place but the objective is to build long-term success over time.

Owens noted tuition would likely be a topic at the Board of Regents meeting on June 12.

Dalla inquired of Owens if the deans’ council budget forum would still be held on June 17. Owens replied positively and noted this is an IANR standing open forum with the faculty.

Other Business

Eckhardt noted a couple “housekeeping” items. First, he asked that any topics for discussion for Chancellor Perlman, when he addresses the APC at its April 22 meeting, be emailed to Nunez as soon as possible. Second, he asked that any pending reports or proposals that were in subcommittees be finalized, if possible, and made ready for distribution and discussion at the last scheduled meeting on April 22. Couture noted that Central Administration had not currently finalized the approved format for undergraduate certificate programs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator