

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

**Approved Minutes
December 16, 2009**

Members Present

John Bender
William J. Nunez
Barbara Couture
John Owens
Jeffrey F. Keown

David H. Allen
David Manderscheid
Miles Taft Bryant
Dwayne Ball
Craig J. Eckhardt

Shelley Fuller
Jennifer Mostek
Megan Collins
Jennifer Brand
Andrew John (Jamie) Radcliffe

Members Absent

Prem Paul

Others Attending

Harvey Perlman, Chancellor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Steven Waller, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Ellen Weissinger, Dean, Graduate Studies
David Fowler, Member-Elect, Professor, Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education

Bender stated a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:08 P.M. He welcomed David Fowler, member-elect, and noted Fowler will be standing in for Miles Taft Bryant during the Spring 2010 term.

Upcoming Budget Discussion

Bender welcomed Chancellor Harvey Perlman to the meeting and thanked him for joining the Academic Planning Committee (APC) as there were several budget issues that the APC would like to discuss with him. Perlman conveyed that he was happy to join today's APC meeting. He then addressed general budget issues and potential timelines. He stated the APC should receive the preliminary budget framework in January 2010 and anticipates the APC could begin hearings in February. [Manderscheid and Bryant arrive] He asked if there were any questions.

Brief discussion ensued on the approach of relaying specific budget cuts to the APC, salary increases, and differential tuition in colleges. Bender noted the intention of the APC is to invite the Deans to come before the APC to convey strategic plans and other background information to get a better sense of college priorities and justification of proposed cuts. He asked Perlman what his thoughts were on this matter. Perlman replied he believes this would be helpful and would give the APC context from which to evaluate.

Bender asked for further discussion or questions and there were none. Bender thanked Perlman for joining today's meeting. [Perlman left] [Waller arrived]

Approval Process of Graduate Certificates

Bender welcomed Dean Steven Waller. Waller shared that his College has been working on several new certificates. He noted that, from his perspective, the process for a graduate certificate is not clear.

And, in the current review and approval process, the APC can be bypassed with the proposal going directly to the UNL Graduate Council. He believes this process should be changed and that the APC should be involved in this process. He conveyed he believes this is supported by Dean Weissinger. He believes it is now a good time for discussion and potentially changing of the process.

Discussion ensued. Eckhardt inquired who has the final approval. Waller replied, if approved by the UNL Graduate Council, the proposal is forwarded to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (SVCAA). If approved by the SVCAA, then it is forwarded to the Executive Graduate Council.
[Weissinger arrived]

Couture briefly explained the approval process. Weissinger further explained there are two kinds of graduate certificates – one that follows the process all the way up to the CCPE (Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education) and the other is an expedited certificate process. She explained there are requirements for certificates such as the proposed certificate must be a part of an existing masters program, it uses existing courses in the program and also must be a repackaging of existing graduate courses, and requires no additional or reallocated resources to support the program. She noted the expedited approval process truncates the other process and requirements.

Couture asked Waller the purpose of proposing this. Waller explained the certificates they were working on were non-expedited certificates and the concern was that these certificates propose new courses and could impact budgets. Bryant commented some certificates do not have an academic impact. Waller also noted the inconsistency of having an approval process for undergraduate certificates that included review by the APC while the approval process for graduate certificates did not require review by the APC. Couture commented the UNL Graduate Council does look at all certificates. Weissinger noted this Council does not view the expedited certificate proposals. She also stated the UNL Graduate Council consists of eight faculty members, who are elected by faculty at large, as well as two graduate students' members and that they do take their role on this Council very seriously.

Discussion concluded with Bender charging the Long-Range Planning subcommittee to further look at these procedures. Weissinger stated she would be happy work with the APC to review and potentially modify the non-expedited process if needed.

Bender inquired if there were further discussion or questions and there were none. Bender thanked Waller and Weissinger. [Waller and Weissinger left]

Upcoming Budget and Timetable Discussion

Discussion ensued over the upcoming budget and timetable of blocking time and inviting the Deans to the APC to discuss their strategic plan and/or any background information they feel might be helpful to the APC as they assist in an advisory role regarding budget reductions. Membership discussed drafting a letter to the Deans to explain and clarify why the APC would like to meet with them. Bender charged the Long-Range Planning subcommittee to draft this letter.

Members agreed that the meetings with the Deans should be in closed session.

Bender inquired if there was further discussion. Brief discussion ensued regarding Bender and Brand attending a Deans meeting to present the intent of the APC and to invite each Dean to a future APC

meeting. The next meeting is on January 5, 2010. Membership agreed. Bender inquired to Couture the process to do this. Couture stated to contact Academic Affairs. Nunez stated that he would contact Academic Affairs to have this item placed on the agenda.

Bender inquired if there was further discussion and there was none.

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

Bender asked if Owens had any business to share. Owens stated that he did not. Bender asked Couture if she had any business to share.

Couture said that it has been an enjoyable five and a half years at UNL and it will be hard to leave fine friends and colleagues. She commented UNL is a very collegial campus that likes to work together collectively. APC thanked SVCAA Couture for her leadership and many contributions to UNL.

Bender inquired on the status of both the Task Force on Academic Efficiency and the Task Force on Academic Entrepreneurship. Couture stated she did not know at this time. As far as she knew, Chancellor Perlman had not made a final decision. She suggested inquiring to him.

Bender asked if there were any questions for either Couture or Owens. There were none.

Other Business

Bender asked Brand to discuss an email she received from one of the three Engineering departments in the process of merging. In this email, this one department was requesting an APC member to monitor the process of the merger as there is apparently some tension. Brand stated she was unsure if this was a role of the APC to govern and monitor this process and asked for guidance from the APC on this matter.

Allen stated this is an apportionment problem of every person in the merging departments. He said there is a general feeling among part of the faculty that the current apportionment is inequitable and they refuse to merge until their apportionments have been changed. [Owens left] He explained, according to the Board of Regents policy, apportionment is established between the department chair and the faculty member. If they so choose, they may change their apportionment now but they will have a new department chair once they merge so why would they do that. He has suggested they enter into a contractual arrangement whereby they agree to go through apportionment review as soon as they merge. [Radcliffe left] Bryant commented he thought there was a College Committee to assist in these types of disputes. Allen replied yes and the process of negotiations takes one year and the departments are scheduled to merge on April 1 so this is not option. And, the entire process takes two to three years and we have been given six months. He conveyed he has hired a mediator, who has already attended one retreat, and stressed that he is doing everything that he can to get the parties to work together. He said there is no easy answer to this matter and believes that an APC monitor coming in at this time will not change the time factor.

Discussion concluded with the APC membership agreeing it is not the role of the APC to be involved in this process with suggestions to refer to their bylaws and that there are other bodies at the University, such as the AARC (Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee), that can help with disputes and to contact them. Bender would draft a letter stating this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green
APC Coordinator