

University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Approved Minutes  
November 20, 2013

Members Present

Archie Clutter	Mike Hoffman	Patrick Shea
Stephen Lahey, Chair	Libby Jones	Linda Shipley
Jacob Friefeld	William Nunez	Josh Waltjer
Gerard Harbison	Jamie Radcliffe	

Members Absent

Leslie Delserone	Jack Morris	Donde Plowman
Ronnie Green	Prem S. Paul	Ellen Weissinger
Martha McCollough		

Others Attending

Jennifer Dam, Assistant Director, Campus Planning and Space Management  
Faculty Senate Executive Committee Members:  
Rigoberto Guevara, President, Modern Languages and Literatures  
Ken Nickerson, President-Elect, School of Biological Sciences  
Mathias Schubert, Past President, Electrical Engineering  
Toni Anaya, Secretary, University Libraries  
John Bender, College of Journalism and Mass Communications  
Allison Reisbig, Child, Youth and Family Studies  
Thomas Rinkevich, Classics and Religious Studies  
Linda Ruchala, School of Accountancy  
Patricia Sollars, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences  
David Woodman, School of Biological Sciences  
Tad Wysocki, Computer and Electronics Engineering  
Gary Zoubek, Southeast Research and Extension Center

Lahey stated a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Lahey welcomed guest Jennifer Dam, who was present for a presentation and update on the UNL Campus and Landscape Master Plans.

Presentation and Update on UNL Campus and Landscape Master Plans

Dam stated the Board of Regents approved the master plan in August. She indicated the Regents made one change to the master plan on the City Campus by removing the green space east of Memorial Mall and retain the parking there. She began the PowerPoint presentation [attached to permanent record] and said she will briefly go through the progress already being made implementing the master plan. She informed there are six projects that are already underway on City Campus and noted that some projects began before the master plan was approved but were

incorporated into the master planning process. She displayed renderings of the projects as follows: 12<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza, Love Library Commons, College of Business Administration, 14<sup>th</sup> Street Mall-Near Term and Long Term, the Wrap Project, and Textron De-Construction. She also displayed map renderings of the City Campus Master Plan and the East Campus Master Plan.

Dam informed the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza began last summer and is completed now with the trees being planted in Silva Cells with pervious paving, so a sustainable and a more healthier way of planting for the trees and controlled storm water runoff. She said this created an area for gatherings. This completes and terminates the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Mall.

Hoffman inquired about a special new greenish material that would be put down as a trial in this Plaza and asked where is it located? Dam said yes, there is a strip of grass between the parking lot and the loop. She explained it is a grass that has a fiber, the ground has the fiber blended into it, and then the turf is put on top of it. She said the root structure is supposed to grow into the fiber making it a tougher grass. She stated she understands that Landscape Services is trying this method in other locations as well to see how this holds up. Nunez commented it was fairly recently that the grass was put in. Hoffman thanked Dam and commented he only wondered as he wanted to see what this looked like. [Harbison arrived]

Dam stated she is aware that the Love Library Commons project has already come before the APC for its consideration. She said this project, as well as the College of Business Administration (CBA) project, is currently in programming. She commented the CBA project was developing as the master plan was being developed.

Dam indicated regarding the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Mall in the near term will be developed as a mall that has pedestrian and bike corridors and in the long term will retain room for a shuttle route. She said we are in the process of commissioning a survey of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street corridor from Q Street to Salt Creek Roadway to establish a phasing plan for development. She informed eventually the proposal is to close 14<sup>th</sup> Street up to W Street to through traffic. Traffic would be just shuttle, handicap, or special traffic.

Dam stated completion for the Wrap Project should be this summer or fall. She said this was another project that was developed as the master plan was being developed. She stated this is public / private partnership and that the university owns the property. She said the university will lease the parking and the student housing from the private developer. She added the retail and office type space will be privately developed and leased as well.

Dam informed the de-construction project of the Textron site will begin within the next couple weeks. She stated de-construction of that building will take several months. She said pieces of the building would be recycled and that they will begin with the oldest part of the building first for removal of asbestos then move to the newer parts. She noted the site once cleared can be used as a staging site for other construction projects until this site can be developed.

Dam continued there are several projects underway on East Campus as well and are follows: Veterinary Diagnostic Center, Morrison addition, Activity Building, C.Y. Thompson Learning

Commons, South Meadows/Legacy Gardens, and Holdrege Street entry markers. She displayed the following renderings: Veterinary Diagnostic Center, East Campus Activity Building, and Legacy Gardens-Plaza / CY Thompson.

Dam stated most of these projects are in design or soon to be going into construction. She said she believed the addition to Morrison is nearing completion. She said the design and the hiring of the architectural/engineering firm will occur soon for the Veterinary Diagnostic Center, construction will begin in the near future on the Activity Building, C.Y. Thompson Learning Commons was in programming, and that the conceptual designs for South Meadows/Legacy Gardens and entry markers on Holdrege Street were in process.

Dam remarked the Legacy Gardens project is a beautiful mall that is somewhat hidden south of the Union. She said the concept is to create more of an open iconic green space and increase activity in the area and tie it into the plans for C.Y. Thompson library to make it a collaborative area. She informed the Committee there are four Secretaries of Agriculture from Nebraska and that statues have been commissioned. Spaces have been reserved for these and future sculptures.

Dam conveyed the entry markers will be placed on 14<sup>th</sup> Street and would be at the terminus of the East Campus Mall. [Waltjer arrived]

Dam asked if there were any questions or comments.

Dam added there is a landscape pallet and are numerous beatification projects such as seating and benches, trash cans, and recruitment paths occurring or to occur soon on both campuses. She conveyed there will be one consistent standard that will be developed across campuses in the future.

Nunez remarked it is important to note that the master plan is not just about large multimillion dollar projects but it is also about campus feel and aesthetics and standards for campus unification. Dam commented that is something we are really trying to enhance. She said, for example, by working with Maintenance and Landscape Services to collaborate more on the big picture so that when there are small projects we can implement some of the bigger ideas.

Hoffman commented on the area where the Outdoor Adventure Center is. Dam said the master plan suggests shifting W Street a block north to connect with X Street. She stated that would be an expensive project, not just because it is expensive to build new roadways but also this is a major drainage way so incorporating this storm water element would be costly. She said she imagines that change would be in the distant future.

Lahey inquired how much classroom space is available in the new CBA building. Dam replied she was unsure and this project is still in programming. Lahey commented he only wondered as the APC had conversations earlier this year on classroom space.

Brief discussion ensued on classroom and classroom space. Jones wondered if there had been discussion for this campus to build a building that has just large classrooms as other universities

have this. Dam responded this had been discussed as the master plan was developed but it is difficult to find a central location or a need for specific types of classrooms.

Radcliffe asked who the tenant would be when the current CBA building is vacated. Nunez replied that has not been determined.

Hoffman commented Holdrege Street used to be the most convenient way to East Campus and asked the best path to get there now. He remarked the university has no control of the routes to East Campus as these are City streets. Dam said it is encouraged to travel Vine Street to 33<sup>rd</sup> Street to Holdrege. Nunez said there are also trail systems. Dam shared there is a future plan to connect the Salt Creek Roadway underneath the railroad track, by Fleming Fields, and then into the East Campus area. She said that is a multimillion dollar project and voiced both federal and city funding is drying up.

Lahey inquired if there were any further questions or comments for Dam and there were none. He thanked Dam. [Dam left]

#### Approval of November 6, 2013 Minutes

Lahey reminded members that the Minutes distributed via email earlier had already been revised with minor edits.

Approval of the Minutes from the November 6, 2013 general meeting was moved by Harbison and seconded by Jones.

Lahey inquired if there were any further revisions and there were none. The Minutes were approved without dissent.

#### Academic Program Review Monitor Appointment [attached to permanent record]

Lahey indicated that a member was needed as an Academic Program Review (APR) monitor to the Department of Educational Psychology from October 12-15, 2014.

Lahey asked for a volunteer. Jones volunteered to serve as the APR monitor. The appointment was supported by APC membership.

#### Matters from Vice Chancellors - Academic Affairs, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), and Research and Economic Development

Lahey indicated that no Vice Chancellors were present. He asked Clutter if he had anything to share. Clutter stated he would mention a couple of matters from IANR.

Clutter told the on-site portion of the Academic Program Review for the Department of Statistics was completed the last week of October. He commented an excellent review team and mentioned McCollough was a member of the review team. He said there was a lot of good interaction as part of the process.

Clutter stated he has mentioned IANR's hiring process before. He said IANR held its second monthly version of the New Faculty Success Network yesterday. He said IANR had gone back

to fall 2011 and moved forward to invite any new faculty to lunch and participate in an open discussion with the vice chancellor, associate vice chancellor, and deans. He said Dean Waller and he attended this open discussion yesterday and shared some of the topics in this discussion were scholarships, expectations, and sorts of achievements that might be expected in an annual evaluation into Activity Insight. He stated an upcoming objective is working to build mentoring programs and sessions where faculty from different areas attend for a short presentation or discussion. He expressed there has been excellent engagement so far. He conveyed through a survey after the first session faculty seem enthused. He expressed robust interaction among faculty is important.

Lahey asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. He thanked Clutter.

Note: The order of the agenda was changed by the Chair

#### Other Business

Lahey indicated the meeting was ahead of schedule and members from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee had not arrived. He wondered of any topics or matters that may be of interest for follow-up or discussion. He indicated he would like to discuss ACE (Achievement-Centered Education). He expressed his department is re-certifying ACE 5 and ACE 9 this year and it is taking a tremendous amount of faculty time. He wondered if APC membership knew anything on the status of ACE. Discussion ensued. Membership agreed this topic was worth pursuing in the Spring.

[Faculty Senate Executive Committee members arrived]

#### Discussion on Partnering with Faculty Senate Executive Committee on Forum for Non-Tenure Track Faculty Membership

Lahey welcomed the members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. He conveyed APC membership would like to discuss two items with the Executive Committee.

Lahey stated after he and Hoffman had met with the Executive Committee last month he had spoken with some non-tenure-track faculty and had asked them particular questions discussed during this meeting. Questions such as what ties do you feel to the university?, what would you like from the university?, what would you like addressed in a university-wide forum?, and what questions would you have for university administration that you couldn't directly find answers to?. He said the responses suggest a forum should be held. He expressed there is a need to be much more welcoming, particularly to professors of practice, research professors, and adjuncts.

Lahey inquired are there other classes of non-tenured faculty to be included. Guevara replied lecturers. Schubert stated there is the underlying issue of there is no existing definition of who is a faculty member in the UNL Bylaws. He said the university system does not provide details touching on this either so one must determine who actually is faculty and then one can determine who of those are non-tenure-track. Harbison mentioned the criteria of the definition of the Assembly used by the Faculty Senate. Mathias stated it has been identified that the description of the Assembly needs to be reviewed and re-defined as it contains terms that do not exist anymore and does not contain terms currently used, an example, senior lecturer.

Harbison inquired if the Assembly was defined by the Board of Regents or the UNL Bylaws. Nickerson replied the Board of Regents Bylaws was reviewed and had conflicting definitions of faculty. He informed the Executive Committee then met with Chancellor Perlman for discussion on this subject, who said that the definitions of faculty could be defined anyway wanted as long as there was caution used to restrict the purposes for which we were defining the faculty member. He said so in terms of defining faculty for invitations to this forum, it could be defined anyway wanted. He expressed this would be a very good starting point.

Shea wondered is it even possible to get a uniform definition of faculty across the entire campus. He questioned if this was even achievable. He remarked the responsibilities and the privileges of non-tenure-track faculty vary enormously among departments and among colleges. He expressed he is not sure departments and colleges who have differing views on this would be willing to reach a uniform agreement on how they define faculty. Nickerson stated we concluded that is why the Board of Regents Bylaws was so vague on this issue; they did not want to make a more precise definition.

Harbison read a few of the guidelines for faculty appointments. Schubert stated there have been lengthy discussions on this to determine where the starting point is. He said he doesn't know the answer on how do you define equivalent rank. He commented if it is not solidly written in text, people will always question or say not in agreement. Lahey remarked at this point though hard and fast legislation will not be created, just begin a discussion. He voiced all that is needed is a functionalist definition. Schubert informed that the Senate Executive Committee last year sent out a survey to various ranks using a list from the records division. He stated he would email the results of this survey to Lahey. (This survey was received after the meeting.)

Discussion resumed on partnering to hold a forum and the structure of this forum. Nickerson wondered if the thought was this would be a panel with administration on this panel. He said when the Executive Committee discussed holding a forum a few months ago it was discussed as an educational forum to inform professors of practice and other non-tenured of what their rights were. Bender added also discussed as invitees were a representative from Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee, from AFCOM (Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska) and perhaps from AAUP (American Association of University Professors). Woodman suggested adding SVCAA Weissinger. [Waltjer left]

Shea suggested a not so structured forum with specific objectives to receive feedback. He said many events are so structured there is not time for discussion. Schubert remarked, concerning the results of last year's survey, more was learned from tenured faculty than non-tenure-track faculty. He voiced the invite to non-tenure-track faculty may fail without encouragement from tenured faculty to participate; both perspectives should be looked at. Woodman expressed he would like to see a powerful statement from administration supportive of a group that is growing larger each day.

Discussion concluded with the APC and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in agreement to partner to hold a forum, with two sessions, midafternoon in late January open to anyone but directed at non-tenured faculty with greater than .50FTE to provide information. There would

first be presentations, then open forum with invitees being Academic Rights and Responsibilities representative, AFCON representative, AAUP representative, and perhaps SVCAA Weissinger with an open forum to follow for questions.

Discussion on Possible Addition of a Professor of Practice and a Research Faculty Member to APC Membership

Lahey indicated APC membership had already begun discussion at a previous APC meeting on adding a seat for a professor of practice and when VC Paul heard this he suggested adding a seat for a research professor as well.

Lahey inquired to members of the Executive Committee how they formulated the opening of additional seats. Guevara stated anyone can serve in the Senate regardless if a tenured or non-tenured. He communicated recently it was specifically worded the addition of two non-tenure individuals on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee so “at least one member must be an Extension Educator, at least one member must be a non-tenure track faculty member other than an Extension Educator, and at least one member must be a tenure track/tenured faculty member, if qualified nominees are available.” [Shea left] Schubert remarked if one reads the wording it is difficult to define who non-tenure track faculty is.

Lahey remarked it appears Chancellor Perlman has no misgivings. Woodman noted the Executive Committee basically gave themselves permission to have a non-tenured faculty member on the Executive Committee, we just informed the Chancellor.

Harbison pointed out the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees provides nominations for appointments to committees, the APC included. He suggested adding two more election slots so there are ten members elected instead of the current eight. Harbison indicated wording in the Bylaws would then need to be revised. [Shipley left] APC membership determined further discussion on whether to formally request to the Faculty Senate concerning designation of two additional positions be an agenda item at its next meeting.

Lahey inquired if there were any other comments and there were none. He thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

Other Business

Lahey asked if there was other business and there was none.

There being no other business, Harbison moved and Jones seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Campus Nebraska Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator

