

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Approved Minutes
October 15, 2014

Members Present

Mike Hoffman, Chair	Stephen Lahey	Linda Shipley
Nancy Busch	Martha McCollough	Curtis Walker
Leslie Delserone	William Nunez	Tyler White
Ronnie Green	Jamie Radcliffe	
Libby Jones	Patrick Shea	

Members Absent

Archie Clutter	Prem Paul	Ellen Weissinger
Kevin Knudson	William Wagner	

Others Present

Charles O'Connor, Dean of Hixon-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts

Hoffman called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. He stated a quorum was present.

Approval of October 1, 2014 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the October 1, 2014 general meeting was moved by Busch and seconded by Radcliffe.

Hoffman asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. The Minutes were approved without dissent.

Update on Activities of the College of Architecture and the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts Merge

Hoffman asked Lahey and Delserone, the subcommittee tasked to review the proposed merger, to present their updated findings on the activities involved in the College of Architecture and the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts merger.

Lahey welcomed and introduced Charles (Chuck) O'Connor, the Dean of Hixon-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. Lahey then gave an overview of the results found after conducting the APC survey for the faculty involved in the merger. He remarked that there were a number of benefits that would come along with the merger and informed that there were questions among the faculty about why the merger was necessary and why it needed to occur in the near future. It was noted that there seemed to be a fair amount of dissent among some of the faculty surveyed, and that questions about the forecast for the fate of the College of Architecture in the coming years had arisen from quite a few. O'Connor clarified that while some faculty members involved in the merger were strongly opposed, many were more ambivalent and had more positive outlooks on the process and were willing to move forward.

Lahey inquired if there were questions or comments from the committee directed either towards the subcommittee for the merger or for Dean O'Connor. Brief discussion on the strategic planning process in place for this merger and how this would affect the APC's ability to mark the merger with approval or disapproval between Hoffman and O'Connor occurred. Lahey questioned how the timeline for the strategic planning process would work. O'Connor responded that it might be prepared as soon as January 2015 and that the APC would be able to vote on it after that time. Lahey remarked the APC would need an outline by January 2015 of how the strategic plan will proceed and how concerns will be addressed. [Green arrived]

Shea questioned who initiated the idea of this merger and why they believed it was necessary. O'Connor pointed out that many other programs in the Big Ten had merged architecture with arts to great success and that it seemed appropriate given the size of our architecture college. He also stated that the Chancellor and the Senior Vice Chancellor had initiated the idea of a merger between the two colleges. Shea responded with concern that the decision was more heavily based on business as opposed to academic benefits. O'Connor answered that while it was a mix of both, the academic side takes precedence and that there would be many benefits from merging the two colleges for all of those involved. [White arrived]

Hoffman asked if endowments from each college would be pooled or kept separate. O'Connor replied that the College of Architecture doesn't carry as many endowments as the College of Fine and Performing Arts and that the decision whether or not endowments would be pooled had not been made at this time. It was noted that there were no forecasted budget cuts involved in the merger, but that there may be reassignment of faculty and staff involved. Lahey commented that the Chancellor was in favor of the merger and believed that it would bring many benefits to both sides.

Hoffman asked for questions or further discussion on the topic. Lahey noted that both of the Deans involved in the merger process had been extremely helpful. Hoffman again asked for further questions or comments and there were none. Hoffman thanked O'Connor and O'Connor thanked the APC for their time. [O'Connor left]

APC Representative Academic Program Review Report for the Department of Food Science and Technology

Lahey introduced his APR report for the Department of Food Science and Technology. [attached to permanent record] He noted that his computer with the report had crashed and that the current report received was a reconstructed version and not the original. Lahey concluded that the Department of Food Science and Technology was an amazing department and overall very impressively run. Green brought up administrative presence in the reviews process that Lahey had mentioned in his report and noted that he believed those present at the reviews were there because of their invested interest in the results.

Lahey stated that that he had presented all of his findings. Hoffman inquired if there were further comments or discussion on the topic and there were none. The report was accepted by APC membership.

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

Hoffman asked Green if he had any matters to share.

Green stated in early September it had been announced a new hiring wave to come in the IANR. He said 34 tenure track faculty positions across the Institute were released this month, similar to the previous hiring wave, prioritized into the areas of importance. He indicated that not all of the positions were new lines, only half, the remaining were turn over lines from retirement and attrition.

Green shared that VSIP (Voluntary Separation Incentive Program) is showing some early interest. He said this was anticipated. He conveyed the Institute, as well as Academic Affairs, is thinking of the needs of how one prioritizes what lines become available once it is known at the end of the process.

Green indicated Chancellor Perlman had announced SVCAA Weissinger will return to the faculty at the end of this fiscal year during his State of the University address. He expressed this is a loss. He informed membership that the Chancellor had asked him to chair the search committee for this position opening. He indicated work had begun on formation of this committee. He added the hope was to kick off the search as soon as possible so the search can identify potential candidates for a seamless transition with no interim period in the senior vice chancellor role.

Green remarked that it is difficult time in higher education to recruit for certain positions despite our entrance to the Big Ten due to the fact that the level of depth of candidates nationally are not interested in upper administration roles. He expressed that they would work hard at identifying an acceptable pool of candidates.

Green asked for questions or comments on the topics and there were none. Hoffman thanked Green for his report.

Other Business

Hoffman asked if there was any other business. There was none.

There being no other business, Walker moved and Hoffman seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Jones and
Michelle (Shelly) Green
APC Coordinator