

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Approved Minutes
November 4, 2015

Members Present

Leslie Delserone
Gerard Harbison
Maria Marron
Curtis Walker
Patrick Shea

Ronnie Green
Mike Hoffman
Guy Trainin
Tyler White
Nancy Busch

William Wagner
Thien Chau
Ron Yoder
Melanie Simpson

Members Absent

Michael Farrell

William Nunez

Prem S. Paul

Others Attending

Jennifer Clarke, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology
Matthew Dwyer, Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Suzette Person, Associate Professor of Practice, Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Director, Software Engineering Program
Lance Perez, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

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

Approval of October 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the October 7, 2015 general meeting was moved by Trainin and seconded by Wagner.

Delserone stated the minutes were posted in Box and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. The Minutes were approved without dissent. [Walker arrived]

Action Item - Proposal for a PhD Major in Complex Biosystems and Specializations [attached to permanent record]

Delserone stated the next item of business was a proposal for an interdisciplinary Complex Biosystems PhD Program and five proposed Areas of Specialization. She indicated Harbison and Hoffman were the subcommittee that reviewed that proposal and asked them to report.

Harbison indicated he and Hoffman had reviewed the proposal, which was very detailed and quite substantial. He said this proposal involved collaboration between multiple departments and colleges. The Office of Graduate Studies will administer the program. He informed membership that he and Hoffman had submitted a list of questions to Melanie Simpson and Jennifer Clarke, who answered the questions quite adequately.

Harbison indicated the subcommittee recommends APC approval of the proposal to establish an interdisciplinary PhD program in Complex Biosystems and specializations in 1) Systems Analysis, 2) Integrative Plant Biology, 3) Microbial Interactions, 4) Pathobiology and Biomedical Science, and 5) Computational Organismal Biology, Ecology, and Evolution and introduced a motion to do so. As a motion from a subcommittee, no second is needed.

Delserone asked if there were any discussion or questions on the proposal.

Shea remarked he liked the proposal, that this proposal was very forward looking, and that he was very supportive of this proposal. He wondered what is envisioned. Is this a program to potentially add additional specializations as warranted? What is the thinking down the road? Simpson replied this had been discussed extensively as each of the participating 18 or so departments had asked that question. She informed membership the five specializations were designed around groups that had a critical mass of faculty and envisioned bringing in students to study in that particular specialization. In future, specializations may be added where clusters of faculty naturally comprise a working unit not represented by the existing specializations, where the cluster has a training strength in that specialization and it matches a research need in that area.

Shea questioned criteria used in terms of existing or potential funding. Simpson responded this is a very research-oriented program. She said the program itself has support for students to rotate for the full first year. At the end of the first year the student will meet with the program directors to identify the rotation mentor or co-mentors, ideally in the spirit of multi-disciplinary research. She explained the funding needed for the duration of the student's program will be through grants or teaching assistantships in collaboration with the individual's department.

Delserone asked if there were any additional questions or comments from membership and there were none. The APC voted unanimously to approve the proposed PhD in Complex Biosystems and Specializations. Delserone thanked the subcommittee for their time and work, Clarke for attending, and Simpson and Clarke for answering questions. Simpson and Clarke thanked the APC for its consideration.

Action Item - Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering Degree
[attached to permanent record]

Delserone indicated the next action item of business was the proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering degree as developed by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering within the College of Engineering. She introduced guests Matthew Dwyer and Suzette Person, who were present for questions, if any.

Delserone stated Marron and she were the subcommittee that reviewed this proposal. She commented this was an outstanding and very well organized proposal. She said the subcommittee did not have any questions. Marron agreed the proposal was an excellent proposal, very timely, and very well written with explanations as why this particular major was needed.

Delserone indicated the subcommittee recommends APC approval of the proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering degree as developed by the Department of

Computer Science and Engineering and introduced a motion to do so. As a motion from a subcommittee, no second is needed.

Delserone asked if membership had any questions on the proposal. There were none. The APC voted unanimously to approve the proposed Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering degree as developed by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Delserone thanked Dwyer and Person for attending. They thanked the APC. [Dwyer and Person left]

FYI Item: Parking and Transit Services Information

Delserone stated the next item was more an informational item. This information had been electronically distributed and posted on Box. [attached to permanent record] She explained this information related to a question/concern from the APC Long-range Planning Subcommittee regarding parking and transit services, especially when it came to the weekends and evenings. She asked Wagner, Chair of the Long-range Planning subcommittee, if he wished to comment. [Clarke left]

Wagner replied he did not have much to say. He remarked the coverage seems reasonable in terms of the evenings and weekends, the only real problem could be during the summer, there are fewer students on campus at that time.

Delserone further explained this was in response to faculty comments shared last year with the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee. There was concern particularly about international students needing to get to labs to do lab work on the weekend and the campus buses were not operating. These students did not have any other mode of transportation to get to the laboratories. She remarked the route coverage has seemingly increased over the last year.

Delserone asked if there were any comments or questions about this transit information. There were none.

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

Delserone asked Perez if he had any matters to share on behalf of Green. Perez indicated he had nothing to report. Delserone thanked Perez.

Delserone asked Yoder if he had any matters to share.

Yoder indicated he would like to mention the transition of the ARDC (Agricultural Research and Development Center) near Mead, Nebraska to the Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center. He stated the current Northeast Research and Extension Center, located in Concord, would be a satellite to the Eastern Nebraska Center. Don Adams, previous Director of the West Central Research and Extension Center, agreed to delay retirement and stay on for one year as the transitional director. He communicated the ARDC will phase out; by June 30, 2016 it will transition into the Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center. He indicated discussion is ongoing to have resident tenure-line faculty members located at this Center in the future.

Delserone inquired if there were any questions for Yoder and there were none. She thanked Yoder. She mentioned Paul was absent due to a meeting conflict.

Other Business

Delserone announced to membership there were a couple of items for Other Business. She stated Harbison would report on the activities of the Aesthetics Review Committee (ARC).

Harbison reported the Aesthetics Review Committee had reviewed one item, which was a chilled water storage facility. He said this facility would be located on the other side of Antelope Valley Parkway. He voiced he had definite reservations regarding this chilled water storage facility. He said this is a huge tank – 120 feet high by 100 feet wide and would be located 400 feet from a residential neighborhood – and shared his concern about the visual impact of this structure. He pointed out the architectural firm had recommended changing the color scheme to minimize it. He commented he felt this was an important effort, but was annoyed at the rapidity of the review-to-decision process. He stated he was not aware of the final outcome of that matter, and would email the ARC Chair to inquire. He added his concern was a process issue.

Discussion ensued. Delserone asked Harbison who is the Committee Chair. Harbison responded Emily Casper. Delserone asked White, the previous APC representative on ARC, if this was consistent with his experience when he served. White replied that it was somewhat similar, and shared that, in the preceding year, concerns were expressed regarding documents that were forwarded to the ARC within days of an expected vote. Trainin wondered if ARC was just a rubber stamp. White communicated that ARC members had specifically met last year to discuss the longer range function of the Committee and how to keep it from being just a rubber stamp with last minute proposals. Busch commented that, from her perspective, this Committee is not a rubber stamp. She referenced significant changes made on a recent library signage project based on the input of the ARC. Tyler commented the APC representative is in some ways odd man out on that committee as the other committee members are involved with architecture or facilities or specialists in that area. Delserone pointed out the APC representative brings a different perspective to the ARC. Discussion concluded that Delserone would contact the Committee Chair. Delserone thanked Harbison for his report. [Green arrived]

Delserone informed membership that Shea had a matter to share with the Committee. Shea stated he would like to discuss an APC procedural issue. He stated his observation that when the APC considers a proposal, the proposers are invited to the meeting to answer questions on the proposal and often times administrators associated with the proposal may be present. He said following APC procedure, after discussion and Q&A, the APC votes on the proposal with the proposers and others involved still present in the room, not allowing the APC itself to have its own discussion or deliberation on the proposal. He voiced his concern that for some this could be problematic, and suggested that, after the Question and Answer session, the APC ask the proposers and other involved to step out of the room so the APC can have the opportunity to discuss, deliberate and vote. He said the outcome could be relayed to proposers if they wish to wait. He queried the Committee to possibly change the procedure so there is not an opportunity for concern or any awkwardness.

Delserone asked if there any comments.

Shea moved and Trainin seconded to change the APC procedure to go into a closed session during deliberation and voting of a proposal and that all APC members that are involved in a particular proposal step aside.

Delserone asked if there were further comments. Harbison suggested Shea draft wording to forward to Delserone for discussion at the next APC meeting. Shea indicated he would.

Delserone called for a vote. The APC voted to support.

There being no other business, Harbison moved and Trainin seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green, APC Coordinator