

MINUTES

April 7, 2021

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Bloom, Buan, Clarke, Everhart, Gay, Geisinger, Hachtmann, Hebets, Latta Konecky, Moberly, Rodene, Smith, Spiller, Tschetter, Wilhelm, Zeleny

Members Absent: Ankerson, Boehm, Miller

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Academic Planning Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call

Geisinger called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2.0 Approval of March 10, 2021 Minutes

Geisinger asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved by acclamation.

3.0 Review of the Proposal to Establish the Statistics & Data Analytics Bachelor of Science Program (Buan and Gay)

Buan reported that she and Gay have additional questions about the proposal and will be meeting with Dean Heng-Moss, Professor Clarke (chair of the Statistics Department), and Associate Dean Blankenship next week.

4.0 Review of the Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Acting (Boehm and Geisinger)

Geisinger noted that there is already a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, but the proposal is to establish a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree which is needed for more professional actors. He reported that the BFA degree would be in concert with the Nebraska Repertory Theatre and provides certification of professional actors. He pointed out that only approximately 50 universities in the country offer a BFA in Acting. He stated that the Theatre department is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre, and only UNL and Penn State would have an accredited BFA program.

Geisinger stated that he did have two questions. The first is about the 120 credit hours, 83 of them would come from the department of Theatre, and he asked if there are other majors which have the majority of their credit hours earned within the department. He noted that the proposal did not provide financial information or what the income would be, but the proposal stated that the department envisions enrolling 16 students per year. He stated that 12 new courses would be added but other courses would be deleted, and no new personnel is required for the program.

Bloom asked if the BFA program here would be similar to the structure of a BFA at other institutions. Geisinger stated that the proposal did not provide information about this.

Gay questioned what would happen with the existing Bachelor of Arts degree. Geisinger reported that the department would eliminate this degree. Gay asked what the substantive difference is with the BFA program. Spiller pointed out that the BFA is more technical in orientation and it provides a more legible credential for students who want to work professionally in theatre. She noted that the current B.A. does not necessarily have a professional focus. She stated that the longer track of the BFA aligns with professional requirements and stated that for students looking for credentials the BFA will be a competitive recruiting advance and the program will be very appealing for those who want to act professionally.

Geisinger moved for approval of the proposal. Griffin noted that Boehm was traveling from western Nebraska and was not able to connect with the meeting, but he called and stated that he would support approval of the proposal. The APC approved the motion.

5.0 APC Representative Needed for Food Science and Technology Academic Program Review, October 3-7

Latta Konecky agreed to serve as the APC representative for the Food Science and Technology APR.

6.0 Reports from EVC Spiller, VC Boehm, and VC Wilhelm

EVC Spiller

Spiller reported that things are going well in Academic Affairs and stated that our campus-wide accreditation documents are being reviewed because we will be going through the institutional accreditation process in a few years.

Spiller reported that her office is working on planning promotion and tenure celebrations. She noted that UNL will have the largest graduating class in its history, and we are well positioned to end the semester safely and productively.

Spiller stated that in the fall she hopes to bring a proposal forward to the APC which brings together robust groups of stakeholders, and that involves UNMC and public health.

Geisinger asked if there is a proposal for a phased retirement plan. Spiller stated that AVC Walker worked on a modified retirement plan for faculty who might want to step back from their responsibilities but not completely retire. She stated that information on the phased retirement plan can be found at <https://executivevc.unl.edu/faculty/searches-appointments/phased-retirement>.

Spiller stated that her office is working on an instructional continuity plan which would provide us with a structured mechanism that would allow individual faculty members to communicate with their students about how class will be conducted during times of inclement weather when the campus is closed. She noted that students would need to check Canvas to see how they would gain access to the class that would be taught remotely. She pointed out that having this

plan would give faculty a little more control in how to manage their course(s) if the campus cannot operate in a safe way.

VC Wilhelm

Wilhelm reported that we continue to see good, steady growth in our scholarly and creative activities and outside funded projects. He stated that the recognition of our faculty across the disciplines is substantial with faculty members being published in highly respected journals, increased funding being awarded, and increased expenditures which have been more than last year.

Wilhelm stated that the UNL Human Research Protection Program is committed to maintaining the highest ethical principles in the conduct of research with human subjects. He noted that the program is in the accreditation process and we just presented evidence and had a site visit. He stated that the response from the review team was very good and he thinks we will have no problems finishing the accreditation process which should be completed in June. He noted that the accreditation will be for a period of five years.

Buan stated that it was great to hear about increases in expenditures and research and creative activities. She recalled that there is a metric related to this in the N2025 plan and the number of faculty involved. She asked if the increases in expenditures and in research/creative activities reflects an increase in the number of faculty participating. Wilhelm stated that he does not have that information yet, but a dashboard is being created for the ORED website which will provide this information.

Buan noted that there was a report in the news about an FBI raid on an UNMC administrator's home and asked if this would create a problem for UNL faculty members who are collaborating with UNMC. Wilhelm stated that the individual had a long career assignment with UNMC, but he has not been on the faculty at UNMC for several years. He pointed out that he believes ORED has made a great deal of progress in telling our faculty members what is acceptable research.

7.0 Other Business

Zeleny reported that the Chancellor will give his annual report to the APC at the next meeting and the Project Initiation Request Committee will be presenting a proposal for consideration. He pointed out that the APC will more than likely need to meet again in early May to complete its work for this year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 3:00 by Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.