

MINUTES
December 13, 2023

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Button, Clarke, Cressler, Davis, Doll, Heng-Moss, Hiatt, Hole, Jones, Latta Konecky, Minter, Mowat, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Haake, Gonzales

Members Absent: Ourada

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

1.0 Call

Clarke called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

2.0 Approval of December 6, 2023 Minutes

Clarke asked for approval of the minutes. Ankerson moved and Tschetter seconded approval of the minutes. The APC then approved the minutes.

3.0 Budget Reduction Process

3.1 Phase II Input Draft

Clarke noted that Chancellor Bennett asked the APC to provide input on the budget reduction process, particularly as it pertains to academic programs. The APC then formed a Phase II Subcommittee to analyze the data provided in the APC Factbook on the NUInsight Tableau server and the REDGI research funding database. She stated that the Subcommittee was providing advice to the APC about the data that was given to the APC and would suggest things that need to be kept in mind when recommendations are made regarding academic programs.

Clarke reported that when reviewing the data, the Phase II Subcommittee found key components that need to be considered when considering the data for academic program reductions: identifying strategic priorities, identifying guiding principles for data analysis, nuanced SCH production and research funding, reorganization versus elimination, nuances and limitations of the data.

The APC then reviewed and revised the letter that would be sent to Chancellor Bennett providing the input he requested for addressing the additional budget reductions. Vuran noted that the letter needed to be submitted to the Chancellor by Friday, December 15th. Davis stated that it would be fine if the APC wanted to submit the letter on December 18th in order to allow time to finalize the document.

Vuran reported that the transmittal letter to Chancellor Bennett stating the APC's recommendations on UNL's \$12 million budget reductions was sent on December 8th. Davis

noted that the Chancellor connected with Vuran earlier today to acknowledge receipt of the letter.

4.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, Interim VC Jones

Ankerson

Ankerson reported that 13 undergraduate students were awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship this year. She noted that this scholarship supports Pell-eligible undergraduate students with financial assistance to study or intern abroad. She pointed out that nationally 5,000 students apply for the scholarship but only approximately 1,700 are awarded.

Ankerson stated that she recently received a message from Dean Moberly stating that the Law School has been identified as one of the top 20 schools for best values in Law Colleges in the Above the Law publication.

Boehm

Boehm reported that the USDA has appropriated some federal funds to construct a standalone USDA National Center of Excellence related to regenerative and resilient precision agriculture and this facility will be built on the Nebraska Innovation Campus. He noted that there are currently 67 scientists and research staff located on east campus working on research projects in regenerative and resilient precision agriculture and the USDA facility employees will increase the number of people working in this area to approximately 150 once the facility is completed. He pointed out that \$25 million in federal appropriations money has been identified this year for building the facility and our delegation in Washington is working on trying to secure another \$31 million in federal appropriations. He stated that in total about \$140 million dollars will go to building the needed facilities and another \$20 million will be recurring funds for the faculty staff and programming. He pointed out that this is a huge investment from USDA. He reported that the Board of Regents approved the ground lease for the facility which allows for phase one of the construction to take place next year.

Boehm stated that IANR has had \$66 million in extra mural grants this year and noted that the UNL Dairy team landed a sustainable system grant. He noted that several faculty members from IANR and the College of Architecture have been working on a micro dairy that could be located within city limits. He pointed out that the dairy would be a green facility that would have very minimal impact on the environment.

Boehm noted that ground water is a major concern in Nebraska, not only conserving water but also the quality of the water. He stated that a project that is being co-led with Provost Gold will focus on insuring that every Nebraskan has clean drinking water and efforts are underway to find a way to bring people together to thank about the future of water for the state.

Jones

Jones reported that the Chancellor intends to conduct a search for the Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development in early 2024. She stated that we are entering the third year of the Grand Challenges and noted that the Chancellor continues to support the Grand Challenges and is looking at the return of investment on these efforts. She asked people to

follow her on X (formerly Twitter) as she is trying to celebrate on social media all the great work that is happening across the campus.

5.0 Other Business

Hiatt noted that this was probably her last APC meeting as she needs to step down from the committee. She wanted to take the moment to say how much she loved working with the people at UNL, how the APC work has been very fulfilling, and noted that she has bragged about UNL creating an environment that is very respectful and safe for non-tenure track faculty members. She reported that she will be taking early maternity leave and will be leaving UNL to work at Hastings College next year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, November 22, 2023. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.