

MINUTES
November 8, 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, Mowat, Ourada, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Haake, Gonzales

Members Absent:

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

Vuran called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2.0 Approval of November 1, 2023 Minutes

Vuran asked if there were any revisions or comments on the minutes. Doll noted that she attended by phone. Vuran asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tschetter moved for approval, motion seconded by Ankerson, and approved by the APC.

3.0 Budget Reduction Process

Vuran noted that the budget proposals have now been made public. Bloom and Clarke pointed out that the budget framework document that the APC approved on October 25th was not included with the budget proposals and is not on the Chancellor’s website. Davis stated that he would ensure that the budget framework is available on the website.

The APC discussed when the announcement for feedback on the proposed budget reductions would be made and when the deadline date for submission should be. The APC decided that comments need to be submitted by Friday, December 1.

The APC then went into a closed meeting to discuss changes to the proposed reductions.

4.0 Update on Proposal to Create a New Business Analytics Undergraduate Degree Major

Hiatt reported that she and Cressler reviewed the proposal and noted that there is already a minor, a masters, and a graduate certificate in Business Analytics within the College of Business and a Ph.D. in business with specialization in Supply Chain Management and Analytics. She stated that she and Cressler requested additional information about how the learning objectives line up with the program and felt that stronger quantitative statistical background was needed. She noted that the main concern is determining the difference between the proposed major with the existing data science major. She suggested that having clearer language in the proposal might help to distinguish the new program from the data science program.

Hiatt stated that the other remaining issue is that the proposal indicated that there was no need for additional faculty members but there is a plan to design new courses which would be taught by the faculty and Ph.D. students would then be used to teach the existing courses.

Ankerson recommended providing the questions to the faculty proposing the program and to have them meet with the APC to discuss their answers. Heng-Moss asked if there has been discussion about synergy between the business faculty and the data science faculty. She pointed out that there will be questions at the system level about possible duplication with the data science program. Hiatt noted that the business analytics program is unique and has an existing minor and major but there needs to be clarity on some of the programming and the learning process with the business analytics program. Ankerson suggested that she would ask the two groups to meet to discuss the concerns of possible duplication and then have the business analytics proposers attend an APC meeting.

5.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, Interim VC Jones, and VC Boehm

Ankerson noted that the accreditation visit for the College of Journalism and Mass Communications begins next week. She noted that some units have accreditation from outside sources and those that do not have an academic program review conducted.

Ankerson reported that UNL has been ranked 22nd nationally in Military Times as the best higher education institutions for veterans, and we are first in the Big Ten.

Ankerson noted that a new Director of Career Services, Ronesha Live has been hired.

Ankerson stated that approximately 25% of our students identify as first-generation students. She noted that this is first-generation student week and Friday there will be a faculty symposium for first-generation students and over 100 faculty members have subscribed to attend the event.

Ankerson noted that the last candidate for the Dean of University Libraries was on campus for interviews and wanted to thank Button for his leadership in chairing the search committee. She pointed out that two candidates will be identified on Friday for the AVC for Faculty Affairs position and interviews will be conducted during the week of Thanksgiving.

Bloom noted that the APC has oversight of the academic review process for those units who do not have an external accrediting organization. He asked if the APC could get some visibility on the recommendations made in the accreditation reports for those units that receive external accreditation. Ankerson stated that each college has the accreditation reports.

Boehm reported that IANR is having its annual all hands-on conference next week which provides the opportunity to bring all 500 people in Extension together to discuss how they can strategically engage with Nebraskans in ways that add value.

Boehm stated that the US Department of Agriculture platform is going to invest \$140 million dollars into constructing two buildings on NIC, one that will be by the greenhouses that already exist at NIC and another building will be a laboratory.

Boehm reported that last week the U.S. Senate approved 12 different appropriations bill and nested in there is \$25 million for the national center, \$3 million for the national drought mitigation center, \$2 million for an ARS land grant university to work on data and cyber security and agriculture. He pointed out that the bill still needs to go to the House of Representatives for approval.

Boehm noted that last month Nebraska Senators and Board of Regents members were invited to come to IANR where there was a dinner and then a tour of the tractor test lab and the robotics platform around agriculture. He stated that 13 Senators attended, and they were able to engage with faculty and students.

Boehm stated that there are various projects across the state taking place with the deferred maintenance funds from the State Legislature and if you are on campus you will have to navigate the Big Red fence that is blocking off the green space between the Dinsdale Learning Commons and the East Campus Union and over to the Dairy Store. He noted that this is a large landscaping project which will involve the planting of some new trees and the removal of some trees that are susceptible to emerald ash bore.

Boehm stated that two academic program reviews were conducted on east campus recently and the next steps in the process are being followed. He reported that there will be a Nebraska Space Ag Symposium held on November 30 – December 1, which will have members of the Consortium of Space, Policy, Agriculture, Climate and Extreme Environment and representatives from NASA, Honeybee Robotics and the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture in attendance.

Boehm reported that we have delegates here from the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University which we have had a partnership with for ten years with a 3 + 1 program in food science and technology. He noted the delegates are looking at possibly creating two more programs with us.

Jones noted that this Friday there will be a celebration of the faculty during the Research Fair where researchers will discuss their work and a panel of faculty recipients of the Grand Challenges will be there to discuss their work.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.