

MINUTES
September 20, 2023

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Boehm, Button, Davis, Doll, Heng-Moss, Hiatt, Hole, Kelley, Latta Konecky, Mowat, Ourada, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Wilhelm, Haake

Members Absent: Clarke, Cressler

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 3:05 p.m.

2.0 UNL Budget – VC Zeleny

Zeleny presented an overview of UNL’s budget showing the overall income and expenditures. He noted that funds coming into the budget come from several sources: grants, auxiliaries, tuition revenue, and state-aided appropriations. He stated that while the university has received some slight increases in state appropriated funds the last few years, the increase does not offset the increases in insurance premiums and the cost of utilities. He noted that UNL has a structural deficit that must be dealt with and in addition UNL will be assessed a certain portion of the overall University’s deficit. He pointed out that Chancellor Bennett has experience in dealing with budget reductions and he will be meeting again with the APC once details from Central Administration have been received. Doll asked what the timeline would be for the APC to make its recommendations on the proposed budget reductions. Zeleny stated that he believes the Chancellor would like to have the work done by December 31.

3.0 Approval of September 6, 2023 Minutes

Vuran asked if there were revisions to the minutes. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Boehm moved and Doll seconded approval of the minutes. Motion carried by the APC.

4.0 Report on Long-Range Planning Committee

Boehm reported that the committee had an hour-long meeting and the conversation centered around whether the committee could be proactively helpful in assisting the APC’s work with the budget reductions. He stated that the committee decided to put its work on hold until we hear from the Chancellor. He noted that it was the consensus of the committee that it would be helpful to have some kind of communication with the faculty and staff about where we currently stand with the budget reductions.

5.0 Review of Proposal to Create a New Undergraduate Major in Business Analytics

Hiatt reported that the proposal was not going up for a vote of the APC today because there were some questions that she and Cressler felt needed to be addressed. She stated that the report will be given at a future meeting.

6.0 Changes in APC Reps for Biochemistry APR, and Agronomy and Horticulture APR

Griffin reported that Clarke would be serving as the APC representative on the Biochemistry APR as Latta Konecky had a family medical emergency and Clarke was replaced by Hiatt for the Agronomy and Horticulture APR.

7.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, and VC Wilhelm

Ankerson

Ankerson reported that she experienced a wonderful celebration of excellence recently at the Laurels which highlights those who have achieved recognition for research and creative activity, for distinguished recognition by their national disciplinary association, excellence in teaching, mentoring, and advising, and exemplary leadership.

Ankerson stated that she was inspired by the EN Thompson Forum on September 18th the theme was “Uprooted: Displacement, Migration and Searching for Home” and the first speaker was Parag Khanna, a global strategy advisor, and author. She suggested that if you were not able to watch or attend that you watch the recorded version when it becomes available.

Ankerson announced that next week is the NU Developing Excellence in Academic Leaders Program (modeled after our BTAA ALP program); each campus has 4 representatives, and those from UNL participating this year are: Shannon Bartelt-Hunt, chair of Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering; Peter Eklund, professor in Glenn Korff School of Music and Faculty Senate president-elect; Deepak Keshwani, associate professor of biological systems engineering; and Catherine Wilson, associate professor in the College of Law and chair of the Chancellor’s Commission on the Status of People of Color.

Ankerson pointed out that a number of College/Department advisory boards will be meeting over the next few weeks and noted that these are an excellent opportunity to showcase activities, and to gain valuable insight while building the knowledge of advocates.

Boehm

Boehm noted that once May graduation is over, many students and faculty from IANR are out in the fields across the state working and he welcomes them back to campus along with new unit leaders in Biological Systems Engineering (Professor Mark Stone), Animal Science (Professor Deborah VanOverbeke), School of Natural Resources (Professor Larkin Powell). He reported that this summer Heng-Moss organized a trip across Nebraska with himself, and five IANR unit leaders. He noted that they stopped in Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, and Scottsbluff and visited with the high school principals and pointed out that speaking directly in person was very powerful and enables collaboration.

Boehm reported that the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has received a five-year, \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Serve to focus on strengthening Nebraska’s urban forest infrastructure in disadvantaged communities across the state. He

pointed out that this is just one of the many ways the University connects with the people of Nebraska.

Boehm noted that last year the forest fire at Halsey destroyed the last residential 4-H camp in the State. He stated that Halsey had the largest human-planted forest in the country and dates to the era of John Muir. He stated that the Halsey 4-H campus provided a great platform for educating students. He reported that efforts are under way to create a Sandhills Discovery Center and funding is being provided through a private/public funding arrangement with Nebraska 4-H using the \$2 million insurance money that was received after the fire for the construction of the Discovery Center. He reported that the final cost could be \$25-40 million but noted that the University is not providing any funding, although it will be able to use the facility.

Boehm stated that the Daughtery Water for Food Global Institute has submitted a proposal for obtaining a U.S. AID food laboratory. He pointed out that we used to have a sorghum food laboratory about 15 years ago, but we lost the funding for it. He stated that if awarded the university would receive \$19 million with an additional \$21 million to follow should we get the food laboratory.

Wilhelm

Wilhelm reported that Dr. Aemal Khattak of the Mid-America Transportation Center has received a five-year, \$15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. He noted that the award will be used for further research to improve transportation safety and equity. He pointed out that the Center has a long history of receiving federal funding.

Wilhelm stated that another proposal for federal funding is in the works for innovation ecosystems and we would be partnering with a regional entity if we receive the award. He noted that the funding would come from the Economic Development Agency with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the grant would be directed towards the life and medical sciences.

Wilhelm noted that a research development program has kicked off to help faculty members with their research efforts. He stated that the development program is for faculty members who are early in their career, and it assists them with how to obtain external funding. He noted that there is a Research Leaders Program which helps mid-career faculty members to take leadership roles in research across disciplines.

Wilhelm reported that the work on revising the Conflict of Interest in Research Policy is being finished. He noted that this was a complicated endeavor because it is associated with the University's Conflict of Commitment Policy and the Outside Professional Activity policy.

8.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, October 4, 2023. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.