

**University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Academic Planning Committee**

**Approved Minutes  
October 3, 2007**

Members Present

Mary K. Bolin	Barbara A. Couture	Dwayne Ball
John C. Owens	David Fowler	David Solheim
Steven S. Waller	Craig J. Eckhardt	Sarah Morris
Jamie Radcliffe	F. Edwin Harvey	Jeffrey F. Keown
Prem S. Paul	John Bender	

Members Absent

William J. Nunez	David H. Allen
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Guests

Douglas S. Zatechka, Director, Housing Administration  
Margaret Miller, Manager, FM&P Facilities Plan and Construction  
Karoline Kastenek, Student, Majoring in Business and Agriculture Journalism

Bolin called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

Bolin welcomed guests Douglas Zatechka, Margaret Miller, and Karoline Kastenek. Bolin stated that Zatechka and Miller were present to answer any questions pertaining to the PIR Residence Hall at 17<sup>th</sup> and R Streets and Kastenek was a student “shadowing” Dean Steve Waller.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Radcliffe referred to page 1, Members Present, and requested that the spelling of **Jaime** Radcliffe name be corrected to **Jamie** Radcliffe. Couture also had a revision in the “Issues from Vice Chancellor” on page 3. Couture will email her revision to the APC Coordinator for incorporation into the minutes.

Approval of the Minutes from the September 5, 2007 meeting was moved by Ball. Keown seconded and the Minutes with the requested revisions were approved without dissent.

Approval of Officers, Subcommittee Members, and Representatives on University-Wide Committees

[Handout attached to permanent record]

Bolin referred to the “packet” of handouts given to each APC member and asked for approval.

Harvey stated previously the Chair-Elect of APC has been the Chair of this subcommittee so he should not be the chair of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee. [Bender arrived]

Bolin asked if there were any further changes needed. There were none.

Approval of the Officers, Subcommittee Members, and Representatives on University-Wide Committees was moved by Ball. Radcliffe seconded and appointments were approved without dissent.

Subcommittee Appointment – Master of Science (Construction) – Graduate Degree Proposal [Copy of full proposal attached to permanent record]

Bolin indicated to APC members that subcommittee members were needed for the proposal. Bolin indicated the purpose of this subcommittee is to review and discuss this proposal then report back to APC. Bender and Keown volunteered to serve on this review subcommittee. The appointments were supported by APC membership.

Project Initiation Request (PIR) of Residence Hall at 17<sup>th</sup> & R Streets [Report attached to permanent record]

Bolin asked Ball and Radcliffe, who were the PIR subcommittee members present, to report on this PIR and again introduced guest, Douglas Zatechka, who as well as Margaret Miller, was present to answer any questions. Ball indicated the PIR subcommittee members [Nunez, Ball, and Radcliffe] had meet with Douglas Zatechka, Howard Parker, and Sue Gildersleeve to discuss this PIR. Ball stated besides the impact on parking with the pending construction, which he remarked is a separate issue, this PIR is excellent and the subcommittee did not foresee any additional problems. Zatechka informed APC members the Housing Administration has looked at different footprints when construction is completed so they are not oblivious to the parking problems. He also informed members the new building will displace approximately 200 parking places, maybe a few more with construction equipment such as cranes, however this project will pay to replace those parking spots in a parking structure planned for 19<sup>th</sup> and Vine Streets to be completed in Summer 2009. Zatechka stated that he doesn't have all of the answers for parking problems but feels the University Parking Services are doing good things with what they have. [Fowler arrived]

Zatechka stated that a downtime in admissions will come at some point in the future, but the financial models for this project are very good for a one, two, or even a three year decline. [Morris arrived]

Bolin asked if there were any comments or questions.

Waller asked if this investment would postpone any projects on East Campus. Zatechka responded that we can't really tell with certainty but thus far even when factoring in this new project, Housing is still doing well financially Zatechka stated the University is two months into the Master Plan and is aware that the one item neglected is East Campus projects. But we are addressing these issues and hoping the Master Plan will help clarify and guide.

Owens mentioned an interesting article in today's *Daily Nebraskan*. Owens said this article, entitled "The gap between East and City", in his words refer to "shop worn" buildings. Zatechka replied all are anxious to see improvements and noted these improvements could even improve utility costs.

Keown asked if this project included cost of sprinkling the building. Zatechka answered yes and stated new buildings are required to complete sprinkling as required by current fire code and campus standards. He said regarding sprinkling projects, two recent new halls have both individual rooms and corridors sprinkled and in older facilities, 94% of the sprinkling projects are completed.

Bolin asked if there were any questions from the student representatives.

Solheim asked what the difference is between suite style and apartment style housing. Zatechka answered that a suite style has a full bathroom with two sinks, storage, and a mini living room where as the apartment style has all of these features plus a kitchen area.

Morris asked for clarification that this proposed project did not include a dining center and Zatechka acknowledged she was correct. Eckhardt asked Zatechka if he was correct in stating there was not the ability to cook in this proposed hall. Zatechka confirmed he was correct and added the only item available for cooking would be a microwave.

Morris inquired if the suite style space was comparable to Husker Court. Zatechka replied the bedrooms were considerably larger. Zatechka informed the group that he and Margaret Miller were still working on reconfiguring the area and mentioned trips to Missouri and Kansas to view other residence halls for ideas.

Morris asked about common space. Zatechka said there would be two to four people sharing the common space.

Bolin asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none.

This PIR came to the committee moved and seconded. The proposal was unanimously approved by APC membership.

#### Issues from Vice Chancellors

Couture referred to two handouts regarding UNL's General Education Reform Initiative, known as the Achievement-Centered Education or ACE program, that were in the members' handout packets. Couture indicated that significant progress has been made and the soon to be distributed program proposals are both pragmatic and substantive. Couture said a review and revision was needed of the University's present general education program and our pledge to revise the program to focus on learning outcomes was a feature of UNL's North Central Accreditation review. The NCA review team was pleased with this commitment and the university was spared from censure for not having, at present, a way of assessing general education outcomes. Couture said there are two committees that have worked on the review and reform effort: the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) and the General Education Planning Team (GEPT). Couture conveyed to members that updated drafts of the third and fourth proposals have been distributed to faculty and are close to approval. She explained the first proposal, with approved changes by GEAC on September 28, 2007, will be turned over to the colleges for review and approval. Couture referenced the second proposal and said that it had already been approved by all eight colleges. Couture remarked that if anyone needs to comment on the proposals, now is the time as October 11th will be the last time to submit suggestions for change. Couture said the new program guidelines are clear and will allow faculty to do their best work in designing courses for the program.

Couture then pointed to the FAQ's information sheet on the proposed general education program and indicated that it isn't intended to be a policy document, but rather it is intended to provide answers to questions about the proposed guidelines. Couture informed APC members that GEAC

will meet on October 5th and 12<sup>th</sup> for a final review of the proposals. Couture said she is deeply impressed by the depth of conversations and concern for students expressed by committee members and the faculty as a whole. These proposals can be viewed online at [www.unl.edu/svcaa/gened](http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/gened).

Eckhardt commented that Part 4 could flounder. He is amazed by detail. He personally has no opinion on the proposal but people talking to him suggest it may lack support. Couture responded that she has been talking with the Chancellor regarding ways to use ITLE funding as an opportunity to develop these courses. But again, this is in faculty hands.

Ball asked if this committee has any control over curriculum. Couture replied no, this committee doesn't control curriculum, the Colleges have the control.

Bolin asked members if there were any questions or comments for Couture on the ACE proposals. There were none. Bolin thanked Couture and reminded members to view the website if wish to input comments. [Handouts attached to permanent record]

Bolin asked Owens if he had any comments or updates for the committee. Owens replied that he would like to share two updates. These are as follows:

- 1) Owens announced the classes for the Cooperative Program in Veterinary Medicine program began this fall. Owens informed members there are 25 students in this program and stated "good faculty, good students, and a good program" that will eventually reach 50 students.
- 2) Owens informed of renovations on two buildings: the Animal Science Complex and Keim Hall. Owens stated the Animal Science Complex is mostly HVAC (heating, ventilation and air condition) system renovation so the building will look the same however; Keim Hall is a total renovation. Owens said all departments will have to re-locate out of the building as the renovation will be extensive.

Owens mentioned again the East Campus residence hall buildings and indicated he was pleased to hear earlier that Doug mentioned the possibility of future renovations. Owens said that the residence halls are an embarrassment. Owens told APC members that a colleague had come back to campus to visit and had said the residence halls "look exactly the same as they did in 1963!" Owens referenced the DN article and conveyed his thought that these facilities are an important part of the student experience and was pleased to hear renovations might be forthcoming.

Bolin asked APC members is there were any further comments or questions for Owens. There were none. She thanked Owens.

Bolin asked Paul if he wished to address the committee. Paul provided an update on research funding and told APC membership that last year a record was set on funding and grants and for the second year in a row research topped \$100 million. This is again good news for the university. Paul expressed that the environment in Washington, D.C. is quite different and funding has not kept up with inflation. Paul suggested that to keep pace, UNL research will just have to be aggressive – a fact which cannot be stressed enough.

Paul conveyed that one way to be aggressive and competitive is to explore partnerships with others and mentioned two upcoming workshops. The first workshop mentioned was the *Frontiers in Laser*

*Research* on October 18th and 19th in conjunction with the Department of Defense. Paul said one of the goals of this workshop it to build a closer working relationship with “Stratcom.” [U.S. Strategic Command, or USSTRATCOM, is one on nine U.S. unified commands under the Department of Defense.] The other workshop mentioned was the *Partnerships in Climate Change Science* to be held on October 24th and 25th. Paul said the Office of Research is working with USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) to collaboratively bring increased awareness to the topic.

Bolin asked members if there were any questions or comments for Paul and there were none. Bolin thanked Paul.

#### Other Business

Couture invited members to the Initiative for Teaching and Learning Excellence Teaching and Learning Workshop: ITLE-4, where Dr. Chris Thaiss of the University of California-Davis is a speaker. Couture said this lecture will be held on Friday, October 5, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at the Kauffman Center.

Bolin asked members if there were any questions or further comments and there were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator