

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

**Approved Minutes  
November 28, 2007**

Members Present

Mary K. Bolin	Barbara A. Couture	Dwayne Ball
David H. Allen	David Fowler	David Solheim
William J. Nunez	Craig J. Eckhardt	Jeffrey F. Keown
Jamie Radcliffe	F. Edwin Harvey	Sarah Morris
Prem S. Paul	John Bender	

Members Absent

Steven S. Waller	John C. Owens
------------------	---------------

Others Attending

Joan Giesecke, Dean, University Libraries  
Susan Fritz, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
David Wilson, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Bolin stated a quorum had been established and called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Bolin welcomed guests who were present in support and to discuss or answer any questions pertaining to the appropriate agenda item.

Name Change of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Veterinary Technologist to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Veterinary Technology [Copy of full proposal attached to permanent record]

Bolin informed APC members that Susan Fritz was present to address APC on this matter. Fritz stated she was in attendance to represent John Owens and Steven Waller as the name change comes from the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. She indicated the name change is requested to essentially remove the awkward degree description and to better define what student will study. Bolin pointed out to APC members that all should have received all documents. Bolin also indicated the change seems very straight forward. She asked if there were any questions and there were none. [Solheim arrived]

Ball moved to accept the name change of Veterinary Technologist to Veterinary Technology. The motion was seconded by Bender and unanimously approved.

Bolin congratulated Fritz on the name change and approval.

The Future of Libraries and the Implication and Potential of the APC[Handouts attached to permanent record]

Bolin welcomed Joan Giesecke, Dean of the University Libraries. Bolin explained to Giesecke that at the last APC meeting upcoming serious budget cuts to the Libraries and APC'S role in this matter were discussed, and led to the invitation to Dean Giesecke. [Eckhardt arrived]

Giesecke distributed several handouts. She first described the context of the library and then what has happened to the Libraries' budget this year, and what has been done to deal with the budget problems [Fowler arrived]

Giesecke drew attention to the handout entitled "University Libraries Strategic Planning 2007-2008", where there are four priorities listed. Giesecke stated she included this sheet as a summary of the Libraries plan. She then briefly reviewed each priority.

Eckhardt asked about the Libraries F&A funds. Giesecke responded that the Libraries receive \$178,000 from F&A funds. The Universities grants now total over \$100 million this year. Eckhardt inquired if this should be reinvestigated. Giesecke replied that the matter has been proposed to the Vice Chancellor and the Chancellor.

Giesecke said that the other three handouts illustrate the Libraries budget and serials and database budget planning.

The first handout Giesecke discussed was the "Serials" handout. The Libraries will spend \$5.7M in 2007-2008; however there is only \$4.1M in budget. She indicated by taking all of the accessible fee money, all Foundation funds, all undesignated funds, and all the carry over funds in the credit hour fee to come up with the \$5.7M amount, the Libraries reserves will be drained by the end of the fiscal year.

Giesecke discussed the handout entitled "University Libraries 2007-2008 Budget", in which the credit hour fee and the state budget amounts are shown, and stated the important part of this chart is located in the right column named Credit Hour Fee 07-08 budget. She indicated this chart reveals Libraries revenue plus the carryover sum to make the Libraries income a total of \$1.1M a year and indicated that all but \$20,000 will be used for library materials. She further explained the salaries and benefits restructuring in which positions that were paid from the credit hour fee were transferred to state funds. The credit hour fee is now being used for monographs as well as serials.

Giesecke stated that even with the budget restructuring, more funding was still needed. The final handout shows the proposed increase in the credit hour fee, which was given to Administration and discussed with ASUN. Any increase would go towards library materials and that even with a 20% cut in serial commitments and with an increase in the fee, by 2009-2010 the Libraries will be short \$260,000. Giesecke hopes that UNL continues to look at various options to improve library funding.

Giesecke informed APC members that in order to cut 20% of the Libraries serials expenses, a spreadsheet will be sent to departments early in the Spring 2008 semester. Departments will be asked to recommend cutting titles in their subject areas. The spreadsheet will need to be returned by the end of February and will be available for campus viewing in March.

Eckhardt inquired about the amount of indirect cost rate the library receives. Giesecke replied that currently UNL received \$100M in grant money and the Libraries receive a small percentage of that amount. She also noted that UNL, not the Libraries, negotiates the formula with the federal government. Eckhardt questioned why the Libraries could not be included in the negotiations as by not being included they are putting the faculties' ability to generate further money at risk. Eckhardt suggested the APC should be involved earlier when budget cuts are involved, not later as the process is now. Giesecke acknowledged this was one of the topics brought up with the consultants and suggested that this might be a topic on which APC and faculty could offer assistance.

Keown remarked as a graduate of UNL and two other universities there were direct mailings from the Libraries to graduates asking for money. He asked if the Library was allowed to do this sort of mailing. Giesecke responded the Libraries have solicited funding from a variety of groups and noted there has been

some success. But, funds are limited as colleges also need to solicit funding as well. She noted the Alumni Association has assisted some with solicitation of funds and that the Foundation has also been helpful soliciting some major donors and expressed this assistance has helped a great deal.

Harvey pointed out we are moving more and more towards electronic media and inquired if any thought had been given to combining Libraries with other universities to create a larger on-line pool. Giesecke replied the Libraries do have a number of consortial subscription packages.

Fowler asked whether the Digital Commons is run by UNL Libraries. Giesecke replied the Libraries does operate the Digital Commons. [Morris arrived]

Bolin said that she continues to strongly believe that one solution to the high cost of scholarly journals is open access, peer reviewed journals edited and published by the scholars themselves in every community and believes this is doable. Giesecke acknowledged the Libraries have three open access journals available to faculty.

Ball voiced his intention to bring the Libraries issue before the faculty of his college (College of Business Administration) as a resolution and hopes that all others do the same.

Eckhardt expressed his amazement that Administration would take such a stand in which the Libraries would lose 20% of their Serials collection and also believes that faculty should be aware of the situation in order to better support the Libraries with this issue. Giesecke replied that Administration does understand the issue and are supportive of this issue; however she noted faculty and department also have budget problems so there will be a trade off.

Eckhardt wondered how all of the F & A funds were being distributed and stated he can not remember a time while serving on this committee that it has been shown how all of these funds were being distributed. He believes maybe this should be reported to APC. Giesecke responded a lot of the funds are spent on utilities and other campus wide needs and noted the problem is not only the 7% inflation on serial costs, but rising costs in the University and it is affecting every part of the system. Allen agreed with Giesecke and commented the solution to the problem is to determine a way for the University to generate additional revenue to offset increasing costs.

Harvey inquired if data were available to show how the Libraries are being used. That is, online use versus students physically going to the library. He also questioned if the current system in place accurately portrayed the number of serials that are checked out as both he and Eckhardt are aware that, at times, journals are not checked out as copies are made instead. Giesecke replied e-resources use is consistently rising from year to year and said, for example, data shows there are anywhere from 75,000 to 100,000 searches per week and stated there is data currently available on the number of serials checked out but agreed that, at times, copies are made and the journal not checked out and acknowledged this practice does make an accurate count difficult. They are looking into this matter. [Wilson arrived]

Harvey commented he has seen a change in the way journals are being used and stated, although he fully supports the Libraries, he believes all should re-think this matter and not just throw more money at the problem. He further suggested there might be a way to re-do the system and save the money by reinventing how journals are accessed and utilized. Theoretically, at some point, after copyright issues have been resolved, all journals could be scanned and one file would be available to the entire world. Giesecke said this could be true except there is a huge cost to do that and noted the publishers still need to cover their costs. To this end, fees and expenses are not eliminated.

Harvey questioned if a faculty member could donate a journal in order to save the cost to the Libraries. Giesecke replied there are a few arrangements made this way; however not many arrangements are made as sometime the faculty member forgets or misplaces the journal and the journal does not make its way to the Libraries. Morris inquired if there would be copyright issues from the publishers if they became aware that a faculty member was donating journals to the Libraries. Giesecke said some of the publishers so set limits on when titles can be donated.

Bolin asked if there were any further comments or questions and there were none. Bolin thanked Giesecke for addressing the APC. Giesecke acknowledged and thanked APC for the opportunity. [Giesecke left]

Academic Planning Committee Response to the Achievement-Centered Education [Handout attached to permanent record]

Bolin welcomed David Wilson, who was in attendance to discuss this agenda item.

Nunez reminded APC members that at the October 17th APC meeting, Couture discussed the ACE (Achievement-Centered Education) initiative providing members with a status update. At that time, she asked APC to review this initiative and to provide feedback. He pointed out that in each member's handout packets were a compilation of those responses in a draft letter that would be sent to Couture following APC members' approval. Nunez said Wilson was in attendance to discuss the ACE process and proposal.

Wilson acknowledged the letter and thanked APC for its comments. He indicated he was in attendance to answer any questions and to give a status update on the ACE proposals. Wilson stated five colleges have now approved ACE, as well as ASUN and the Faculty Senate. Wilson said the sixth college would vote next week and that the remaining two colleges will have voted by mid-December.

Bolin stated she believed this letter represented a summary of this committee's input on this proposal. Wilson agreed. Bolin asked if there were comments or questions. Nunez asked Wilson the timeline of APC's endorsement of this proposal. Wilson replied that APC could either endorse this proposal now or wait until after all colleges voted. Ball expressed that he believed GEAC (General Education Advisory Committee) had done an exceptional job and that he would be happy to endorse now. Eckhardt and Allen voiced they would also be happy to endorse now. However, after further discussion, the Committee determined that APC would vote on endorsement of the ACE proposal at the next APC meeting in January after confirming the last college has voted.

Bolin thanked Wilson for his attendance. Wilson thanked APC membership and commented that members on GEAC, a 26 member committee representing ASUN and all of the colleges, as well as a lot of staff across the University, should also be thanked as they have worked amazingly hard on this proposal. [Wilson left]

Discussion of the draft letter ensued and edits were suggested by members. [Couture arrived] The letter with the requested revisions was approved by APC membership.

College Portrait (Voluntary System of Accountability) [Handouts attached to permanent record]

Nunez reminded APC members that at the last APC meeting Couture provided an overview of the *Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)* and the institutional report called the *College Portrait*. He reminded the Committee that questions were raised about the College Portrait itself and specifics metrics on the template. He referred to the two handouts in the member's packets and stated these handouts were

outputs from the website that 1) provides a good overview and the intent of this system and 2) presents detailed descriptions of the data elements. He conveyed the website link is posted on Blackboard.

Couture stated she had nothing to add to the description of the *Voluntary System of Accountability* except to say that Varner Hall sent out a news release, which appeared earlier this week indicating the NU system would be participating in the *Voluntary System of Accountability*. She stated that on our campus, Institutional Research and Planning will be involved in the direct statistics. She said a subcommittee will look at other informational materials that are currently located on the UNL website and will link them to the buttons on the *Voluntary System of Accountability / College Portrait* website. She explained the buttons will allow UNL to offer additional descriptions of things the University offers, such as our Honors programs or other aspects of the University life that we might want to feature on the *VSA*. Couture stated another subcommittee from Communications is also looking at this issue. Couture noted the deans and campus will have an opportunity to view how this information will be arrayed. She pointed out that all imbedded information will be information already available on our website.

Nunez drew attention to the handout entitled “Detailed Description of College Portrait Data Elements” and informed that page 5 and 6 described what Couture was discussing concerning the “buttons.” Couture confirmed this is what she was describing.

Eckhard commented he realized this is only a template but noted a number of foreign students, when they apply to NU, have expressed an interest in crime statistics for the campus as well as safety and wondered if this would be information that a lot of students would want. Couture replied that Section “N” in the “Detailed Description of College Portrait Data Elements” handout is on campus safety and said there is also a link to the Cleary Report, which is a national crime statistics report. UNL would provide a link. Couture stated she expected a rough draft of what might appear of the UNL’s contributions to this effort would be available in early Spring. At that time she would bring this before APC for an opportunity to view what is being suggested to be posted on the site.

Bolin clarified these handouts were presented to APC as an informational item and asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none. [Paul arrived]

[For reference the Voluntary System of Accountability is located at the following URL:  
<http://www.voluntarysystem.org/>]

#### Matters from Vice Chancellors

Bolin asked Couture if she had any other matters for APC. Couture reported the first of the two open forums on the UNL Strategic Plan draft document were held yesterday. Couture commented this document had been distributed to the entire campus via an announcement from the Chancellor a few weeks ago. Couture communicated to APC membership that we are happy to receive comments from any and all on this particular document. She informed there were very good discussions at the forum yesterday and many good suggestions on what might be done with the report. One of the key suggestions was to have the document state more overtly how people might use this document in their own planning. She stated this suggestion will most certainly be taken under advisement. Couture indicated that, as in the past, when documents have been reviewed by the entire campus, the comments for the forums will be summarized and distributed.

Bolin inquired if there were any questions or comments for Couture and there were none. Bolin thanked Couture.

Bolin asked Fritz if she had any matters to discuss on behalf of Owens. Fritz responded that Owens was out of town today and he had nothing to add. [Solheim left]

Bolin questioned Paul if he wished to discuss any matters. Paul distributed the “hot off the press” November 2007 *Palladian Digest*, in which the main topic was transportation. Paul mentioned that their faculty retreat held a year and a half ago focused on transportation. He also expressed “kudos” to Dean Allen and faculty among other areas.

Bolin asked if there were any questions or comments for Paul or if there was any other item of business to discuss. There were none. Bolin thanked Paul.

Other Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator