

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

**Approved Minutes
January 16, 2008**

Members Present

Craig J. Eckhardt
David H. Allen
William J. Nunez
Jamie Radcliffe

Barbara A. Couture
Jerry Renaud
F. Edwin Harvey
John Bender

Dwayne Ball
Steven S. Waller

Members Absent

Mary K. Bolin
Sarah Morris

John C. Owens
Prem S. Paul

David Solheim
Jeffrey F. Keown

Others Attending

Mark Lagrimini, Department Head, Agronomy and Horticulture
Anne Vidaver, Professor, Plant Pathology
Susan Fritz, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
David Wilson, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Eckhardt stated a quorum had been established and called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

Welcome

Eckhardt welcomed and introduced Jerry Renaud. Renaud will be the temporary replacement for David Fowler who is on professional development leave during the 2008 spring semester. Eckhardt also welcomed guests who were present in support and to discuss or answer any questions pertaining to the appropriate agenda item.

Minutes of the November 14, 2007 Meeting

Approval of the Minutes from the November 14, 2007 meeting was moved by Ball. Radcliffe seconded and the Minutes were approved without dissent.

Minutes of the November 28, 2007 Meeting

Approval of the Minutes from the November 28, 2007 meeting was moved by Ball and Radcliffe seconded. Nunez commented Dean Joan Giesecke was given the opportunity to review and edit her commentary in the minutes prior to finalization. Eckhardt inquired if there was further discussion, there was none, and he called for a vote. The Minutes were approved without dissent. [Couture arrived]

Doctor of Plant Health Degree Program Proposal [Handout attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt asked Ball, the subcommittee chair, for comments on this agenda item. Ball said that Morris, the other subcommittee member, was not able to attend this meeting. He informed members of a question and answer handout that was included in the member packet. Ball stated the subcommittee recommended approval on this proposal.

Eckhardt announced this item was now open for discussion and inquired if the guests would like to comment on the program.

Vidaver stated this program had been under consideration for many years and not only would attract students in Nebraska, but from surrounding states as well.

Eckhardt inquired what the difference was between a Doctor of Plant versus a Doctor of Plant Medicine. Vidaver replied basically there was not a major difference and the main difference is one of philosophy. She conveyed that the only similar program in the country, and possibly the world, is located in Florida at the University of Florida-Gainesville. UNL would be the second to offer this comparable program.

Lagrimini mentioned that the University would concentrate on all crops across the country, unlike Florida, that focuses only on horticulture products in its own state.

Eckhardt questioned if a large demand was anticipated for a relatively unknown degree of this type. Vidaver responded as this would be a new program it would be difficult to anticipate the demand; however, there have been many inquiries about this program and agricultural science professionals strongly feel there will be a need and demand for this type of program and the graduates would fill a void. Lagrimini added the Veterinary Medicine Program was a good comparison as there are 25 new students enrolled each year and stated approximately 10 to 15 of those students would go into domestic animal veterinary medicine so if you subtract those numbers, we anticipate a similar number of new students per year in the Doctor of Plant Health Program.

Eckhardt asked if there were further comments, questions, or recommendations. There were none.

Eckhardt stated the subcommittee's recommendation in favor of the proposal served as a motion and second. The APC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal.

Eckhardt thanked and congratulated Vidaver, Lagrimini, and Fritz on the approval. [Vidaver and Lagrimini left]

International Programs Advisory Council (IPAC) Update [Handouts attached to permanent record]

Couture drew attention to the handouts in the members' packets. Couture informed the group why this committee was "invented." She said about 3 years ago, the Chancellor asked a general question about what our university as a whole considers to be its focus in international programming. As a result, an initial task force, co-chaired by Ken Cassman and Harriet Turner, was constructed to look at international programs. The committee initially did a brief survey of every college inquiring what type of international work was being done in general and a report entitled "Report: Task Force on International Initiatives", with four recommendations, was created and submitted. Couture informed after viewing this report, the deans created a task force to respond to the "International Initiatives" report. She said David Allen, chair of this task force, and group came up with a second set of recommendations. Couture explained an alternative solution to the recommendations from this task force resulted in the creation of the International Programs Advisory Committee (IPAC). Couture communicated the IPAC's main function is to define a forward-looking focus for the university's international work. To this end, the work of IPAC will be to support the ongoing international relationships and work of our faculty and to promote visionary planning. Operational and structural issues will continue to be addressed by other appropriate UNL entities. The initial work of this committee will be informed by the two most recent reports of task forces on international programming. Specifically, IPAC is charged:

- To think "big," helping to catalyze and focus UNL efforts in international programming.
- To make recommendations to the Chancellor, SVCAA, VCIANR, and the Council of Deans for focusing funding support and international programs in curriculum and research.
- To propose campus-wide measures and benchmarks for assessing UNL efforts in international programming.

Couture said membership, along with the co-chairs, one from Academic Affairs and the other from Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, consists of an Associate Vice Chancellor from Research; three appointees from the Council of Deans; two faculty who are engaged in international work; and one student with

international experience. She noted to keep this committee on track, the co-chairs will present regular progress reports to UNL deans so assistance with specific projects that require collaboration could be provided.

Fritz reported the committee had already met once; two more meetings were scheduled for next semester; and the committee would report soon. Couture added she would be pleased to share this report with APC membership. [Wilson arrived]

Eckhardt questioned if this committee would also deal with what happens on our end when international students and scholars visit to partake in UNL programs. An example, he has heard that it could take up to two weeks for an international student or scholar to receive their "N" Card. Couture responded this appears to be an operational issue, which is not a charge of the IPAC committee, and agreed that one should question how well we serve our international students. She indicated that International Affairs is the group one should contact on this particular issue as this group works on the day to day operations that involve study abroad and handling of international scholars and faculty. Wilson added a task force was created last year to solve the way International Affairs worked with Student Affairs regarding students and he would be happy to facilitate any issue.

Eckhardt remarked one issue is when one goes to various separate units, there might not be the cohesive view that one might get if a single group that is indeed worried about how international groups are integrated and he views all as one piece and inquired would it be appropriate for this council to perhaps take a more integrate view point on such matters as how programs are to be done and how will we get our students abroad. Couture replied that if a faculty member or anyone else poses a question to IPAC it would be the council's responsibility to deal with the question. She added one purpose of this council is to field concerns.

Eckhardt asked if there were any further questions and there were none. Eckhardt thanked Couture for the update.

[For reference the International Initiatives report can be viewed online at:
http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/documents/report_international_initiatives.pdf]

Matters from Vice Chancellor(s)

Couture stated over the next few months, after the Achievement-Centered Education program, one of the most important tasks would be to work on General Education. Couture complimented David Wilson, as well as GEAC and GEPT, on preparing these proposals and expressed they did an extremely fine job.

Couture mentioned Governor Heineman's *State of the State Address*. She noted his attendance at the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska Conference held earlier today and mentioned a few of the Governors comments, which were as follows:

- Challenged the University to work with others concerning the Innovation Campus idea and State Fair Park and to come up with a funding proposal that would be a possible solution to the State Fair problem.
- Expressed his concern on secondary and post-secondary education and opportunities for funding.
- Challenged UNL to work with public school system.
- Mentioned 2 to 1 to higher education funding is now 2 to 1 to K-12 public education.
- Challenged to find a solution regarding Student Information System (SIS) and to make as generic system as possible.

Couture conveyed that Chancellor Perlman has acknowledged increased enrollment and noted the UNL budget and planning looks to be set up quite well.

Fritz commented the Governor's comment on the State Fair Park relocating was interesting. Couture agreed this was an interesting and positive comment as in the past he had not made this public that he would entertain the idea of the State Fair Park moving.

Fritz informed APC membership that Dr. Owens was still with the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska group, which is a 70 member group that advise and support IANR in its effort to improve research, teaching and extension programs and did not have any comments for APC on behalf of Owens.

There were no further discussions or comments. Eckhardt thanked Couture and Fritz.

Academic Planning Committee Action on the Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) Proposals [Handout attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt reminded APC membership its role in this proposal, if acceptable, was to support through recommendation. Eckhardt explained the proposal essentially proposed taking 30 hours, 3 hours each, to attend subject areas that ACE had certified, seeing that every student showed competence in those 10 areas, and then various rules and regulations for how this will be done.

Eckhardt stated he had one item to discuss and pointed out Proposal 4, Section II, Item B, and Bullet 1 on the handout and stated he believed the word "review" in the sentence should be replaced with the word "approve". (The sentence reads "Review requests for ACE certification and recertification, determining which requested courses will that designation, and communicating their decisions to the proposing units. In cases where ACE certification is not granted, this committee will clearly communicate the reasons for this decision.") Discussion ensued among membership. Radcliffe voiced the word "approve" would imply the committee would have to approve. The discussion concluded when Couture pointed out in this sentence there are three key words and steps: 1) review, 2) communicate the decision, and 3) if certification is not granted, to communicate the reason.

Ball inquired about the charge to APC on these proposals. Couture replied the APC has within its preveue to review academic curricula and express a view. Wilson added we are asking for your endorsement of the proposals.

Ball moved to endorse UNL's new general education program, Achievement-Centered Education (ACE). The motion was seconded by Harvey and unanimously approved. [Wilson left]

Discussion on the West Central Research and Extension Center Issue Based Review

Nunez stated he would be introducing this matter on behalf of Bolin who was unable to attend the meeting today. Nunez stated this agenda item originated from an email from Z.B. Mayo asking for a potential monitor for the West Central Research and Extension Center issue based review. This email prompted he and Bolin to again discuss if an APC monitor was really needed for all these different types of center reviews as the APC currently monitors and contributes to the Academic Program Review (APR) process and to also question if the APC needed to add another level of extensive administrative duties.

Fritz pointed out this matter started with discussion for an APC monitor to be included in the management review of the Ag Research and Development Center in Mead, Nebraska. She said this review was strictly a management review as there are no programs that originated out of this Center and voiced the thought behind asking for an APC monitor to be included was to increase knowledge and awareness of the Research and Extension Centers.

Eckhardt questioned if the West Central Research and Extension Center review was an APR review. Fritz replied that this review was not an APR review as this Center does not have academic programs.

Waller commented that it seemed reasonable as APC was already involved in the APR process that over time these issue-based reviews would blend more into departmental academic reviews. He suggested APC go on record wanting to know more of the schedules and to request reports for the APR subcommittee to review as appropriate. Couture agreed with Waller and noted they are in the process of creating a first draft list on how each center has been designated as having a review process and this list will be submitted to the Provost. She added she would be happy to present this list, after submission to the Provost, to APC.

Radcliffe referred to the "Center Review(s)" agenda item on the November 14 APC meeting minutes, in which a committee would be created to look at the review process that Centers go through. He asked if this motion is basically redundant to the activity ongoing in her office. Couture responded currently all that is happening is that Centers are being identified as having a review schedule, whether they are included in the APR review, or whether there is some other existing process for their review. She noted with the centers being so variable in their function purpose, some not even being academic, we need to take a look at this list and see if there is "a moment of intersection" that is appropriate for the APC and this list should be viewed before any committee work begins.

The discussion concluded with APC membership determining that, presently, APC would provide a monitor only for the Academic Program Reviews.

University Academy Status Update

Harvey stated he would give APC membership a brief overview. Harvey said Jack Oliva has been leading the charge for this University Academy and both he and Patrice Berger have been involved. Harvey announced during a meeting last Fall example course prototypes were presented and a site launched on Blackboard which included forms, information, chat room, and an announcement board. He mentioned faculty members would be encouraged to self enroll and Oliva would send out an announcement on this site soon. Harvey noted another meeting was planned for this semester and there would be three courses - two would be expanded upon and the third would be created from scratch. He conveyed these courses would be launched in Fall 2008 and noted Oliva was also working on another course for this summer. Harvey voiced there was good attendance at the meetings and the site on Blackboard was very exciting.

Eckhardt asked if there will be any sort of advertising campaign to the students this semester. Harvey replied yes, most likely via a forum or a public announcement.

Eckhardt asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Other Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green
APC Coordinator