

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

**Approved Minutes  
November 19, 2008**

Members Present

Craig J. Eckhardt	Jeffrey F. Keown	Emily Zimmer
John C. Owens	Rochelle L. Dalla	Shelley T. Fuller
David H. Allen	John Bender	David Fowler
Gary L. Cunningham	Dwayne Ball	Barbara Couture
William J. Nunez		

Members Absent

Jennifer Brand	Prem S. Paul	Clarissa Steele
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Others Attending

Margaret Miller, Manager, FM&P Facilities Plan and Construction  
John Markwell, Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources  
Linda D. Moody, Senior Lecturer, Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication  
Mark A. Balschweid, Department Head, Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication

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

Project Initiation Request on Manter Hall

Eckhardt stated a Project Initiation Request (PIR) to review the Manter Hall Class Lab Addition and HVAC replacement had come before the Academic Planning Committee (APC) for its consideration. He welcomed guest Margaret Miller, who was present to answer any questions.

Nunez stated last week the PIR subcommittee had met with Dr. Al Kamil, the Chair and Director of the School of Biological Sciences. [PIR attached to permanent record] Nunez said the project itself consists of two parts. One is to construct an 11, 600 gross square foot, one story addition, to the south side of Manter Hall to house four teaching laboratory classrooms, including ancillary prep and reception areas, to accommodate growth. The second is to replace the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC) in the basement to improve air handling into conformity with accepted animal standards. He noted this area houses the animal research labs and small animal quarters and requires a higher number of air changes than the rest of the building. Nunez said there will be a timing issue as the addition will be constructed on the site of Ferguson Hall, which will be demolished as part of the Physical Sciences Replacement Building project. [Cunningham arrived] He stated the subcommittee felt this is a worthy project and one worth of approving. Thus, the PIR was advanced to full APC membership for consideration as a moved and seconded item.

Nunez then provided background regarding this PIR. He indicated that a Life Sciences faculty committee originated a report suggesting that Life Sciences teaching labs' condition be investigated. Nunez stated that committee report was then sent to the Senior Vice Chancellor's Office who targeted funds for an in-depth study. In 2006, Flad & Associates were commissioned to evaluate the existing condition of instructional laboratory space in the Life Sciences on both the City and East campus and make recommendations to improve the quality.

Couture noted that, as a result of this report, a Life Sciences Teaching Labs ad hoc Committee was established, with members from both campuses on this committee, to interact with the Flad group. This committee crafted an RFP (Request For Proposal) and subsequently selected Flad & Associates. This firm ultimately produced a report containing several recommendations for improving teaching facilities, with one of the most critical being the addition of laboratories to Manter Hall.

Couture stated that UNL is already underserved in teaching laboratories for Biological Sciences and said that even though these proposed new labs would be on the City Campus, the courses held in them would also serve many of the students who are in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Couture commented that this project is something that faculty has been asking for a long time and expressed her delight that this PIR has gotten this far in the process, given all of the other demands on University resources. [Zimmer arrived]

Discussion ensued. Dalla asked if the Ferguson demolition was part of the estimated projected budget of this PIR. Nunez replied this demolition is a different project; it is included on the Physical Sciences Replacement Building project. Miller concurred.

Ball inquired how old Ferguson was. Nunez said Ferguson Hall is a 60 year old building.

Eckhardt asked why Ferguson was being demolished. Nunez replied that in the “Physical Sciences Complex” which includes Behlen Laboratory, Brace Laboratory, and Ferguson Hall, Ferguson Hall was determined to be the facility in need of the most significant investment to repair the deferred maintenance items and current building, ADA, and fire/life codes necessary to make the space suitable for future academic and scientific research. Miller agreed and added that there were a lot of deferred maintenance issues with Ferguson, such as HVAC and asbestos, that were evaluated, and it was determined it would be more costly to renovate than to demolish.

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

Eckhardt reminded members that this PIR came from a committee and called for a vote. The proposal was unanimously approved by APC membership. [Miller left]

#### Approval of October 15, 2008 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the October 15, 2008 meeting was moved by Bender and seconded by Ball.

Eckhardt asked if there were any questions or discussion and there was none. The Minutes were approved without dissent.

#### APC Representative APR Report for Computer and Electronic Engineering [Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt introduced the next agenda item and asked Keown to present his report. Keown noted the UNL Department of Computer and Electronics Engineering (CEEN) is located on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus in the Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI) building. He said he thought this was a very good review and expressed that the committee members deserve a lot of credit as they really got into the “nuts and bolts” of what was going on. He noted the self- study document outlined eleven questions that the Department and Administration felt should be addressed by the review team and said that this list of questions was very helpful to the review team. Keown drew attention to a few comments that the Team noted in the APR Team Recommendations area. The comments mentioned are listed below:

- *Some emphasis should be made to have the students more in touch with UNL. They are not offered athletic tickets and their email system and addresses are UNO addresses.*
- *Additional emphasis should be placed on working with Dr. Prem Paul to make certain that faculty understand the options that are available to them in the area of connecting with other Departments on campus for research collaboration. IANR should be a major emphasis since many of the faculty were unaware of the research being conducted by IANR that would have a direct bearing on their research efforts. There were many collaborative areas mentioned in the report. Since many of the faculty are not native to the United States it is essential that they be exposed to the many areas of research that their excellent talents can be important in collaboration. Many faculty were not aware of the opportunities that exist within their own community for collaboration.*
- *Additional research collaboration with PKI partners and Omaha businesses and industries is needed.*

Keown stated, in conclusion, that the review process was excellent and he does not feel there is any need for additional action by the APC.

Keown then asked Couture to comment on the matter of this Unit now reporting directly to the President of the University. Couture said this was not the case for this particular Unit under Academic Program Review, but it was true for PKI, as an Institute; PKI reports directly to the University President. She noted that the academic programs within PKI would still report, as always, to the respective Deans. She stated that a search is currently in progress for a new Director for PKI and noted this person would be responsible for assuring that the deans and the faculty work together to accomplish cooperative academic programs.

Eckhardt asked if there were any questions or comments.

Fowler inquired on the location of the APR documents such as the Review Team Report and the Department Response Report. Nunez replied these reports are accessible through Blackboard.

Eckhardt inquired if there were further questions or comments. There were none. Eckhardt thanked Keown for his report.

#### Report to Membership on Geography Faculty Move to CASNR from the Department of Anthropology and Geography

Eckhardt recalled that the APC had approved the Department of Anthropology and Geography name change at a previous meeting (October 15, 2008) and reminded membership during the course of discussion at that meeting, he, with the Committees' authorization, agreed to draft and send a letter to the relevant Deans of the Colleges that conveyed the general APC consensus that the approval of the initial faculty move should have come before the APC. Eckhardt informed APC members that in his letter to Chancellor Perlman stating the APC had approved this name change, he had noted that the APC had neither record nor collective recollection that the move of Geography from the College of Arts and Sciences to the School of Natural Resources had even come before the APC and thus no endorsement of the initial move from the APC exists. Eckhardt reported that in response to this letter, he received an email of explanation from the Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. He also noted Couture was unable to attend the meeting when the name change was in discussion so she was unable to comment on this question at the time. He then requested Couture to discuss her response to this letter.

Couture stated she believes the question was about the procedures involved in this particular change. She said that one of the things looked at when the faculty members and department chairs had come to her and Dr. Owens wanting to change their tenure home was to determine the mechanisms by which this gets done. She said the request was for four faculty members to move their tenure home and noted this was the only change – the programs did not change in any way, the academic homes of the programs did not change, the degrees are still being offered by the colleges that now offer the degrees – so there was nothing to bring to APC for their approval.. Couture stated both of the department chairs, the deans, and the faculty involved concurred that moving tenure home was acceptable move to them, and she noted procedure was followed according to the rules on *Changes in Tenure Home Department* as shown on the Academic Affairs website. She noted Geography and Anthropology are separately budgeted and administered, even where they were currently housed, and that the College of Arts and Sciences still has control over those faculty lines and of the budget that is associated with them. She concluded by saying again there was no program change involved, rather the faculty members changed their tenure home.

Owens voiced his agreement with Couture’s statement. He added the faculty members’ tenure now is in the School of Natural Resources, which has its majority investment from funds from the School of Natural Resources and noted there is involvement with the College of Arts and Sciences and that the Director of the School interacts not only with Dean Cunningham but with Dean Manderscheid.

Fuller inquired if the degrees still stay with the College of Arts and Sciences. Couture replied yes.

Eckhardt asked for further explanation on what it means to move only the tenure home and what the purpose is. Couture responded it means only to move the tenure home and, in this particular case, these faculty feel and have a greater affiliation with the kinds of research and academic work that is being done in the department where the other faculty are who share the same tenure home and that this was well recognized by the faculty in Anthropology and Geography, as well as the faculty of the new department. Cunningham added that now that the School of Natural Resources is their tenure home, the School of Natural Resources is now more able to evaluate their geographic research and, by having their tenure home there, they are better able to assist and promote their work. Couture stated that faculty throughout the University have the opportunity to request change of tenure home and, as long as both departments agree to the change, the change in tenure home can happen.

Eckhardt rephrased that the Geography teaching would still be done by Arts and Sciences as those are Arts and Sciences courses, but the research evaluation and the service is done by the new tenure home. Couture agreed this would be correct.

Discussion concluded with Eckhardt stating that, unless there is an objection, he would not send the letter of inquiry to the relevant Deans of the Colleges regarding this matter. There were no objections.

[For reference the *Changes in Tenure Home Department* is located at the following URL:  
<http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/resources/policies>]

New CASNR Leadership Certificate Program [Copy of full proposal attached permanent record]

Eckhardt introduced guests Lindy Moody, John Markwell, and Mark Balschweid and asked if any one of them wished to explain this certificate program. Moody thanked APC membership for the invitation and opportunity to explain this program. She stated the leadership certificate program would provide undergraduates with a value-added multidisciplinary approach in continuing to develop their leadership and communication skills by blending leadership and communication course offerings with the students major course work. Moody said, upon completion of this program, the hope is to have added a

credentialing factor to CASNR (College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources) graduates. She stated the Leadership Certificate requires a minimum of 12 credit hours - six credit hours from the department in which the student is a major – and additionally, the student is required to complete 240 contact hours of co-curricular programming. Moody then spoke of the Departments of Animal Science and Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication who implemented a pilot leadership development program for Animal Science majors in the fall of 2001. She said a recent study of the Animal Science Leadership Academy students showed graduates of the program believe that their communication and leadership skills were further developed and enhanced by their involvement in a leadership program. Moody observed that the CASNR Leadership Certificate Program has the same goal and noted a portfolio system will document the students' experiences. She then asked if there were any questions.

Eckhardt asked how many students are anticipated in this program. Moody replied she and Dean Waller - based off of the Leadership minors – estimate 8 to 10%, so roughly 80 to 120 students at any given time.

Bender, the review subcommittee chair, then spoke on this agenda item. Bender said he and other subcommittee members, Dalla and Zimmer, had reviewed this proposal. He stated they had some questions on this proposal, which they forwarded to Dr. Moody. [handout was distributed to APC members before the meeting and is attached to permanent record] Bender stated the subcommittee was satisfied with the responses to the questions and conveyed the subcommittee recommended acceptance and approval of this proposal.

Fuller inquired if these students are required to have a minor. Markwell replied no.

Ball pointed out this is the second certificate program that the APC has seen recently and asked Markwell why this might be, and if this is a strategy? Markwell replied no, this is not a specific strategy. Owens agreed and stated he believes, in this specific case, that the College considers leadership an important element for our students. He stated the College tends to be more career-oriented and felt that there weren't enough students interested in a minor due to the additional requirements. Therefore, more students would be drawn to a certificate program.

Ball asked if there were any other certificate programs in the works. Owens replied he was not aware of any.

Eckhardt commented that on a transcript, some individuals might hold a certificate and certificate program in a different light compared to a minor degree and expressed his concern these types of certificate programs might happen more often. Markwell replied this was not the intent, and that this certificate program is aimed more at professional development.

Eckhardt asked if there were further comments, discussion, or questions and there were none. Eckhardt stated the subcommittee's recommendation in favor of the proposal served as a motion and second and called for a vote. The APC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal. [Moody, Markwell, and Balschweid left]

#### Matters from Vice Chancellor(s)

Couture commented that she believes many of us are viewing with wonder what is happening in the national economy right now and wondering what is going to happen in terms of the future. She stated she is unable to predict the future for Nebraska at this time; thus, she cannot tell what is going to happen at the University of Nebraska as a result of these changes in our economy. She stated we do not know, or

even have a definite hint, of how the state legislature will proceed until the Governor makes his initial budget declaration after the New Year. She then asked Owens if he wished to add to this matter.

Owens said that he recently attended the 2008 Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and noted budget issues are a common topic among colleagues all over the country, our neighboring states included. He stated the upcoming Governors State of the State Address on January 15, 2009 will be informative and would “send a signal” on the upcoming year. Owens commented that the upcoming year could be challenging, but noted we won’t know for certain until the Legislature session ends in late May.

Couture commented – on a brighter side – that there have been many wonderful things happening across our campus. She stated that International Education Week was observed November 17-21 at UNL and said she attended one of the events today, the International Scholar Luncheon. She commented we should be very proud of the increasing international work that our university is doing and complimented the faculty, deans, and chairs who have done outstanding work in making this an international campus. Couture expressed her opinion that the Confucius Institute, which was established and dedicated last year, is beginning to take off in very engaging ways. She reminded membership that the Confucius Institute offers courses in Chinese, if they were interested in taking them for non-credit.

Couture concluded by mentioning a Chinese artist who visited campus last week. She said this artist, with his skills in painting and print making, had a very good showing of visitors at the Lentz Center for Asian Culture and delivered a number of lectures and classes for faculty.

#### Other Business

A revised APC membership list for academic year 2008-2009 was distributed to the members. Eckhardt told APC members that Chancellor Perlman would address the APC at its next meeting on December 3 to gather input on the job description change of the new Chief Information Officer (CIO) position.

Eckhardt inquired if there was any other business. There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator