

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

**Approved Minutes
April 22, 2009**

Members Present

Craig J. Eckhardt
Barbara Couture
Jeffrey F. Keown
Dwayne Ball
John C. Owens

David Allen
Rochelle L. Dalla
William J. Nunez
Jennifer Brand
Emily Zimmer

Gary L. Cunningham
Prem S. Paul
David Fowler
John Bender

Members Absent

Clarissa Steele

Shelley T. Fuller

Others Attending

Harvey Perlman, Chancellor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Giacomo Oliva, Dean, Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts

Eckhardt stated a quorum had been established and called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M.

Chancellor's Annual Briefing

Eckhardt welcomed Chancellor Harvey Perlman. Perlman indicated his presentation will be divided into two parts – a look forward at the Nebraska Innovation Campus and a discussion about the current budget situation. He indicated that it is now public that the University has selected two firms to complete the master planning and the business development strategy for the Nebraska Innovation Campus. He expressed he has been struggling with how to deal with faculty and student involvement as timing is awkward as a great deal will happen over the summer. He stated there is a tight time frame as plans must be submitted to Legislature by December 1, 2009 in order to acquire the property. He informed that a small Steering Committee has been created and indicated that he had asked the Chair of the APC, as well as student representative, Megan Collins, (or her designee) to be on this committee. He noted this committee would be an advisory committee with direct involvement in the planning and business strategy. He asked that those with any concerns or questions regarding the Innovation Campus to contact him directly. [Fuller arrived]

Perlman then spoke on the upcoming proposed budget reductions. He shared that he has struggled with this issue. He conveyed the Appropriations Committee added a half of a percent to our state funded budget so we would be at a 2% increase the first year and 1.5% the second. He indicated that the Forecasting Board will meet tomorrow and there is some belief that they will find they have overestimated state tax revenues. The result would be a decline of millions in their estimates. He said at that point the Appropriation Committee Bill would be out of balance and they would have to find a new number to balance the budget. He expressed no one knows what will come out of Legislature.

Perlman noted a decision has not been made on tuition increases and that it appears there will be a slight decline in freshman student enrollments but positive growth enrollment growth overall. The implications on that most likely will not be known until fall. He stated regarding salary increases, he would like to wait to make a decision until October – that way the budget will be better known.

Perlman then spoke of the budget reduction procedures and mentioned he fully understands the process and expressed he is more than willing to discuss any proposed budget reduction item with APC at any time. He indicated he was aware that some units have already made budget reductions; however, he wanted to make clear these reductions were not in any way pre-empting upcoming proposed budget reductions procedures – these reductions were just part of the normal administration of unit management and reorganization within the University. He stated that he does not anticipate being able to formally recommend budget reductions to the APC until this fall. However, he noted that there may be some administrative cuts that he would like to bring before the APC, most likely in early June, to discuss. He asked if there were any questions. [Oliva arrived] A question and answer session followed with Eckhardt concluding by thanking Perlman for his attendance and commentary. [Perlman left]

Update on University Academy

Eckhardt welcomed Giacomo Oliva. Eckhardt provided background of the University Academy informed that Oliva has been instrumental in the development. He believed an update on this initiative would be helpful to APC.

Oliva said this is an exciting initiative and gave a brief background. He said the conversation about the Academy emerged when Barbara Couture charged the Long-Range Planning subcommittee in fall of 2005 to look at ways to integrate college strategic plans. The Academy emerged as a means for bringing together faculty with similar ideas and interests as well as for facilitating a course structure designed to focus on developing students' ability to make connections across disciplinary lines. He stated during the next two years there were several public sessions as well as discussions with such groups as the APC, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and deans to gather ideas and explain the principles of the University Academy. He then passed around handouts of upcoming University Academy courses [handouts attached to permanent record].

Oliva expressed his enthusiasm and gratitude with the support he has received, in particular from SVCAA Barbara Couture. He indicated a Blackboard site and listserve have been created and if the committee would like to receive updates to let him know. He said a challenge is publicizing these courses. He shared that these courses now have an academy number and most likely will initially be housed in Undergraduate Studies. He concluded by stating that it has been almost 4 years since this initiative began and while it has been a slow process, there is a lot of interest.

Eckhardt asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. Eckhardt thanked Oliva. Oliva thanked APC membership for their support. [Oliva left]

Approval of April 8, 2009 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the April 8, 2009 meeting was moved by Keown and seconded by Dalla.

Eckhardt asked if there were any questions or discussion and there were none. The Minutes were approved without dissent. [Ball left]

APC Representative APR Report for Sociology Department [Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt introduced the next agenda item and asked Bender to present his report. Bender stated he believed the review was a very constructive process. He indicated the review team was excellent and that the team was very thorough and professional in their examination of the department. The department was very helpful, cooperative, and open. He stated some of the recommendations were accepted and a few were not. He believes the overall exchange was favorable. Bender stated, in conclusion, that the review process seemed to have functioned smoothly and he does not feel there is any need for additional action by the APC.

Eckhardt asked if there were any questions, comments, or discussion. Dalla inquired if Bender knew if the hiring of the two faculty members at the associate professor rank had been accomplished. Bender replied, to his knowledge, the department was taking steps to implement the APR team recommendations the search for new faculty members at the associate professor rank. Eckhardt inquired, in terms of procedure, was Bender present for the interview with the administration. Bender replied he was not excluded; however, he could not attend at the time this meeting was scheduled as he was teaching.

Eckhardt asked if there were any further questions, comments, or discussion and there were none. The report was accepted by APC membership. Eckhardt thanked Bender for his report. [Dalla left]

Review the Creation of the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences [Copy of full proposal attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt asked Ball to speak on this agenda item. Ball stated he [subcommittee chair], Keown, and Dalla had reviewed this proposal. He stated Dr. David Hardin, the current chair of the department, had sent he and the subcommittee a revised proposal. This proposal was in the members handout packets. Ball indicated there are no budgetary implications in this proposal; this proposal was simply a name change from a department to a school. Ball stated he and the ad-hoc subcommittee recommended acceptance and approval of this proposal and that this recommendation served as a motion and second.

Eckhardt commented the definition of a school has been discussed in this committee previously and wondered if the definition had been clarified. [Dalla returned] Discussion ensued and concluded that this had not been resolved and that currently there in no real definition of a school. Eckhardt asked if the school always needs to belong to a single college or can the members of the school be from different colleges? Owens answered that they can be from different colleges and used the School of Natural Resources as an example. While the members are predominately

IANR faculty, there is a significant number of Arts and Sciences faculty and noted that Dean Manderscheid is very involved in the evaluation and interaction with the other Deans in this School.

Eckhardt stated the ad-hoc subcommittee's recommendation in favor of the proposal served as a motion and second. He inquired if there were any further discussion or questions or discussion and there were none. Eckhardt called for a vote. The APC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal.

APC Representative APR Report for Civil Engineering [Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt introduced the next agenda item and asked Ball to present his report. Ball stated the review team was well-qualified and extremely thorough. He said the review team was very complimentary of the current department chair, Mohammed Dahab, and of the very rapid rise in funded research from \$3 million to \$10 million. He indicated the recommendations by the review team could not all be encapsulated in his report; however, he noted one of the major issues was the split of the department into two campuses – half of the department is located on the Omaha campus and the other half is located in the Lincoln. He conveyed this is currently a non-resolvable problem; however, he noted the department is in agreement that the UNL administration should appoint a task force to study and make recommendations regarding the two-campus issue. In conclusion, Ball indicated generally the review was complimentary and he does not feel there is a need for additional action by the APC.

Eckhardt inquired to Ball if he was involved in the process and asked to attend the meeting with administration. Ball replied yes.

Eckhardt asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none. The report was accepted by APC membership. Eckhardt thanked Ball for his report. [Keown left]

Report from University Curriculum Committee [Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Eckhardt introduced the next agenda item and asked Dalla to present her report as the APC delegate to the University Curriculum Committee (UCC).

Dalla stated her report summarizes the work of the UCC from January to December, 2008, highlighting work completed during her term on the committee in which data are available (September – December, 2008). She mentioned the total number of proposal submission requests and noted during her time on the committee three new course proposals were submitted that had been created to meet ACE (Achievement-Centered Education) structural criteria. She noted the UCC committee members voted only on whether or not to approve the courses, not on the course merits for ACE certification. A separate committee reviews and votes upon all courses submitted for possible ACE certification. [Keown returned]

Eckhardt asked Dalla if that was efficient to have two separate committees. Dalla replied yes, she believes this is efficient as each committee looks at different things. Couture commented during the rush of reviewing literally hundreds of courses for possible ACE certification, a separate

committee was established with the intention, once the rush was over, to hand off that responsibility back to the Curriculum Committee. She believes this will happen next year.

Eckhardt inquired if there were any further questions, comments, or discussion. There were none. The report was accepted by APC membership. Eckhardt thanked Dalla for her report.

Matters for Vice Chancellor(s) of Academic Affairs, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Research and Economic Development

[The order of the agenda was adjusted per Couture's request as she had a meeting conflict and had to leave soon.] Couture stated she did not have too much new to report on today. She stated the deans met recently for their quarterly deans' retreat and she believes this was a very productive retreat. She said in this retreat they looked at benchmarks each dean had proposed for success in their own college. Further work is required to discuss the meaning of the benchmarks, how they relate to goals, how they relate to available data sets, and how they relate to progress over time. She stated they also discussed quality indicators and developing specific strategies to move those indicators in the needed direction. She noted one area discussed was graduate studies and graduate programs. This area will be a topic of discussion for upcoming retreats and also for development next year. She reported the process to the proposed changes to the *English Proficiency Requirements* is still moving forward and that the Initiative to *Adopt Best Practices to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Faculty* has now been adopted and that currently the deans are in the process of discussing and developing a timeline of implementation.

Eckhardt asked Owens if he had any matters to share with membership. Owens stated that he did not.

Update on Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC)

Nunez said as Chancellor Perlman had mentioned earlier in the meeting, a Steering Committee had been created for NIC and this committee would initially oversee and advise on the development of the Innovation Campus. Nunez then passed out a press release published by UNL News Releases. [handout attached to permanent record] This article stated:

“The University of Nebraska–Lincoln has selected two firms for consulting contracts on its Innovation Campus project after a formal proposal process. The selection of SmithGroup/JJR and Noddle Development will be recommended to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents at its April 24 meeting.”

Nunez informed the committee that consultants from both of the firms would be on-site during a “kick-off” week (May 5-7) for several fact finding, information gathering, and open forum sessions. He stated the APC, along with the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, would soon receive an invitation to attend one of these sessions and that currently this session was scheduled on May 5 at 3:30 p.m. He indicated throughout the process the firms will work together as well as separately with the university to create an innovative and viable master plan and business strategy. He concluded by noting the consultants from both firms have until December 1, 2009 to submit plans to the Board of Regents for transmittal to the Nebraska Legislature as mandated by LB1116. [Couture left]

Eckhardt asked if there were any questions or comments. Brief discussion ensued over the compressed timeframe, the initial concept of Innovation Park, and the amount of work the consultants must complete before December 1.

Eckhardt inquired if there were further discussion, comments, or questions. There were none. Eckhardt thanked Nunez for the update.

Other Business

Keown noted, for the Minutes, regarding the proposal to change the name of the Department of Plant Pathology to the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology that he had corresponded with Dean Steve Waller and there still are negotiations going on so this will remain on the schedule until next year.

Closed Session

The APC moved into a closed session for the purpose of holding a discussion on the following subjects: general budget framework discussion and planning. [Paul arrived]

The APC went into closed session at 4:25 p.m. and reconvened the open meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Other Business

Paul mentioned two informational items.

Paul conveyed a task force consisting of representation from the Office of Research and the AARC (Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee) as well as the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, has been created to review and update the UNL *Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct* document. He stated this document would be discussed at the Faculty Senate meeting on April 28. He stated this would come before the campus before going to the Board of Regents.

Paul also stated an exciting conference on water is planned on May 4 in Hardin Hall. He said this conference will host many international speakers and was funded by Dordy Foundation. The idea of this conference is to learn from others around the world the best practices, where research gaps exist, and how UNL can make this strong program even stronger and provide global leadership.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green
APC Coordinator