

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

**Approved Minutes
March 24, 2010**

Members Present

John Bender
William J. Nunez
David Manderscheid
Ellen Weissinger

John Owens
David H. Allen
Dwayne Ball
Jennifer Mostek

David Fowler
Shelley Fuller
Craig J. Eckhardt

Members Absent

Jeffrey F. Keown
Jennifer Brand

Prem Paul
Megan Collins

Andrew John (Jamie) Radcliffe

Others Attending

Peg Johnson, President, UNOPA (University of Nebraska Office Professionals Association)

Bender stated a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:13 P.M.

Approval of February 10, 2010 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the February 10, 2010 meeting was moved by Ball and seconded by Fowler.

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

Consideration of Title Change for Undergraduate Major in Nutritional Science and Dietetics

[attached to permanent record]

Bender indicated the next item of business was a request to change the name of the undergraduate major in Nutritional Science and Dietetics to Nutrition and Health Sciences. He asked if there were any questions, comments, or discussion on this proposed name change.

Ball commented this request does not cover the other majors in the department, Athletic Training Education and Hospitality, Restaurant and Tourism Management. Weissinger confirmed this request was only for the one major.

Ball moved to accept the name change of Nutritional Science and Dietetics to Nutrition and Health Sciences. The motion was seconded by Fuller.

Bender inquired if there were any further discussion or questions and there were none. Bender called for a vote. The APC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal.

APC Representative APR Report for Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering [Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Bender introduced the next agenda item and asked Eckhardt to present his report.

Eckhardt indicated the review went very smoothly. He noted the department was very responsive to the external team member requests and that the graduate program has only recently become a viable program. He commented there were significant previous institutional ties between significant faculty in the department and at least one team member; however, this did not appear to result in any bias at all and the review and review team was extremely professional and thorough.

Eckhardt said the department has made enormous strides in recent years and one of the primary strengths of the department is in the bio/nano area. One of the most pressing problems is the lack of visibility of the department. He noted the department's response to the recommendations of the review team was quite quick and mentioned the department held a faculty retreat, with a professional facilitator, in the summer following the APR to consider all of the recommendations. In conclusion, Eckhardt indicated he did not see a need for hearings or further action.

Allen commented this department has made quantum leaps forward. He believes this APR is an excellent example of an APR helping an already excellent Department become better.

Eckhardt commented he wished to make the following changes in paragraph one of General Comments in his report: 1) strike the first sentence, 2) correct "problem" to "program" in "The department has a new doctoral..." and 3) strike "in addition to the Othmer endowment" in the following sentence. Membership agreed. Eckhardt will send Green a revised report.

Bender inquired if there were further questions, comments, or discussion and there were none. Bender thanked Eckhardt for his report.

APC Solicitation and Review of Suggestions for Improving Campus Efficiency

Bender stated this agenda item is a result of an email exchange between him and Weissinger. He noted at an APC meeting earlier this semester the question of Chancellor Perlman's Task Force on Academic Efficiency and the Task Force on Academic Entrepreneurship came up and Weissinger had stated she had decided to combine these two Task Forces into "Pre-Task Forces". Bender stated Weissinger had also said that she would welcome the APC taking on the task of acting as a forum for receiving and considering ideas for improving efficiency. However, APC moved on to other matters so there has been little opportunity to further explore and discuss. Bender inquired to membership if the APC should become involved in this issue?

Weissinger communicated these two Task Forces were proposed by Chancellor Perlman at his last State of the Union address and with the departure of Barbara Couture last Fall; it was not conducive to move forward immediately. She stated, yes, she had decided to combine these two Task Forces into a very small "Pre-Task Force" that would consist of one or two deans and two or three faculty members/department chairs to begin moving forward with some starting points to help the larger task forces so they could be up and running by Fall 2010. She believes it would be appropriate for the APC to ask for efficiency suggestions from the campus and thinks it is a good idea. She said an inquiry to faculty and staff members is a good starting point.

Discussion ensued. Eckhardt commented he believes this committee would serve as a good conduit back to the campus. Eckhardt stated the APC should also get student input as well as faculty input. Allen agreed and mentioned the technological aspect and that the APC needs to carry this forward. Ball commented this is not only about technology but also about ideas such as merging departments. There was discussion on the ways people communicate and how to gather these suggestions and assemble the information. Weissinger mentioned also analytical tools that help in decision making are not being fully utilized and believes there is a data component for faculty and departments also. Weissinger also stated she would be happy to organize a meeting with a smaller group as the APC will be busy this Spring with budget matters. [Allen left] [Green left]

Further discussion ensued. [Allen returned] [Mostek and Johnson arrived] Discussion concluded with Bender asking membership if all were in agreement with Weissinger's organizing an event for the APC to meet with a selected group of individuals to discuss and hear their thoughts, ideas, and suggestions on efficiency. Membership agreed. Weissinger stated she would send an email to APC membership listing the event information, once organized, and APC membership could email to whomever they thought appropriate to attend.

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

Bender asked Owens if he had anything to share with the APC. Owens said it is truly troubling when one thinks of what will happen to the University of Nebraska fiscally in the next biennium. Stimulus money protected us to some degree and that goes away. He said according to Legislature, there is a potential for a really tough budget in the next session and we have to prepare for what could be a really challenging time for us.

Owens said, on the good news side, Paul Engler, a University of Nebraska alumnus and cattleman of Amarillo, Texas, made a \$20 million gift to support agribusiness entrepreneurship at UNL at a March 1 new conference. This gift is very much student-focused and will support new student scholarships, an endowed chair in agribusiness entrepreneurship, and will also help create a venture capital fund to support student start-up businesses. Owens said this is very exciting and one never knows what will happen!

Bender asked Weissinger if she had anything to share. Weissinger shared a brief follow up on the budget. She indicated in the next biennium budget, it is easy to draw the conclusion that we could be looking at a 5% budget reduction. There might be some optimism regarding addition stimulus as 49 states took stimulus money and are all are going to suffer without funds this year. She said on the expectation that we may be facing much bigger reduction numbers than this biennium; she will begin engaging the deans in conversation concerning reductions of 5% or even 10%, what plan or perspectives would you bring to the process? She stated she believes the proposed budget reductions plan that the APC will receive this year represent some of the last available and flexible funds. She believes we have to think very realistically about what it will be if we have to take a relatively larger reduction.

Other Business

None

Bender welcomed and introduced Peg Johnson, President of UNOPA, to APC membership. He noted as the Faculty Senate recommended, the APC agreed, and the Chancellor concurred, the Presidents (or designees) of UNOPA and UAAD (University Association for Administrative Development) will be on the APC during Phases 1, 2, and 3 of the budget reallocations and reductions process, as non-voting individuals, pending official adoption of a new Procedures document. He indicated the designee of the President of UAAD, Nancy Myers, was not able to attend today's meeting. The APC then moved into a closed session for the purpose of holding a discussion on the following subject: general budget framework discussion.

Closed Session

The APC went into closed session at 4:05 P.M. and reconvened the open meeting at 4:20 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green, APC Coordinator and
William Nunez, APC Secretary