

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

**Approved Minutes
February 23, 2011**

Members Present

Jennifer I. Brand, Chair	William J. Nunez	Shelley T. Fuller
David Manderscheid	Deborah W. Minter	Jeffrey F. Keown
Rita Kean	Miles Taft Bryant	John Bender
Ellen Weissinger	Dwayne Ball	Ronnie Green

Members Absent

Prem S. Paul	Curtis L. Weller	Justin Solomon
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Others Attending

Steven Waller, Dean, College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources
Audrey Atkin, Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences
James (Jim) Alfano, Professor, Plant Pathology
Valery Forbes, Director and Chairperson, School of Biological Sciences
Paul Black, Chairperson, Department of Biochemistry
Robert (Bob) Hutkins, Professor, Food Science and Technology
A.J. (Jamie) Radcliffe, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics

Brand stated a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:08 P.M.

Approval of February 9, 2011 General Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the February 9, 2011 general meeting was moved by Ball and seconded by Kean.

Brand asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. The Minutes were approved without dissent.

Proposal on Undergraduate Microbiology Program

Brand welcomed guests Steve Waller, Audrey Atkin, Jim Alfano, Valery Forbes, Paul Black, and Bob Hutkins who were present in support of the proposal and to answer questions, if needed. Brand indicated to membership that a copy of the proposal was in each member's handout packets. [attached to permanent record] She then asked Keown to further discuss this agenda item.

Keown indicated Bryant was the other individual on this subcommittee. He shared that the subcommittee met with Dean Waller and Dean Manderscheid about the proposal. He stated the proposal was very well prepared, well organized, and addressed all subcommittee questions. He said the proposal suggests solid coordination between the two Colleges. He commented no one from his department (Animal Science) was involved in this proposed program and mentioned he has shared with his department head.

Keown stated the subcommittee recommends APC approval and introduced the motion to do so. As a motion from a committee, no second was required.

Brand inquired if there were questions, comments, or discussion. A brief question and answer ensued.

Keown asked someone to explain how salaries were going to be set when evaluations are received within the groups that will be teaching the new Microbiology major. Alfano replied salary discussions will remain in the departments. Manderscheid said there will be no portions of faculty lines in the Microbiology program. He said there will still be a need for input from the individuals teaching the courses as per standard departmental procedures. [Minter arrived]

Fuller remarked she was a little confused on the degree to be awarded. She said it appears two degrees will be awarded – a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology (College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources) and a Bachelor of Science (College of Arts and Sciences). Manderscheid replied a student can get their degree in either College and noted a diploma from the College of Arts and Sciences does not list the major, while CASNR does.

Brand called for a vote. The APC voted unanimously to approve the proposed undergraduate Microbiology program. She thanked the guests for attending the meeting and the guests thanked the APC. [Waller, Atkin, Alfano, Forbes, Black, and Hutkins left]

Proposal on Name Change for Space and Telecommunications Law Program

Brand introduced the proposal [attached to permanent record] and reported the College of Law is requesting a change in the name of the College of Law LL.M. degree program from “Space and Telecommunications Law” to “Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law” to better reflect the content of the program and more accurately represent their work. She said this proposal is endorsed by Dean Susan Poser and SVC Weissinger. She stated she would entertain a motion to approve.

Minter moved to accept the request from the College of Law to change the LL.M. degree program from Space and Telecommunications Law” to “Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law”. Bender seconded.

Brand asked if there were any questions, comments, or discussion. There was none. Brand called for a vote. The APC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal.

APC Representative Academic Program Review Report for Department of Chemistry [Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Brand welcomed Radcliffe, who had returned to the APC to report on the Academic Program Review (APR) of the Department of Chemistry.

Radcliffe stated the review process was conducted in an “exemplary fashion”. He said the review team was conscientious and thorough, and the department was, at every stage, helpful and forthcoming in providing the team with relevant data. He said the department responded thoughtfully to the report’s recommendations and that the department plans to directly incorporate the team’s most specific suggestions and work towards the larger goals outlined in the report.

Radcliffe pointed out the review team identified two problems that face the department: low faculty numbers and the condition of the lab space in Hamilton Hall.

Manderscheid commented the College of Arts and Sciences is aware of the dismal shape of, for example, the undergraduate teaching labs, in Hamilton and remodeling is required. He said this APR and report was the “tipping point” and noted that the Office of Academic Affairs has identified funds and is working with the Chemistry Department to remodel at least three of the four undergraduate labs. He stated this is not a safety issue as the labs are very well managed but rather a necessary improvement to modernize and properly equip and furnish. He said this is an example of the APR process working quite well.

Weissinger agreed and said the Departments self study, combined with groundwork prepared by the Dean, helps others, such as Academic Affairs and the Chancellor’s office, understand potential remodels and where to use specialized one-time funds. She noted potentially all four freshman labs would be updated. She said this is a direct result of the APR process.

Manderscheid added since the conclusion of the review, two individuals were hired last year in the Department of Chemistry and it appears two more will be hired this year. He expressed the Department is on a very positive trajectory.

Fuller commented she did not see mention of student members on the review team. Radcliffe replied he was not clear why there were not any student members on the team. He noted the team met with everyone in the Department – faculty, graduate students, staff, undergraduate students, and support professionals and there was input from all constituencies’ involved in the Department.

Brand mentioned student involvement in the APR process was briefly discussed at the last APC meeting and remarked that the APR Guidelines were referenced. Brief discussion ensued and concluded with Brand stating active student participation in the review is a requirement. She said, however, student membership on the review team is not a requirement, so the Review Team’s composition varies from program to program. Some departments fulfill the student participation requirement by using students as full members of the team, but others prefer other methods, such as a student groups meeting with the team members.

Brand asked if there were further questions, comments, or discussion and there were none. The report was accepted by membership. Brand thanked Radcliffe for his report. [Radcliffe left]

APC Representative Academic Program Review Report for Department of Agricultural Economics
[Copy of report attached to permanent record]

Brand introduced the next agenda item and indicated a copy of the report was in each member’s handout packets. She asked Keown to present his report.

Keown stated the self-study document was thorough and covered in detail all three missions of the Department. He reviewed the key issues elevated from the review team which he also detailed in the report.

Keown informed the review process went well and the Review Team was well prepared and the questions from the team were succinct and to the point. He stated there were appropriate interactions with faculty, sibling department chairs, constituents, staff, and students.

Keown indicated the Department response was delayed due to the hiring of a new head as the Department felt that the entire process would be meaningless unless the new Head had an opportunity to work with the faculty in coordinating and preparing a response. He expressed the Department prepared a very nice, clear, and concise review of all the questions and concerns to the Review Team. He also stated there is a timeline for implementation of the Review Team's recommendations.

Keown, in conclusion, proposed, since the Department and the Review Team addressed several important areas that should be addressed in the future, that a report be presented to the APC by the Department Head within two years showing the progress made by the Department.

Brand asked if there were any questions, comments, or discussion.

Green commented the Department has had several direct challenges and the Department is taking the recommendations very seriously and noted they are also working very hard to develop a strategic plan. He stated the new department head arrived last August and he believes this individual will really make a difference. He expressed he is encouraged they are addressing the issues.

Kean inquired about the population of the undergraduate students in the program. Green replied 270.

Brand asked if there were further questions, comments, or discussion and there were none. The report was accepted by membership. Brand thanked Keown for his report.

Report on the APC and Unified Ph.D. Program in Industrial Engineering

Brand remarked this agenda item has actually now multiplied into two items. She indicated she would report on both of these items.

Brand stated the first item she would report on was the College of Engineering and its Unified Ph.D. program. She said there is discussion within the College to move away from this program. She shared that she received an email from Professors Williams and Hallbeck in Industrial and Management Systems Engineering requesting an APC monitor to attend a meeting of the College Graduate Chairs called by Interim Dean O'Hanlon. This email also requested that the APC and Faculty Senate provide aid and advice to ensure that proper faculty governance is maintained. Brand explained as this notification came just hours before the meeting was to begin, she attended the meeting as the APC monitor. She informed membership the College will be restructuring its entire Ph.D. Unified program and that the APC should see a proposal on this within the next several months.

Brand asked membership if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Brand said the next item is a recent update on the Subcommittee on Campus-Wide Discussions that she and Ball, along with Faculty Senate members, John Lindquist, Tom Franti, and Ken Nickerson, are on concerning faculty forums or conversations. She recalled during a previous APC meeting, she had

shared with membership this subcommittee had established a plan of holding a series of faculty forums about what it means to move to the Big 10 and what it means to faculty. She indicated Chancellor Perlman agreed to speak at the March 17 open faculty forum. She said the forum will begin at 2:00 p.m. and the format will be 30 to 45 minutes of presentation followed by 30 to 45 minutes of a moderated question and answer session. She noted this forum will also be streamed and recorded for individuals unable to attend.

Brand communicated Graham Spanier also accepted the invitation to speak on his perspective of transitioning to the Big 10 at an open forum. She stated this forum will be held in April and that a date and time have not yet been determined. She shared Spanier is excited to come back to speak at UNL.

Brand asked if there were any questions or comments.

Weissinger commented she had viewed the proposal just this morning and she was very impressed. She said the proposal was well crafted and suggested introducing some sort of high level cross cutting campus priorities into these series, for example, maybe Water for Food, Nebraska Innovation Campus, Life Sciences, the Rural Initiative, and/or the Digital Humanities.

Bender asked if there were any mechanisms that are being considered for ideas from the faculty for improving campus efficiencies or the operation of the university. Ball replied discussion on this could be either during the forum or another on-line forum.

Brand asked for further comments, questions, or discussion. Brand said she and Ball would keep the APC updated.

APC Representative Report on the Aesthetics Review Committee

Brand asked Bryant to report on this agenda item.

Bryant remarked he attends the university-wide Aesthetics Review Committee (ARC) as he is the APC appointed representative. He reported that at a past ARC meeting, a topic of discussion was the addition of the Memorial Stadium's east stands. He then circulated a map illustrating the addition. [attached to permanent record] He expressed the ARC is working hard to make a project visually less threatening and said this group really looks at all aspects of a project. He commented Wayne Drummond, Dean of the College of Architecture and a member of this committee, is a true resource.

Brand asked for further questions, comments, or discussion. Brand thanked Bryant for his report.

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

Weissinger reported that six members of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) office staff will visit UNL Tuesday, March 1. She said these staff members will take part in a public reception from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on this day and that this event was open to all faculty, staff, and students. She said the APC should have received an invitation to this event. She indicated the purpose of this visit, in some ways, is an official beginning of the process of connecting UNL to the formal CIC programs. She stated, while on campus, these six staffers, will interact with faculty and administrators in

different colleges and departments. She said the following day they will have media availability then their visit concludes.

Weissinger then referenced a front page article in today's Lincoln Journal Star newspaper that stated UNL requested to the CIC that the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) be included in the CIC. She expressed this article is completely inaccurate and spoke to the LJS reporter. A corrected version will be in tomorrow's newspaper.

Brand asked if there were any questions for Weissinger and there were none. She asked Green if he had any matters to share.

Green stated that he would like to update membership on the process of the *Innovating Agriculture and Natural Resources to 2025* plan that he has previously shared with the APC. He said the process is about a month in and halfway through the process. He indicated there will be an opportunity on March 8 for faculty and staff to engage and interact with the eleven teams. He said this will be a three hour venue and noted a webinar will take place during that time frame so off-campus faculty and staff can also participate and interact with the teams. He expressed while it appears the process is going well, he is somewhat concerned the outlook is more inwardly focused. He said he has recommended the next step include more focus on external engagement.

Green then remarked he had some exciting news to share. He shared that some of the IANR faculty will receive one of the largest grants in history in USDA. He indicated there will be an announcement in the next few weeks by the Secretary of Agriculture, who would be in attendance.

Brand asked if there were any questions or discussion for Green. There were none. She thanked Weissinger and Green.

Other Business

Bryant said he is the APC monitor in the APR of the Department of Communication Studies. He announced this APR has been rescheduled to Fall 2011. He said this APR was to have occurred mid month next month.

Brand asked if there were any other items. There were none.

There being no further business, Bryant moved and Ball seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green
APC Coordinator