

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

Approved Minutes
September 19, 2012

Members Present

Jennifer Brand	Libby Jones	Martha McCollough
Miles Taft Bryant	Eric Kamler	Christopher Marks
Archie Clutter	Stephen Lahey	Linda Shipley
Gerard Harbison, Chair	Jared Leighton	Curtis Weller

Members Absent

Ronnie Green	William Nunez	Donde Plowman
Jack Morris	Prem S. Paul	Ellen Weissinger

Others Attending

Jeffrey Shield, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering
Mehrdad Negahban, Professor, Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering

Harbison stated a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Harbison stated he had a couple of announcements as follows:

Harbison conveyed this was Brand's last meeting as announcement of the last elected faculty representative this year will be known in the next day or so (Brand had agreed to extend her term until this time) and he thanked her for her many years of service and leadership to the APC. Membership unanimously agreed.

Harbison noted at APC's last meeting there was brief discussion on Digital Measures that ended with membership wanting to hear more on this Activity Insight™ program. He informed membership that Lance Perez will attend the October 17 meeting to further discuss this topic.

Harbison shared that he had attended last week's Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting to update them on a couple of projects that the APC is planning to look into and work on this year. He told that he mentioned the APC's representative role on the University Curriculum Committee and how this representative is trying to assist the UCC in streamlining the process to operate more efficiently. He said he also informed the FSEC that the APC wants to look at the issue of faculty review.

Master Plan Update

Harbison asked Bryant for an update. Bryant reminded that he is the APC representative on the Steering Committee for updating the UNL Campus and Landscape Master Plans. He said this Steering Committee is a very interactive committee. He brought up the web page - located at <http://planbig.unl.edu/> - and pointed out the My Campus tab and encouraged membership to

enter information and give feedback. He said Sasaki Associates, the consulting firm selected to assist in updating the Master Plan and make recommendations, is looking at all different aspects and of campus and is in the process of many analyses and studies. He emphasized the APC needs to take note and be involved as these recommendations relate closely to the mission of the APC. He said Sasaki Associates will be back late October with concept alternatives.

McCollough told she had problems with My Campus loading and then either freezing up or moving slowly. Other members mentioned the same problem. Bryant asked Coordinator Green to share this with Nunez or the appropriate person.

Harbison encouraged membership to enter information in My Campus and to also encourage colleagues and friends as well. He thanked Bryant for the update.

Proposal on Master of Science Programs Consolidation in Engineering Mechanics and Mechanical Engineering

Harbison introduced the proposal [attached to permanent record] and acknowledged guests Jeffrey Shield and Mehrdad Negahban. He stated Lahey and Marks were the subcommittee that reviewed this proposal and asked Lahey, the subcommittee chair, to further discuss this agenda item. [Jones arrived]

Lahey informed they had a couple of questions concerning impact on personnel and if there was any student concern with the transition into the new degree that was answered by sufficiently Professor Shield. He told membership that Professor Shield had replied no and he was not aware of any student concern, and that they have a fairly active student group.

Lahey indicated the subcommittee recommends APC approval of the request from the College of Engineering to consolidate the master's programs in Engineering Mechanics and Mechanical Engineering into a single Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics and introduced a motion to do so. As a motion from a subcommittee, no second is required.

Harbison asked if there were any further comments or discussion and there was none. Harbison called for a vote. The APC voted unanimously to endorse the proposal. Harbison congratulated and thanked the guests for attending and they thanked the APC for its consideration. [Shield and Negahban left]

Finalize APC Subcommittee Member List [attached to permanent record]

Harbison stated at APC's last meeting most of the subcommittee vacancies were either filled or a person was nominated. He recapped that Eric Kamler was nominated to the Long-range Planning subcommittee in absence. He then asked Kamler if he would be willing to serve on this subcommittee. Kamler agreed and Harbison thanked him.

Harbison said there is one other vacancy on the Long-range Planning subcommittee that perhaps the new incoming member would be willing to fill.

Matters from Vice Chancellors - Academic Affairs, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), and Research and Economic Development

Harbison indicated there were no Vice Chancellors present. He asked Clutter if he had any matters to convey.

Clutter informed we are wrapping up the first stage of our strategic planning process. He also announced that the week after next he expects 25-28 tenure track positions to be advertised addressing areas of strategic need. He expressed this is a very positive process over the last several months and thinks we have achieved good interaction among the units and faculty.

Clutter reminded the group of IANRs retreat in July. This retreat ended with five focus areas – science, literacy, health and humans, stress biology and sustainable ecosystems with a crosscut area of computation sciences. He said these five areas were a result of planning that the units had done in the months preceding where they were asked to focus on where the big impacts we could have over the next five to ten years. He said this is a process we intend to continue.

Clutter told next week is the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of the first Morrill Act and the University of Nebraska, the state's land grant institution. He encouraged membership to attend the many featured events.

Harbison asked if the \$6M shortfall will impact the hiring. Clutter said no, this will not impact hiring.

McCullough asked if interdisciplinary hires will be looked at. Clutter replied yes and noted from the beginning of the strategic planning process, interdisciplinary and inter-unit hires, not only with the Institute but across campus, has been encouraged. He said sustainable collaboration across the system, with the ARS (Agricultural Research Service), and other universities have also been discussed.

Other Business

Harbison inquired if there was other business.

Bryant stated he had a couple of matters for discussion. He wondered when the salary raises would be in effect as it appears that has been a delay in distribution. Harbison said he believed this salary information is now shown in your electronic Firefly account and that paper copies were no longer distributed. He added he thought this matter has already been before the Board of Regents. Bryant said from an Academic Planning Committee's perspective it may be useful to know the outcome for clarification purposes. Harbison agreed.

Bryant said he would be interested in receiving an update on enrollment such as where enrollment is up and where enrollment is down. He said this in line with what the APC charged itself to keep informed on the Chancellor's goals and the progress the campus is making. Harbison said he thought the numbers were available and he thought he had seen them but possibly the Senior Vice Chancellor could discuss at the next meeting if she is in attendance.

Harbison asked if there was further other business.

Weller stated after a year away from the APC he is playing catch up. He said he is aware there had been conversation relative to the APC being more proactive, not reactive. He said Chancellor Perlman had mentioned in his State of the University address that a RFP (request for proposal) would be issued to see if an outside vendor would be interested in construction of a university health center and then operating it. He commented there is an editorial in today's Lincoln Journal Star as well as a lead article in today's Daily Nebraskan. He said in the past the APC has chimed in on dormitories, parking garages, various additions, and the recreation center, to name a few, and, in looking at past discussion in the Minutes, did not see any discussion on the University Health Center (UHC). He wondered if the APC at some point would have the opportunity to chime in or be involved on the RFP.

Lahey commented he was just going to ask the same question. He said this not only affects students but everyone on campus. He said he feels the APC is within its rights to ask about the reason behind this.

Curtis said the APC, in its Operating Procedures, has been charged "to review with the Chancellor or the appropriate Vice Chancellors the Comprehensive Facilities Plan, the campus master land-use plan, and facilities needs as they relate to academic and support program goals and needs." He said he is curious if the APC has been sidestepped in that regard. He commented this goes back to discussion on the APC being more proactive.

Brand agreed there are consequences, this not only affects students but faculty and staff too. She said immunizations are given here and triage administered. She wondered about jobs being taken away and wondered if the RFP would take into account the many things that the UHC does. She would like to see the business plan. Weller remarked that he would too.

Harbison asked membership if inviting Chris Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, to APC's next meeting for briefing would be helpful. Membership agreed.

Kamler indicated students are confused as well. He shared that a lot of concerns and complaints have come his way. He said we don't have any answers from the student government perspective. He said that evening the Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska will have its regularly scheduled meeting and UHC Student Advisory Board will be in attendance to voice concerns. He added that Juan Franco, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, will also be in attendance. He conveyed the Senate Executive Committee will meet with Chancellor Perlman this Friday to get more answers and will know more after this meeting. He stated fee allocation on the RFP will also be discussed and that students are remaining neutral until after meeting with the Chancellor. He informed APC membership there is an RFP Committee and he has been approached to serve on this committee. He said committee meetings begin next week. He expressed he will report back to the APC.

Leighton conveyed graduate committees are concerned as well on the privatization of the UHC and a new building. He stated he has not heard many complaints on the quality of the building.

He remarked he has heard two explanations for a new building: 1) the proposed new College of Business building will be built there, which is felt as unrelated to a new UHC building, and 2) the increase of student enrollment would increase traffic through the UHC and they would need more space for expanded care. The focus should be on quality health care. He commented he does not know why this RFP is moving through so quickly. He told graduate committees would definitely like to be involved in the discussions once the RFP's responses are received.

Weller noted the current Master Plan does show a new building on the potential CBA building site or the possibility of a new building on the current UHC site.

Harbison said he would draft a letter to Vice Chancellor Jackson asking her if she could attend APC's next meeting to brief membership. He asked membership for suggestions and input by this Friday.

Harbison asked if there was any other business.

Brand informed membership the Dean of the College of Engineering has merged two departments and had not followed proper procedures. She commented this is disturbing. She expressed, in her opinion, the dean does not seem to understand faculty governance.

Harbison asked membership if it would be acceptable for him to contact Faculty Senate President Mathias Schubert and then draft a letter to the Dean Wei, with a copy to Senior Vice Chancellor Weissinger, informing him proposed mergers must come before the APC for its consideration. Membership agreed.

Harbison asked if there was further business and there was none.

There being no other business, Brand moved and McCollough seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in the City Campus Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green
APC Coordinator