

University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Approved Minutes  
February 27, 2013

Members Present

Gerard Harbison, Chair	Stephen Lahey	Jack Morris
Mike Hoffman	Christopher Marks	Prem S. Paul
Libby Jones	Martha McCollough	Linda Shipley
Eric Kamler		

Members Absent

Miles Taft Bryant	Jared Leighton	Ellen Weissinger
Archie Clutter	William Nunez	Curtis Weller
Ronnie Green	Donde Plowman	

Others Attending

Ron Yoder, Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Vice President/Vice Chancellor, on behalf of Ronnie Green and Archie Clutter  
Steven Waller, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources  
Paul Black, Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Director, Center of Biological Chemistry  
Mark Griep, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry Curriculum Committee  
Nancy Mitchell, Director, Undergraduate Education, Achievement Centered Education Program  
JoAnn Moseman, Undergraduate Education Programs and Coordinator, Academic Transfer

Harbison stated a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Motion to Approve Change in Administrative Responsibility for Undergraduate Biochemistry Major

Harbison indicated that Vice Chancellor Green had sent an information letter to the Committee informing of an administration change assigning the responsibility for the undergraduate biochemistry program to the Department of Biochemistry, previously the responsibility of the Center for Biological Chemistry. [attached to permanent record] He stated changing the unit responsible for administering a program is clearly a program change, which requires the review and recommendation from the APC. He said the main stakeholders to today's meeting are present to brief the Committee.

Harbison further explained as a result of discussions following the Academic Program Review (APR) for the Department of Biochemistry and the Center for Biological Chemistry, and with the support of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the College of Arts and Sciences, the "Operational Guidelines for the Department of Biochemistry and the Center for Biological Chemistry" were revised and approved by the cognizant faculty (April 2012).

Harbison indicated he will move to approve the change; however, given his affiliation with Chemistry, he will abstain on the vote. He then welcomed guests Steven Waller, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), Paul Black, Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Director of the Center of Biological Chemistry, and Mark Griep, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry Curriculum Committee.

Black communicated this change came about as a result of a lot of discussion to put together a program that would allow for more effective delivery of the undergraduate program in Biochemistry. He said this was somewhat of an arduous task as documents began in 1987, when the Center for Biological Chemistry was established by the Board of Regents. He said this really established the framework to have a degree program in both colleges – CASNR as well as the College of Arts and Sciences. He shared from an administrative standpoint it was a little schizophrenic, and as time moved on, it began very much centered in the Department for Biochemistry.

Black reiterated that the APR for the Department of Biochemistry and the Center for Biological Chemistry was held and one of the recommendations was to coalesce the undergraduate program administratively under the Department of Biochemistry in part: 1) because all of the teaching faculty were in Biochemistry, and 2) most all of the funds that fund the undergraduate program were from CASNR with a lesser amount from the College of Arts and Sciences. So it stood to reason that this would be a good avenue to follow. He indicated the graduate program was looked at as well because the graduate program is interdisciplinary.

Black, in conclusion, indicated there are two components; there is still the Center for Biological Chemistry as defined by the Board of Regents but administratively the Department of Biochemistry would administer this undergraduate program that would run in concert with the two Colleges. Fundamentally the program as it has historically stood will continue to stand; the core of the program remains pretty much the same.

Griep stated on behalf of the Chemistry Department he would like to convey the desire for the Department of Biochemistry to be in charge of their own undergraduate program. He said he has been at UNL since 1990 and has seen a lot of changes in the Center for Biological Chemistry. He said there used to be a lot more interaction between Biochemistry and Chemistry but various budget cuts reduced those types of interactions. Those reductions also led to the burden of the program falling solely on the Department of Biochemistry. He expressed this is a perfect recognition on the administrative change in the undergraduate program. He was also asked to point out that the Chemistry Curriculum Committee is trying to enhance our graduate major and our BS program.

Harbison asked if there were any questions or comments.

Morris stated his understanding is that the majority of the majors are actually in Arts and Sciences in this program. Black answered 2/3 is in Arts and Sciences and 1/3 is in CASNR and that CASNR is the administrative unit. He indicated philosophically the program will not be administered differently and said we are trying to work the best program for the undergraduate

students on campus. He stated one of the key components that came out of the Academic Program Review was the great set up as it allows students with different backgrounds the option pursuing a degree in biochemistry and really not necessarily being called out by saying which particular college the student is in.

Morris commented he believes this is a good idea and a good step towards normalization of Life Sciences type of programs. Black voiced the idea of building training programs, especially for graduate students, will fit well – especially for individuals that will go with the Life Sciences.

Hoffman inquired if the undergraduate population will primarily go either to medical school or a graduate school or is there another track where they get through Biochemistry and go work for a company? Black replied yes they can go through biochemistry and work for a company. He added one of the things we are trying to do is to make sure that this career path is actually strengthened. He said, for example, at any given year we will have 50-60 undergraduate students working in the labs in the Beadle Center in the biochemistry labs so that really helps to have the level of expertise to enter the private sector with the needed skill set. He said approximately 1/3 of the students go to medical school and 20% go to graduate school.

Harbison stated he would entertain a motion to approve.

Approval of the endorsement from the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, with the support of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the College of Arts and Sciences, to change the scope of the “Operational Guidelines for the Department of Biochemistry and the Center for Biological Chemistry” to assign the responsibility for the undergraduate biochemistry to the Department of Biochemistry, previously the responsibility for the Center for Biological Chemistry was moved by Harbison and seconded by Morris.

Harbison inquired if there was any other discussion, comments or questions and there were none. He called for a vote. The APC voted to approve this endorsement. Harbison thanked Black, Griep, and Waller for attending and they thanked the APC for its consideration. [Black, Griep, and Waller left]

#### Approval of January 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the January 16, 2013 general meeting was moved by Kamler and seconded by Morris.

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

#### Academic Program Review Monitor Appointment [attached to permanent record]

Harbison indicated that a member was needed as an Academic Program Review (APR) monitor to the Department of Food Science and Technology from September 22-25, 2013.

Harbison asked for a volunteer. Lahey volunteered to serve as the APR monitor. The appointment was supported by APC membership.

Academic Program Review Monitor Appointment [attached to permanent record]

Harbison indicated that a member was needed as an Academic Program Review (APR) monitor to the Department of Mathematics from March 16-19, 2014.

Harbison asked for a volunteer. Hoffman volunteered to serve as the APR monitor. The appointment was supported by APC membership.

Academic Program Review Monitor Appointment [attached to permanent record]

Harbison indicated that a member was needed as an Academic Program Review (APR) monitor to the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences from April 8-10, 2014. This Review will include a review of the following two Centers: Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center and Veterinary Diagnostics Center.

Harbison asked for a volunteer. Morris volunteered to serve as the APR monitor. The appointment was supported by APC membership.

Discussion on Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) Curriculum

Harbison asked Lahey to discuss this agenda item. Lahey voiced he had hoped Nancy Mitchell, Director, Undergraduate Education, Achievement Centered Education Program would attend this meeting. Shipley commented she believed Mitchell would be attending; however, not until the posted time on the agenda.

[Please note the order of the Agenda was changed by the APC Chair]

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

Harbison asked Paul if he had any matters to share or discuss. He said he had a couple of matters.

Paul voiced he believes what is on everyone's mind currently is what is happening in Washington, DC. He mentioned former Senator Chuck Hagel is now the current United States Secretary of Defense.

Paul stated the first matter was the mood in DC. He told his last couple of trips to DC the mood at the few agencies has not been good news concerning grants. He said, for example, NIH's plan with the existing grants, even though the budget was originally approved, is that they will only pay 90% of that particular grant.

Paul indicated the second matter that we have been hearing quite a bit about is that the agency will have to make up the shortfall in fewer months rather than the entire year so the success rate is much lower than it used to be. He voiced this will definitely have a negative impact. He said these are challenges.

Paul said from a positive side, we have some very good new initiatives underway that will help. He expressed we will have to be clever, more creative, innovative and work harder and certainly

having the Department of Defense, University-Affiliated Research Center (UARC) with StratCom is a new source of funding. He remarked we are aggressively pursuing that. He told associate vice chancellor for research Kurt Preston recently joined the university and to get to know the faculty better will hold a table top exercise on Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He mentioned associate vice chancellor for research Regina Werum, who also joined recently UNL, has been at NSF (National Science Foundation) as a program officer. He shared we are aggressively networking to learn faculty interests and then looking for additional ideas.

Hoffman inquired about UARC and available grants. Paul responded basically UNL was awarded a contract from the Department of Defense that provides up to \$85M to support research projects. He said, for example, the Army or the Navy may come to UNL based on our capabilities and expertise and say can you do this project and we will put together a task order with our plans for the project. [Shipley left to phone Mitchell]

Harbison asked if there were any further questions or comments and there were none. He asked Yoder if he had any matters to share on behalf of Green or Clutter.

Yoder conveyed IANR is moving forward with the hiring of the 36 faculty positions as published recently. He remarked these press releases have attracted quite a bit of attention. He told IANR has announced this initiative widely and these positions are available for viewing on the IANR web page. He said of those 36 positions, 3 will involve working with large data sets.

Yoder informed IANR is continuing to push our international efforts in China. We are also working with Brazil to attract students from their Scientific Mobility program – not only for IANR but university wide. He informed that 3 individuals from IANR will travel to Brazil in the beginning of April. [Shipley returned]

Yoder indicated IANR is pressing forward on filling several administrative positions as well as two chair positions.

Harbison asked if there were any questions or comments for Yoder and there were none.

[For reference the IANR web page is located at the following URL: <http://ianrhome.unl.edu/home>]

#### Discussion on Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) Curriculum

Harbison noted Mitchell had not arrived yet and asked Lahey to discuss this agenda item. Lahey conveyed he heard recently different transfer offices alone were accepting courses and assigning an ACE value. So, he began investigating this. He informed APC that there are two kinds of ACE courses: ACE courses taught here at UNL and ACE courses that are brought in from outside of UNL. He wondered by what criteria these courses are assigned ACE value. He stated there needs to be some sort of mechanism to make this less haphazard and not have two levels of ACE courses.

Lahey said when he began exploring this issue, the topic of recertifying for ACE also came up. He remarked if you have not experienced ACE recertification, what you have to do is that for every

ACE course you teach, you must come up with a rubric that defines how a student matches to the instructor's evaluation to the students work. He expressed this is extraordinarily terrifying to some faculty. McCollough added it is also time-consuming. Lahey discovered great resources of information on the ACE website including rubric information so it might not be overly burdensome as once thought. He said the next logical step to begin to address this issue with regards to ACE transfer credits and get those rubrics into the hands of the people who are assigned transfer credits so they can have a much clearer idea. He said he discussed this with Nancy Mitchell and remarked he believes this problem is beginning to be addressed.

Discussion ensued. Jones remarked from an engineer's perspective - and noted courses held both on UNL and UNO campuses - the Omaha campus students are limited to only those ACE courses that have this transfer equivalent from UNO to UNL so it actually shrinks down the availability of ACE courses significantly for engineering students. Hoffman stated we have also required courses that 5 of the 10 ACE's are already required and specifically identified. Jones said her perspective of having to manage undergraduates on both campuses, the more flexibility we can have for transfer credits the better it is for all of Engineering - especially with going to more programs on both campuses.

McCollough stated from her perspective in dealing with equivalencies, the last thing she would want to do is to figure out if a course outside of UNL matches a course beginning taught here at UNL.

Jones noted this is exactly what the engineering students on the Omaha campus are asked to do so they are put through the double ringer for the five through nine areas to get some of those transfer credits. She voiced this is a problem.

Hoffman stated when ACE was initially presented he thought on the Omaha and the other campuses if there was a general education program in place on that campus that that would satisfy instead of ACE and wondered when did that change. Jones replied 3-4 years ago and believes the directive came from the Senior Vice Chancellors office. She reiterated more flexibility on the transfer credits is needed.

Lahey suggested that this be at the level of each college where transfer credits are assigned. He said there is quite a bit of courses that are assessed for transfer value that are not received at the department level. He would like the departments to have more discretion in what is accepted for courses that they have gone through the trouble to ACE by presenting the rubrics for accessing their ACE courses to the different transfer offices. McCollough commented she wants students to be able to transfer with ease.

Marks asked Lahey if the ACE Committee was aware of the transfer credit matter. Lahey said we will know when Mitchell arrives. [Mitchell and Moseman arrived]

Harbison welcomed Mitchell. Lahey updated Mitchell on the discussion that had just occurred.

Mitchell introduced JoAnn Moseman, Undergraduate Education Programs and Coordinator, Academic Transfer. She communicated the policy states that if a course has been decided as a direct equivalent to an UNL course and the UNL course has ACE certification then the direct equivalent will also have it. In cases where there is not a direct equivalency, then Moseman would work with the department, in particular the chair or the curriculum committee, to establish with them the criteria that they would use to accept the course.

Moseman remarked we are fine tuning rubrics for the Colleges but noted the most commonly transfer courses have already been dealt with.

Mitchell expressed the value rubrics is a good start. She advised Moseman and Marilyn Liebsch are systematically working with the departments to create rubric templates based on the criteria.

Lahey commented the place where there is the most trouble was with the higher number of ACE's, in particular ACE 8, and said that his department had to rewrite and restructure the courses to meet ACE requirements. Mitchell responded the whole course does not have to be about ACE 8, only a portion of the course. She believes if a curriculum committee asks they are only trying to make sure that the course actually helps the student meets the outcome.

Harbison inquired if some of the CASNR equivalencies pre-date ACE? Moseman replied yes. Mitchell added when ACE was implemented in 2009, we didn't want to disadvantage students who might have taken a course that now counts that didn't count before. Hoffman remarked there was finite window of students and most of these students are now gone.

Hoffman wondered if it was possible for the APC to receive the fraction of ACE hours that are declared by the degree that come from UNL and the fraction that come from outside UNL and to even possibly even break it down by college. It would be nice to know what the numbers are – on the whole and by the college. Mitchell stated this is one of the projects we are working on; however, this analysis has not been done yet. She expressed one of the things we are trying to do concerning the transfer piece is to increase the number of students at UNL and while we want to maintain the integrity of the courses we don't want to make it extremely hard.

Moseman commented when we talk about a course being equivalent we don't talk about it being exactly the same course, we talk about it in terms of is it a reasonable substitute. She said when we think about exception transfer credit from this program or that requirement we must consider when is it reasonable to expect the student to take another course to meet the outcome? What is reasonable for the student if they have already passed a course that didn't have an ACE component? It is reasonable to expect the student to take another course just to meet the ACE outcome? She remarked this is something for consideration.

Harbison voiced the idea to do 9 out of 10 courses seems a little extreme. Hoffman said 5 out of 10 might be a better number.

Mitchell mentioned currently we are just completing the second year of assessment. There are 10 outcomes. She said in the fifth year we look at the entire program and make adjustments. She stated one adjustment may be the ACE 8 outcome that seems to cause people problems.

Hoffman mentioned earlier in the meeting discussion between he and Jones concerning engineering programs. He stated to Mitchell that his understanding when ACE was first approved the idea was that any campus could fulfill the general education requirement on that campus and not necessarily have to take ACE classes. For example, the UNL students who are on the UNO campus could fulfill the general education requirements on that campus. He said that was the original acceptance and wondered how and when did that change? Jones added we have now been told that for students in Omaha in engineering their course list has been limited for outcome 5 to 9 down to just the direct transfers between UNL and UNO. She said this has gotten to be a very small subset. Mitchell replied we will need to have more information on this before further discussing. Jones stated she would send information to Mitchell.

Harbison inquired if there were further questions, comments or discussion. Lahey stated he would be happy to work with Mitchell to continue this conversation. Marks observed the ACE committee; as well as the University Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate should also be involved in the conversation. Mitchell agreed and said they most definitely will be involved. Harbison tasked Lahey to continue this conversation with Mitchell to return back to the APC with a recommendation. Membership agreed.

[For reference the Achievement-Centered Education web page is located at the following URL:  
<http://ace.unl.edu/assessmentplanning.shtml>

#### Other Business

Harbison asked if there was any other business and there was none.

There being no other business, Lahey and McCollough seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Campus Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator