

University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Approved Minutes  
January 15, 2014

Members Present

Stephen Lahey, Chair  
Archie Clutter  
Leslie Delserone  
Jacob Friefeld  
Gerard Harbison

Mike Hoffman  
Martha McCollough  
Jack Morris  
William Nunez  
Prem S. Paul

Jamie Radcliffe  
Patrick Shea  
Linda Shipley  
Ellen Weissinger

Members Absent

Ronnie Green  
Libby Jones

Donde Plowman  
Josh Waltjer

Lahey stated a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Lahey welcomed membership to the first meeting of 2014.

Approval of November 20, 2013 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the November 20, 2013 general meeting was moved by Morris and seconded by Shipley.

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

Update on Forum with Faculty Senate for Non-Tenure Track Faculty Membership

Lahey reminded members about the proposed two hour session for all tenure line faculty at the university. He informed a forum has now been scheduled on Wednesday, February 12 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to be held in the City Union Auditorium. Nunez pointed out this venue replaces the February 12 APC general meeting.

Lahey said he would represent the APC and believed Professors Rigoberto Guevara and David Woodman from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee would represent Faculty Senate. Also participating, among others, would be Professor Evelyn Jacobson, Professor Julia Schleck, as well as Professor Linda Pratt. Lahey commented Professor Jacobson has considerable experience in hiring and responsibilities with regards to non-tenure line faculty and would be representing faculty. He mentioned Professor Schleck is interested in getting the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) up and running again. He stated the outline of the forum is that each individual would briefly speak about the desire that tenure line faculty, specifically professors of practice and research professors, view themselves as participating members of the university community as faculty and because they are faculty should consider very carefully participating in faculty governance, specifically the Faculty Senate, the executive board of the

Faculty Senate and the Academic Planning Committee. He said then there would be an open forum. He conveyed this forum would be publicized and information would be circulated to chairs and directors encouraging them to encourage their respective professors of practice and research professors to attend this forum. He commented he would love to see a mass of people attend this forum.

Lahey inquired if there were any questions or suggestions and there were none. [Weissinger arrived]

#### Discussion to Clarify Academic Planning Committee Operating Procedures

Lahey indicated in previous APC meetings there had been discussion to include non-tenured line faculty as members on this committee as well as discussion on revising the Operating Procedures of the APC. He said in discussion with Nunez and Coordinator Green a thought could be to add a footnote to the Operating Procedures of the APC with regard to defining who the faculty is. He added Harbison had also mentioned this in a previous meeting. He stated this footnote could read such as by faculty we mean to include full professors, associate professors, assistant professors, professors of practice, and research professors. Nunez commented Faculty Senate recently done a very similar definitional statement and depending on which path the APC determines to take, the APC should embrace the Faculty Senate definition for consistency purposes. Shea agreed.

Radcliffe voiced he thought Harbison was suggesting arranging the election in such a way that is was essentially guaranteed for a position to be occupied by either a research professor or a professor of practice. He wondered the thought of membership on this matter and commented this may not even be the responsibility of the APC. Lahey stated this was also his desire, to have the Faculty Senate put wording on the ballot indicating a strong desire for nomination. He added this would be something we would have to facilitate with the Faculty Senate. Nunez stated the conduit would be the Faculty Senate and that the Committee on Committees was the specific committee charged with ballot creation and distribution.

Morris inquired if this committee precludes a professor of practice. Lahey and Nunez replied no. Morris commented Professor David Woodman is a member of the Faculty Senate and professor of practice. Lahey stated yes and the APC wants to encourage this.

Paul voiced he has been supportive of this when the initial conversation occurred. He stated one potential challenge would be for the research professor is if these professors are completely paid through federal grants. He told their time has to be accounted for and if these professors are 100% on federal grants then recovering the cost for additional committee(s) work time could be a challenge. He remarked that he didn't think of this early on in the conversation. Lahey thanked Paul.

Lahey inquired if there was further discussion or comments. There were none.

#### Action Item: New Quilt Studies Graduate Certificate

Lahey introduced the proposal and pointed out the proposal was in each member handout packet that was distributed electronically. [attached to permanent record] Lahey asked Weissinger if she wished to comment on this proposal.

Weissinger stated due to historic strengths UNL has been able to hire excellent individuals such as Michael James, Chair, Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design and Patricia Crews, the former department chair. She voiced the Quilt Study Center is an internationally recognized scholarly institute for the study and preservation of quilt from both scientific and social science and humanities perspective. She commented she would support this proposal as she believes it represents a real area of scholarly strength on campus.

Approval of the proposal from the College of Education and Human Sciences to create a new Graduate Certificate in Quilt Studies was moved by Paul and seconded by Radcliffe.

Lahey inquired if there were any questions, further comments or discussion from membership and there were none. He called for a vote. The APC voted unanimously to approve this proposal.

Subcommittee Appointment: Proposal of Merger of Departments of Computer & Electronics Engineering and Electrical Engineering [attached to permanent record]

Lahey indicated to membership that two subcommittee members were needed to review the proposal to merge the Departments of Computer & Electronics Engineering with the Department of Electrical Engineering to form the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering. .

Radcliffe and Delserone volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

Brief discussion ensued that concluded this subcommittee will review the proposal and bring a recommendation to the next APC meeting, which would be February 26.

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

Lahey asked Paul if he had any matters to share or discuss. Paul mentioned he gave a research update to the Faculty Senate at its meeting yesterday summarizing the current funding environment in Washington, DC and of the budget challenges. (Note: This research update handout was received after the meeting.) He said in the last couple of years our federal research funding has stabilized or been a little down which is the same situation as other universities. He said we are aggressively trying to think about how we can be even more aggressive and helpful to faculty in putting together the best proposals that have the highest success rate. [Harbison arrived]

Paul informed that APC that new programs have been started in the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) to help faculty and to partner with the colleges and the departments. The Research Leadership Team met with Dean Wei and department chairs in the College of Engineering for a very productive first meeting. He stated this will continue with the other major colleges.

Paul indicated the two new programs that were started were the Revision Awards and the Biomedical Research Seed Grants. He stated regarding the Revision Awards, which began late in the fall semester, offers assistance to faculty in revising and resubmitting proposals that were reviewed, scored, but not funded within the last 24 months. He stated the second program, Biomedical Research Seed Grants, will tentatively be unveiled by next week and indicated this program is funded by tobacco settlement funds. He said this program supports faculty who have

conducted preliminary studies or data collection by offering feedback from external reviewers on proposals that will be sent to NIH (National Institutes of Health). He noted NIH now only allows two submissions of a proposal and remarked so proposals have to be top notch upon submission.

Paul stated another engagement with faculty is the ORED senior team that has been holding meetings with faculty who have joined UNL within the last three years. He said this connection has been very beneficial.

Lahey inquired if there were any questions or comments for Paul. Harbison wondered why not just send the proposal directly to NIH. Paul replied sure, absolutely, but the added value we are going to provide is an external review panel can critique and the faculty member can then make any needed revisions to the proposal before submission. He remarked this provides the faculty member additional input and the submitted proposal is more likely to be successful.

Lahey asked if there any further questions or comments and there were none. Lahey thanked Paul.

Lahey asked Weissinger if she had any matters to share or discuss. Weissinger stated Maria Marron has been hired as the new dean in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. She stated the search committee did an amazing job developing prospects in an applicant pool. She added the engagement from the faculty, staff, students and alumni was amazing as well. She said Dr. Marron has a journalist background with some experience in public relations and advertising.

Weissinger informed membership the search for a new dean in the College of Arts and Sciences is moving forward. The committee will review candidates with the next couple of weeks. She remarked she estimates on-campus interviews will occur late February or early March. Dean Susan Poser is the chair of this committee.

#### Other Business

Lahey mentioned he had an item that arose from a discussion with Faculty Senate President Rigoberto Guevara regarding a new policy at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. He asked Friefeld to update the committee. Friefeld stated that shortly after the DC Navy Yard shootings a KU faculty member tweeted blaming the NRA for their opposition to gun control for the shootings. He said partly in response to that the regents at Kansas instituted a new social media policy allowing for faculty to be disciplined up to termination for improper use of social media. [Clutter arrived] He said his understanding is that policy is currently under review by the regents. Brief discussion ensued and concluded with reference to Executive Memorandum No. 16.

Lahey asked Clutter if he had any matters to share from VC Green. Clutter stated he would like to report on one item. He informed membership a leadership change has begun in the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He stated David Hardin has chosen to step down as director and return to faculty. He said a search committee will be named within the next 10

days. He stated as a result of this the Academic Program Review scheduled in April has been put on hold until 6 months after new leadership is in place.

Lahey asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. He thanked Clutter.

Lahey inquired if there was any other business. There was none.

There being no other business, Harbison moved and Nunez seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Campus Nebraska Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator