

University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Approved Minutes  
March 12, 2014

Members Present

Stephen Lahey, Chair	Mike Hoffman	Prem S. Paul
Archie Clutter	Libby Jones	Jamie Radcliffe
Jacob Friefeld	Martha McCollough	Patrick Shea
Gerard Harbison	Jack Morris	Josh Waltjer

Members Absent

Leslie Delserone	Donde Plowman
Ronnie Green	Linda Shipley
William Nunez	Ellen Weissinger

Other Attending

Steven Waller, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources  
Tiffany Heng-Moss, Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Lahey stated a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. He welcomed Dean Steven Waller and Associate Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss. Lahey briefly updated membership on the upcoming budget reduction process and reminded of the upcoming budget meeting on March 17.

Approval of February 12, 2014 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the February 12, 2014 general meeting was moved by Morris and seconded by Jones.

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

Approval of February 26, 2014 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the February 26, 2014 general meeting was tabled until the next meeting with membership in agreement.

Action Item: Proposal from College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources to Create Bachelor of Science in Integrated Science

Lahey introduced the proposal and indicated the proposal was in each member handout packet that was distributed electronically. [attached to permanent record] Lahey asked subcommittee members Shea and Morris to discuss this item.

Shea informed the subcommittee he and Morris had prepared a report based on their review and evaluation of the proposal and that this report was shared with membership before this meeting. [attached to permanent record] He said to summarize the recommendation, the new program

complements/adds to existing offerings and will attract students not served by those programs. It will not duplicate or directly compete with existing programs; rather it improves the ability to serve and properly place students. The program is endorsed by Dow AgroSciences and Monsanto, who will contribute to the program through internships and other experiential opportunities. The program is expected to increase engagement with the private sector and public agencies, leading to more career opportunities for students. The proposal was approved by a large majority of CASNR faculty responding to an invitation from the CASNR Dean to vote/comment on it. No substantial concerns were raised by those who responded. The proposal has been approved by the CASNR and CAS deans and IANR Vice Chancellor.

Shea added Morris discussed this proposal with the School of Biological Science and also with a representative from the Curriculum Committee for the College of Arts and Sciences and there were no concerns.

Shea indicated this subcommittee recommends APC approval of the request from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources to create a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Science and introduced a motion to do so. As a motion from a subcommittee, no second is required.

Lahey inquired if there were any questions, comments or discussion.

Harbison voiced he had some reservations about science majors. He believed this proposal did not reflect the entire body of the sciences and it appeared the support from the Dean of Arts and Sciences was not strong.

Morris stated he spoke with the Chair of his department's curriculum committee as initially he was concerned there was a Life Sciences concentration but noted the Life Sciences concentration actually isn't all too different from the pre-scripted nature for Biological Sciences with some flexibility. He noted this flexibility isn't too different from the flexibility that is available to the students in Arts and Sciences if they choose their own curriculum.

Waller indicated in Agricultural fields we are seeing much more emphasis on what we define as Integrated Sciences, which is sciences across a broad spectrum of science. He stated the demand for professionally trained persons in the areas of food, energy and water continues to grow. He said employers are looking to hire these individuals. He added the proposed program is designed to serve the needs of students who desire science-based academic programs not already offered by CASNR.

Shea expressed this proposal in his opinion is forward looking in terms of the vast number of strong career options requiring multiple skills and multi-disciplinary knowledge. Heng-Moss agreed. It was noted the proposed program is designed from existing courses.

Hoffman inquired who the employers were looking to hire more well-rounded individuals. Waller replied it is across the spectrum of primarily agricultural field. He said such as Dow AgroSciences and Monsanto.

Hoffman inquired if there was accreditation. Waller replied no. Hoffman asked what mechanism was in place if there was no accreditation for any sort of assessment. Waller responded programs are reviewed at least once every 5 years, if not part of an Academic Program Review, then as on-going review. He added then there is feedback from alumni and employers. [Waltjer left]

Lahey inquired if there were any further questions, comments or discussion and there was none. Lahey called for a vote. The APC voted with one dissent to endorse the proposal. Lahey thanked Waller and Heng-Moss for attending and they thanked the APC for its time and consideration. [Waller and Heng-Moss left]

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

Lahey noted Green and Weissinger were not present. He inquired to Paul if he had any matters to report. Paul stated he had two matters.

Paul shared first, last Friday, Professor Don Weeks in Biochemistry was inducted as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. He expressed this is quite an honor.

Paul said the second matter is there is a faculty retreat on May 15 and 16. He said the Research Advisory Board is developing a more detailed agenda with more information to share with faculty. He told we have had these faculty retreats in the past and the goal is to have more faculty to get to know each other and for more interdisciplinary research.

Lahey asked membership if there were any questions or comments for Paul and there were none. He thanked Paul.

Lahey inquired if Clutter had anything to share on behalf of Green/IANR. Clutter stated he would like to mention one item.

Clutter indicated this week the first meeting of the IANR Statewide Resource Optimization Taskforce was held. He said this is an attempt to really look at all of our resources across the state and look for ways to optimize and get greater impact from statewide resources. He commented this has not been done since the 1990's. He said this established taskforce is chaired by Associate Vice Chancellor Ron Yoder and as some of this is related to research and extension will be co-chaired by himself and Chuck Hibbard. He said there are also external stakeholders on this taskforce in addition to faculty. He told the intent is for a very transparent process which will begin with a survey to faculty. He informed this taskforce will have four sections with a charge to come back with recommendations by the end of June.

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

Other Business

Lahey referenced the upcoming proposed merger of the College of Architecture and the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. He stated the APC should request as much information as possible this semester regarding this merger to prevent any issues down the road.

He mentioned the APC Merger Guidelines. He indicated this proposed merger should be on the docket early in the fall.

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

There being no other business, McCollough moved and Lahey seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Campus Nebraska Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle (Shelly) Green  
APC Coordinator