

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Approved Minutes
November 5, 2014

Members Present

Mike Hoffman, Chair	Kevin Knudson	Patrick Shea
Nancy Busch	Stephen Lahey	William Wagner
Archie Clutter	Martha McCollough	Curtis Walker
Ronnie Green	William Nunez	Ellen Weissinger
Libby Jones	Jamie Radcliffe	Tyler White

Members Absent

Leslie Delserone	Prem Paul	Linda Shipley
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Others Present

Charles O'Connor, Dean of Hixon-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts
Kim Wilson, Interim Dean, College of Architecture
John Richmond, Director/Chair, School of Music
Jeffrey Day, Director, Architecture Program
Paul Steger, Director, Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film
Other Various Members of the Transition Committee and the Architecture Faculty

Hoffman called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. He stated a quorum was present.

Approval of October 15, 2014 Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the October 15, 2014 general meeting was moved by McCollough and seconded by White.

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

Proposal: Merger of the College of Architecture and the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts to Form the Hixson-Lied College of the Arts and Design

Hoffman welcomed Dean O'Connor, Dean Wilson, Director Richmond, Director Day, and others present on behalf of their colleges. He then outlined the timeline, developed in conjunction with the APC subcommittee, regarding the APC process:

- Today will be discussion and questions to the deans and directors on the proposal distributed by the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs;
- On November 19th APC will hold an open meeting with invitations to faculty and others involved;
- On December 10th, a meeting between the APC and the strategic planning consultant to discuss merger processes and prospects; and,
- APC consideration of the proposal January 14, 2015.

Hoffman then opened the floor to questions and comments.

Lahey asked what was involved as far as consideration of design in the merger, what exactly industrial design means, and if there was some kind of limit to the meaning. A discussion on the connotations of design and how this was connected to the merger process ensued between Lahey, O'Connor, Wilson, and Day. Lahey noted there were three chief concerns that the APC is interested in when considering this merger and were as follows: is there sufficient academic justification for the proposal, are the resources available to make this merger successful, and are the faculty involved in the decision making process.

Hoffman agreed with Lahey that these were important factors that needed to be addressed. He inquired how exactly the College of Architecture would transition to have more of a design component and how this would affect academics. Wilson responded that as they transitioned and evolved there would be more collaboration among departments with the architecture and design faculty and students.

Wagner wondered why there was a substantial minority opposition towards the merger among the faculty involved and asked for a perspective on this from the deans. Wilson replied that it may stem from a sense of repositioning and demotion from a separate College to a School but the belief is there are opportunities in that. She stated the strategic planning process will inform all stakeholders and will be able to unfold the common areas in design and the new curriculum.

Hoffman asked how the "word cloud" indicating the more popular options for new school names worked and if there were any other notes about the naming process. Wilson stated that the more popular associated words were denoted in a larger font in the word cloud, and that "Architecture" would most likely remain in the schools name, however a shift from "architecture" to "design" would allow for more freedom and the ability to add onto the School. She also made note that the addition of an emphasis on design to the program would allow for more collaboration with other disciplines like engineering and business. O'Connor added that a focus on interdisciplinary practices would also be useful.

O'Connor remarked most of the faculty involved are excited for the merger and expressed he believes the merger to be an interesting and potentially fruitful opportunity. He stated that change is natural and commented that the needs of the students are the first priority. Wilson then updated on how the strategic planning process was unfolding.

Shea remarked from comments conveyed today and from documentation received, there seems to be a strong feeling of an overall consensus of administration and faculty in favor of the merger recognizing that there are details and issues to be worked out. He voiced he is not hearing a lot of doubt or negative aside from individual concerns. O'Connor agreed.

Hoffman asked for any further questions or comments on the proposal and there were none. He thanked all for attending the meeting. O'Connor and Wilson thanked the committee for the opportunity to address the APC. [O'Connor, Wilson, Day, Steger, Richmond, and all others left]

Upcoming Project Initiation Request for Morrill Hall 4th Floor Renovation

Nunez informed membership that a draft Project Initiation Request (PIR) for renovation of the fourth floor of Morrill Hall had been received. He said the PIR subcommittee would review this PIR and relayed this is forthcoming for the November 19th APC meeting.

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

Hoffman inquired to Weissinger if she had any matters.

Weissinger gave an overall update on the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP). She highlighted the process involved and reiterated the qualifications to be considered for the program. She informed of the legalities and told those eligible individuals choosing to participate in the VSIP have access to a network of assistance when making his or her transition. Green commented that the outlook and interest in those eligible for this year's VSIP was much different than the last time it was offered. He said the economy is different this time. He added while the numbers of those eligible are similar, more are considering participating.

Hoffman questioned whether it was an option for those participating to retire and then come back after a period of time. Weissinger answered that while it was technically possible those participating shouldn't take this action as their accepted incentives should be fair enough.

Radcliffe asked how the money involved would be relocated following the VSIP. Weissinger stated that it would in most cases be allocated towards new priorities and focuses and noted that money taken from specific departments wouldn't necessarily go back to those departments.

McCullough questioned how departing faculty might leave behind gaps in core areas of the departments. Green responded that while this may occur, core areas are constantly evolving and in most cases faculty can adjust to this evolution and work with changes in faculty.

Hoffman thanked Weissinger and asked Green if he had any matters.

Green provided an update on the new and current processes on Innovation Campus. He indicated so far things were on schedule for occupancy by the designated time. He said the Greenhouse complex was set to be online by March 1st and that the complex in the south area of the Campus was set to be online July 1st. He indicated an emphasis, beginning January of next year, extending across campus is the knowledge of what it takes to build partnerships, not just in these facilities but in future facilities to continue the growth. Green said the intent is to explain with representatives from other colleges and departments how IANR was able to take on such a large project and where the money and resources are coming from.

Green referenced Weissinger's announced transition. He informed membership the search for a senior vice chancellor is following the same path he described at an earlier meeting. To date, a search committee has been appointed which represents a very broad swath of the university and that a search firm had been identified and contracted. He noted he is the chair of this search committee and relayed the first meeting of this committee was set to take place on November 24, and that the search would officially begin after that meeting. He expressed he is very optimistic about the outlook of the search. He asked for questions or comments and there were none.

Other Business

Hoffman asked if there was any other business. There was none.

There being no other business, Jones moved and Knudson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Jones and
Michelle (Shelly) Green
APC Coordinator