

MINUTES

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

April 27, 2016

Members Present:

Ignacio Correas	Leslie Delserone	Michael Farrell
Ronnie Green	Gerry Harbison	Mike Hoffman
William Nunez	Prem Paul	Patrick Shea
Melanie Simpson	Guy Trainin	Tyler White
Ron Yoder		

Members Absent:

Nancy Busch	Maria Marron	Eva Franke-Schubert
Spencer Hartman		

Others Attending:

Ken Bloom	Mark Hinchman	Harvey Perlman
Patricia Sollars	Mike Zeleney	

1.0 Call to Order

Delserone called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2.0 Acknowledgement of Departing and Incoming Members (Faculty and Student)

Delserone thanked outgoing faculty members Patrick Shea, Mike Hoffman, and Gerry Harbison for their service, but reminded them that they are still members of the Committee through July 31 should a meeting be needed during the summer. She welcomed new faculty members Ken Bloom, Patty Sollars, and Mark Hinchman who begin their term on August 1. Outgoing ASUN representative Thien Chau and Graduate Student representative Curtis Walker were thanked in absentia

3.0 Chancellor's Annual Briefing

Chancellor Perlman thanked the members of the APC for all of their engagement and the support that he experienced over the years. He noted that while there were some controversial issues, the engagement was good and fair and he believes on the whole the university is a better place because of the interactions he has had with the Committee. He stated that due to a technicality his appointment is not over until June 30, but he does not like long transitions and, in order to be more effective, VC Green will assume the role of Chancellor-Elect on May 9.

Chancellor Perlman noted that searches will begin for two of the highest academic positions on campus: Vice Chancellor of IANR and Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. He hoped that faculty members will be actively engaged in the searches as these

Vice Chancellors will become increasingly important as the scope of the positions become broader.

Chancellor Perlman reported that another change occurring this summer is the retirement of Meg Lauerman, Director of University Communications, but with all of these changes there is the opportunity to bring new energy, new ideas, and new initiatives to the campus.

Hoffman noted that changes are coming forward regarding distance education courses and how the tuition from these courses will be distributed and asked for clarification. Green stated that the change has been vetted with the Deans for the past year and will be implemented this coming fiscal year. He reported that an advisory committee of faculty members will oversee a proposal process for distance education courses. If a course is proposed that addresses the problem of a bottlenecked course that helps students graduate, the tuition will be distributed in a fashion similar to the old formula. He stated that the APC will be provided with further details in the fall.

Hoffman noted that the previous formula used for distance education courses provided some departments with additional revenue, but did not contribute to the overall campus budget which resulted in a budget shortfall. He stated that this situation must be avoided and suggested a cap be placed on the amount of money that is distributed back to a department. Green assured the APC that a process was being developed that would not allow that kind of situation to happen again. Hoffman asked if the courses would have to be approved before a program began. Green stated that approval would be needed. He pointed out that the colleges were given permanent funding to cover new designated online courses, which will help address courses that are bottlenecked due to high enrollment, and true distance education courses.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the campus is fine with the budget this year even though Varner Hall gave us a deficit for the last year, in addition to our existing deficits. He believes that the increase in enrollment will help offset the budget so the campus does not have to go through significant budget reductions.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the university will receive about half of what it requested from the Legislature for the capital construction initiative. He stated that Walter Scott Engineering, Nebraska Hall, and Mabel Lee Hall top the list of buildings that need renovation. He noted that there could be some additional funding opportunities for classroom projects such as turning the former Food Science area in Filley Hall into classroom space.

Wagner pointed out that one of the goals of the campus is to increase enrollment growth, but the APC has not heard plans on how the campus will deal with that kind of growth. Chancellor Perlman noted that in his first ten years as Chancellor, the campus grew by 2500 students and the campus was able to manage it. He stated that there will be pressure to deal with additional growth, and the administration knows what the issues are that need to be considered. He stated that in the recent past efforts have been made to

improve the student services side of the campus, and now additional revenue has been allocated to the academic side. Wagner pointed out that laboratory facilities are limited in the Biological Sciences. Chancellor Perlman stated that the increased interest in the life sciences is one of the reasons why Brace Hall was renovated. Green stated that he will have more to say about the issue of increased enrollment in September.

Hoffman asked if the VSIP will be offered yearly. Chancellor Perlman stated that it was considered, but it is less costly for the university not to offer it. He pointed out that there is a natural flow of retirement every year and the timing of offering the VSIP was critically important. Due to the last VSIP, there will be a decline in some faculty resources next year.

Bloom noted that there will be a lot of budgetary issues next year and it would be helpful if the APC could get a budget briefing overview. Nunez reported that providing a budget briefing is on the list of things Green will be doing this fall. Green stated that he will be looking very hard at how the budget works and there might be some changes to the process in a couple of years. Chancellor Perlman stated that there are some realities that have to be considered from an academic planning perspective. He pointed out that moving empty lines around and enrollment growth has allowed us to keep ahead of budget cuts. He noted that we have approximately 2,000 international students who each generate about \$19,000 a year and small changes to these numbers could have implications. He stated that he understands that international students can put more pressure on faculty members due to the lack of language skills and the learning habits of different cultures, but we need to find ways to adjust to make this a good place for these students.

4.0 Approval of April 13, 2016 Minutes

Trainin moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Correas and approved by the APC.

5.0 Appointment of Subcommittee to Review Proposal for Nutrition, Non-coding RNAs and Extracellular Vesicles Graduate Certificate

Delserone stated that a subcommittee is needed to review the proposal and asked for two volunteers. She pointed out that this could be done over the summer and the subcommittee could report its findings by email or be ready to report on it at the first meeting in the fall. Sollars and Harbison volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

6.0 Appointment of Subcommittee to review Proposal for Public Relations and Social Media Graduate Certificate

Delserone stated that a subcommittee is needed to review the proposal and asked for two volunteers. She pointed out that this could be done over the summer and the subcommittee could report its findings by email or be ready to report on it at the first meeting in the fall. Trainin and Farrell volunteered.

7.0 Report of Subcommittee on World Language Teaching Proposal

Hoffman reported that the proposed program would be distance education courses only, but currently only the German program is prepared to deliver these courses. Plans are to also include the Chinese and Spanish language programs, but they cannot be delivered yet due to not having enough revenue in place. He reported that the subcommittee felt that only the German program should be offered at this time and the other programs added as additional revenue becomes available, but ultimately felt that the decision should be up to the APC.

Trainin reported that the proposal is part of a five year plan and has two components: graduate certification and master's specialization. He noted that the coursework in German is being delivered now, but the department wants the program to grow. He stated that with full capacity there could be 180 students with each taking about 9 credit hours on average each year and there is room for growth. He pointed out that most of the work is low cost and there is a window of opportunity for us to do this. He noted that almost all states are wanting to have a program like this.

After further deliberation by the APC, Correias moved to approve the proposal as presented. Motion seconded by White and approved with five votes in favor and four votes against.

8.0 Report of Subcommittee on Change of Department Name: Art & Art History to School of Art, Art History, and Design

Farrell reported that the subcommittee recommends accepting the name change, although it did have some concerns that the change could cause some friction with other departments/colleges. He noted that the subcommittee asked Chair Pete Pinnell questions pertaining to the potential friction and these questions were answered well. Harbison asked if there are any connotations in changing the department to a school. Green reported that the approval process is slightly different and requires CCPE approval and must be written into a full-scale document. He noted that the nature of the concerns for possible friction is whether the change is mission creep of the school, but there is a difference between the design aspect of Architecture and the graphic design element of Art and Art History. Delserrone asked for a vote and the proposal was approved by the APC.

9.0 APC Representative Report on School of Natural Resources (SNR) APR

Wagner reported that SNR is a large and incredibly complex unit and is a part of two different colleges, CASNR and Arts & Sciences. He stated that the review team was very good and the self-study was well prepared. He noted that the complexity of SNR created challenges for the APR, but the team did meet with the faculty in a variety of configurations. He pointed out that there was plenty of time for each meeting with the faculty.

Wagner stated that the unit has shown continual growth in research and involvement in university-wide initiatives. There is a good placement rate for students, and good efforts to reach out to alumni to cultivate relationships. Weaknesses include extreme difficulty

for changing the apportionment of duties for faculty members and problems with gender and racial diversity within the school. Another weakness is that there are too many degree programs and SNR is not as well integrated as it could be. It has a low number of FTE devoted to Extension. He reported that the review team recommended that there be professional retreats, the School be renamed, and the School work with professional recruiting companies. Also recommended was greater allowance for participation by faculty members in shared governance.

Wagner stated that the review was well conducted but there was the problem that some deans sat in on meetings with faculty members. This issue has been raised before and will hopefully be addressed. He pointed out that IANR has still not forwarded the department's or dean's response to the external review team's report, despite being requested to do so.

Farrell stated that a potential problem in SNR may occur with retaining Geography in the college of Arts & Sciences. He asked who will decide if this will change. Wagner pointed out that Geography is already a department in Arts & Sciences and has some real ties with other departments in that college.

10.0 APC Representative Report on School of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences (SVBMS) APR

Shea reported that the SVBMS is a sizable and diverse unit housing many programs and involved in a fair amount of diverse research. The review team was diverse, highly knowledgeable, with experts from academia and the private sector. He noted that the review was complete and handled very well. He stated that the review team's report was consistent and the recommendations were constructive. He reported that there was adequate time available for in-depth discussions and adequate opportunities for the faculty to meet with the review team, including some private meetings with faculty members.

Shea stated that some concerns raised by the review were that participation by the faculty and staff on the site review sessions could have been greater, and some faculty members expressed concern with the leadership of the school. He noted that the external review team's report was transmitted to the chair on February 26, but there was some delay in transmitting the report to the faculty. He suggested that the APC should consider as it reviews the APR guidelines, to require that the report be sent not only to the unit administrator and senior administrator, but also to the faculty in the unit.

Shea stated that recommendations in the APR report include deficiencies in the academic program that need to be addressed to assure reaccreditation. There are facilities and personnel needs associated with the department that need to be addressed. The external review team recommended that the unit focus on providing leadership beyond veterinary medicine. He noted that while the recommendations were good, there were many of them, and they should be prioritized. He did not recommend any further hearings.

11.0 2016-2017 APR Schedule – APC Representatives Needed

Delserone stated that APC representatives for the fall APRs need to be scheduled. APC members who volunteered to serve as the APC reps are: Sollars for the English department APR, Delserone for the Plant Pathology APR, Wagner for the Entomology APR. Delserone stated that the spring APR schedule will be done later in the year.

12.0 Revisions to APR Guidelines

Hoffman reported that the subcommittee was putting forward recommendations to revise the APR guidelines and additionally is offering amendments to include information pertaining to Institutional Research, Analytics, & Decision Support (IRADS) which were not included in the previous version. Correas moved to accept the amendments. Motion approved.

Hoffman noted that the proposed revisions include: 1) the composition of the review team; 2) not allowing personnel with administrative appointments to attend any of the meetings between the external review team and faculty/staff members. He pointed out that there have been concerns that faculty/staff members would not feel comfortable speaking openly about problems in the unit if administrators were present.

Yoder stated that he and Perez have concerns with not allowing an administrator to serve as the internal member on the External Review Team. He noted that he and Perez anticipated that there would be a meeting with the subcommittee to discuss this concern but no meeting occurred. Hoffman pointed out that proposed revisions to the Guidelines were sent to both Yoder and Perez and Perez made comments about the revisions. Hoffman stated that the suggested change to not allow an administrator to serve as the internal member stems from the fact that out of the last 12 internal members selected to serve, 10 of them have been administrators, department chairs, director (one who was selected twice) or unit head (one who was selected three times). He stated that Perez suggests that the proposed change would restrict the pool of internal members. However, he pointed out that the recent data indicates that the pool excludes faculty members. Yoder stated that the desire is to have an internal member who understands the procedures of the university. Hoffman stated that the faculty under review are not comfortable about having an internal administrator as part of the review team. Yoder stated that he and Perez oppose this change to the Guidelines. Sollars stated that the Guidelines need to be strengthened in this area to ensure that faculty members feel that they can speak freely when meeting with the external review team.

Yoder stated that he has concerns with the timeline of the APR process. He noted that the current guidelines state that the external review team report needs to be submitted within 30 days after the site visit. Then the department has 30 days following receipt of the external review team report to make a response. Next a written report from the dean or the IANR Dean's Council is to be submitted 30 days after receiving the programs' response, and within 90 days of the program's response the APC representative needs to report to the APC on the process. He stated that the APC representative should receive a copy of the different reports at the end of the process. He pointed out that in conversations with the IANR deans they felt that no reports should go to the APC until

they have had a chance to look at the report and the department's response because the external review team report sometimes contains errors. He reported that he is working on setting up processes in IANR that will result in more timely delivery of the reports.

Shea asked if Yoder is suggesting that no reports be given to the APC representative until the process is completed. Yoder stated that this is correct. Shea stated that he understands there might be some factual errors in the external review team report, but if the administrator's response was given before the APC representative reported to the APC, these errors could be corrected. He has concerns with the external review team report not going to everyone once it is available. Hoffman pointed out that in the years he has served on the APC, he has not seen a report beyond the dean's level.

Griffin suggested a friendly amendment be made to the timeline table to state that the program's response to the external review team report be forwarded to the Coordinator of Faculty Governance for distribution to the APC. Hoffman moved that this change be a friendly amendment for the table. Motion seconded by Wagner.

Shea proposed a friendly amendment to include language that the external review team will submit a final report to UNL administration and the program administrator with instructions to share the report with faculty upon receipt to help expedite the process. He noted that faculty members become concerned when there are a lot of delays in their getting the external review team report, and there is evidence that the report is taking too long to get to the faculty.

Delserone noted that there were several friendly amendments to the proposed revisions and asked the APC whether it wanted to vote on the revised document now or review it over the summer and vote in September. Hoffman stated that the subcommittee had hoped that the recommendations along with the amendments would be voted on today to make the document clearer for the next round of APRs. Delserone asked for a vote. The motion to revise the APR Guidelines was approved with one abstention. She thanked the subcommittee for their work.

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

Green reported that he has recommended to President Bounds and the Board of Regents that Associate VC Ron Yoder be appointed as interim VC of IANR and Dean Marjorie Kostelnik be appointed as Interim SVCAA. He stated that President John Bender of the Faculty Senate has met with Nunez about the search committees for the two Vice Chancellor positions and a search firm has been hired. He noted that it is unusual to start a search during the summer, but he wants to be ahead of the market and he hopes to bring candidates to campus no later than mid-October and have people hired to start by January 1. He stated that he has asked the academic deans to meet by the end of July for a strategy session.

Green noted that the university's proposed budget will go to the Presidents' Council in June and will be considered by the Governor before the legislative session ends. He

pointed out that work is already beginning on the proposed next biennial budget which needs to be articulated by this fall. He stated that he is very pleased by the way President Bounds wants to approach the budget which provides more flexibility than previous cycles, and Green thinks it will be helpful to UNL because we have different needs, especially relating to tuition. He reported that he plans on being transparent on the budget process and pointed out that there are actually two budget models that are being considered.

Green reported that the university received half of what was requested for the capital renovation and renewal projects, although the time frame for receiving funding was extended to 2030. He reported that UNL has the greatest needs and there might be some additional funds available. He noted that the Walter Scott Engineering building and Mabel Lee Hall are high priority projects. Other projects include renovating the old CBA building ground level floor into much needed classroom space and renovating the Food Industry Building.

Paul provided an overview of research endeavors for UNL and noted that this past year there has been improvement in federal research funding. He pointed out that we need talented faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students along with cutting edge infrastructure and top notch core facilities in order to continue our research growth. He noted that single investigator grants are important, but we need to be looking at interdisciplinary grants also.

Paul stated that the university is seeking opportunities for faculty research with STRATCOM and President Bounds has indicated that research in nuclear security should be a priority area for the university. He noted that UNL has also been trying to build collaboration with UNMC and other campuses, and recently seed grants have been provided for UNL and UNMC researchers to pursue collaborative research.

Paul reported that the social science research consortium is going very well. He stated that searches are being conducted to find directors for the Virology Center and the Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior. He stated that with Chancellor-Elect Green and President Bounds, the research effort is very energetic and he believes the future for research at UNL looks even brighter.

Correas moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by Simpson and approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Ubuntu Room. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.