

## MINUTES

### University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

April 19, 2017

**Members Present:** Bloom, Busch, Correas, Farrell, Franke-Schubert, Hinchman, Marron, Nunez, Plowman, Sollars, Wagner, Zach

**Members Absent:** Boehm, Delserone, Goddard, Marron, Simpson, Trainin, White

**Others Attending:** Associate VC Yoder

**Note:** These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Academic Planning Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

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#### 1.0 Call

Wagner called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

#### 2.0 Recognition of Outgoing Members and Welcome New Members

Wagner recognized and thanked outgoing members Busch, Simpson, and White for their service. He pointed out that a new Graduate Council representative to replace Simpson has not been identified yet. He reported that new faculty members beginning August 1 will be Professor Sheila Purdum, Animal Science, and Professor John Bender, College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Bloom asked if the Graduate Council representative would finish out Simpson's term. Wagner stated that the person would complete Simpson's term which ends July 31, 2018.

#### 3.0 Approval of April 5, 2017 Minutes

Bloom moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Zach and approved by the APC.

#### 4.0 Chair Selection

Wagner reported that Simpson is leaving UNL to become chair of Biochemistry at North Carolina State University. As a result a new chair of the APC will need to be elected. He noted that Correas nominated Trainin, but Trainin declined due to his full workload. Wagner nominated Bloom. The nomination was seconded by Sollars. The APC voted to approve Bloom as the Chair for 2017-2018.

Sollars reported that she will no longer be able to serve as the APC representative on the Undergraduate University Curriculum Committee and will need to be replaced.

#### 5.0 Proposal for M.S. in Business Analytics

Wagner reported that Marron and Trainin were unable to attend the meeting to report on the proposal for the M.S. in Business Analytics, but they did meet and discuss the proposals and wrote a letter recommending approval of the program.

Bloom questioned whether local universities offer a similar program and was concerned about enrollment. Plowman stated that Business Analytics is responding to a local need and there is a list of companies in Omaha that are longing for people with this kind of knowledge. She pointed out that the proposal is framed around the program meeting a need in Nebraska, and it will match some other programs in the Big Ten. She noted that a market analysis conducted by One World on Line shows that business analytics is a hot area of interest and we would offer one of the least expensive programs for students to take. She stated that the demand for business colleges is to have graduate level courses online and there are very few programs at the master's level.

The APC voted to approve the M.S. in Business Analytics.

### **6.0 Proposal for M.S. in Finance**

Wagner reported that Marron and Trainin recommended that the proposal for an M.S. in Finance be approved. Bloom noted that the proposal did discuss the cost of the program. Plowman pointed out that nationwide the demand for MBAs has gone down, but there is a huge demand for one year master's programs and both of the proposals being put forth respond to this demand.

Bloom seconded the motion for approval. Motion approved by the APC.

### **7.0 Project Initiation Request for Mabel Lee Hall**

Franke-Schubert reported that the APC PIR subcommittee met and discussed the remodeling plans for Mabel Lee Hall (MLH). She noted that the original plans for the building were to use it for physical education and it is now being used in part by the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS), women's gymnastics, and dance with classrooms located underneath the gym. She reported that the pool in MLH will be removed and replaced with a new auditorium which will seat approximately 400 students.

Franke-Schubert stated that some of the faculty from CEHS currently located in Henzlik or Teachers College would be moved into MLH once it is renovated which will help collaboration between the faculty and make the college more attractive to students.

Franke-Schubert stated that the PIR subcommittee agreed that there is a need for remodeling the building. She stated that the administration would like to bring the proposal to the Board of Regents in June and hope to begin work at the end of this year. Nunez reported that the cost of the renovation would be \$40 million and the funds would come from the state's deferred maintenance fund.

Wagner asked if the new auditorium would have fixed or flexible seating. Franke-Schubert stated that it would be fixed seating. Nunez pointed out that the renovation plans are all conceptual at this point and changes could be made. Plowman noted that flexible seating doubles the cost of the room.

Farrell asked how the renovated building would interface with the mall in front of Memorial Stadium. Nunez stated that the connecting link between MLH and Teachers College already faces the mall and is across the street from the new College of Business building. He stated that

the impacts of the renovations are being considered and the campus will work with the City to make improvements on 14<sup>th</sup> street.

Zach stated that he has concerns of losing some of the space in MLH for Campus Recreation use. He pointed out that the pool and the basketball courts are used and he hopes that some of these facilities will still be available. Franke-Schubert pointed out that City Campus has three pools: at the Campus Recreation Center, MLH, and the Devaney Center. Nunez stated that the administration is aware that the Campus Rec Center is in need of replacement and improvements, but resources are the biggest issue.

Plowman asked what would be needed to improve the Campus Rec Center. Zach stated that the size of enrollment would be a factor and consideration needs to be given about whether we have sufficient space. Plowman stated that the video cameras on the pool in MLH indicates it is not used very much. She stated that there needs to be discussion about what improvements need to be made in the Campus Rec Center.

The APC approved the project initiation request to renovate Mabel Lee Hall.

### **8.0 APC Representative Report on Entomology APR**

Wagner reported that the Entomology department underwent a major transition in recent years with the loss of eight faculty members since 2012 and the addition of nine new faculty members. He noted that the department sponsors one undergraduate major program, a resident M.S. and Ph.D. program, and an online master's program. He pointed out that while the number of undergraduate majors is small, a lot of students from outside the department take Entomology courses. He reported that the department has a healthy graduate program and the department has identified three new initiatives that it wants to focus on over the next five years.

Wagner stated that the members of the External Review Team were exceptional and the APR was well organized. He stated that the team met primarily with faculty members according to their strategic areas, but no meeting was scheduled with pre-tenured faculty members. He reported that there was some concern that the head of the department attended the meetings with faculty members, but the head was not aware of the changes made to the APR procedures in regards to administrators not attending the meetings with the faculty members. He pointed out that the faculty get along well and are invested in the program. He noted that the review team commended the department on its collegiality.

Wagner reported that the faculty have a significant teaching load and the review team felt that the department could be strengthened with additional support. He noted that the review team felt that the undergraduate program should be retained because it serves a function and some of the courses taught by Entomology are important to other units. He stated that there is a pervasive culture of collaboration and a strong departmental commitment to teaching.

Wagner stated that the weaknesses of the department is that they have insufficient resources, particularly with teaching. He pointed out that some faculty members teach courses, even though teaching is not one of their apportionment of duties. Bloom asked if these faculty members are

compensated overload pay for teaching. Wagner stated that he did not believe they were compensated for the teaching responsibility.

Wagner said that he thought the review was well done, collaborative, and the recommendations were constructive. He noted the department's response was slow and it was very short and non-specific and did not explain what the department plans to do about the teaching shortages. He pointed out that the department's response did not comment on the review team's recommendation that new expertise in signature areas and strategic initiatives be sought. He suggested that IANR administration needs to help the department overcome its shortage in teaching resources.

Farrell suggested that the Entomology department seemed reluctant to ask for additional resources to help with the department's mission. Sollars pointed out that when there are very specific responses from the external review team, departments should try to leverage the recommendations, but she thinks faculty may have a lack of faith in thinking that the APRs could be used to help departments get what they need to move forward. Plowman stated that this is an issue that needs to be addressed, perhaps administratively. She pointed out that APRs take a lot of work and she is wondering if chairs and deans should be held accountable for action plans after an APR has been conducted. Sollars stated that the recommendations from the external review team would have been more effective if there had been immediate interplay with the administrators. She pointed out that often departments/units are told that resources are limited, but the recommendations are often not reviewed again when resources are more plentiful. Plowman asked if it is the responsibility of the faculty to raise the recommendations again. Sollars and Wagner pointed out that it is the chair/head of a unit along with the Executive Committee that should seek additional resources so the recommendations of the APR can be made.

Busch noted that the University Libraries just went through the APR process and she has asked the faculty for comments about it and will be meeting with the faculty to hear what they feel are the key recommendations from the external review team. She stated that she feels that the dean is responsible to sort out and work the recommendations into the priorities of the department.

Plowman stated that Academic Affairs needs to sit down with the deans to see what actions are being planned to address the recommendations made by external review teams. Wagner noted that it would be helpful for the faculty to see that the administration is paying attention to the APRs. Sollars stated that the ideal would be to have a check on the recommendations from the APR several years after the process to see if improvements in the department/unit have been made. Plowman stated that she may bring the issue up with the deans. She pointed out that we do not want departments going through the effort of conducting an APR to not have anything good come from it and she will try to get her office to complete the process to ensure that there is follow through.

**9.0 Reports from the EVC of Academic Affairs, VC of IANR, Interim VC of Research and Economic Development**

Plowman reported that her office will begin working with the Greek community to reestablish a high quality relationship between the Greek houses and the administration. She noted that some people in the Greek community feel that the administration does not view them as being valuable. She stated that this viewpoint is not accurate, but what is not valuable is bad behavior that has been exhibited by a few people within the Greek system. She stated that she has invited the Presidents and Advisors to the Greek houses to a summit with her where there will be discussion on how to make improvements so that the Greek system adheres to the values of Nebraska. She noted that she plans to set up a task force which will report back to her, the Chancellor, and the new Interim VC of Student Affairs. She pointed out that faculty engagement would be helpful. Bloom asked if there was any working models at other universities. Plowman stated that there are and the task force will look at best practices.

**10.0 Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Georgian Room A. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.