

MINUTES

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

November 1, 2017

Members Present: Aune, Bender, Bloom, Clarke, Farrell, Franke-Schubert, Goddard, Hinchman, Marron, Nunez, Plowman, Purdum, Sollars, Trainin, Woodman

Members Absent: Boehm, DaSilva, O'Connor

Others Attending: Megan Elliott, Director, Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Arts; Brooke Hay, Assistant Director, FPC, Manager Capital Construction; Sergio Ruiz, Director, Glenn Korff School of Music

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

1.0 Call

Bloom called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2.0 Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts and Dance Program PIR

Bloom noted that the PIR is a new capital project which has already been approved by the Board of Regents. He pointed out that the APC should approve a PIR first before it is sent to the Board and asked if there are other capital projects coming up. Hay reported that there will be a PIR for the engineering complex being proposed. She noted that there were some delays with the Johnny Carson Center project which contributed to the oversight of the PIR not coming before the APC prior to it going to the Board of Regents. However, she reported that there are still opportunities to get feedback on the project. She stated that the Dance program will not need to go to the Board for approval.

Bloom asked if the APC's PIR subcommittee had any deliberations about the PIR. Nunez stated that the subcommittee did not and felt that issues could be raised at today's APC meeting.

Hay reported that the Johnny Carson Center will be located at 1300 Q Street in the former Nebraska Bookstore building. She stated that the Media Arts program will occupy most of the building and the Dance program will occupy some space. She stated that currently the design phase is ready to start and the plan is to have it completed in 2019. She noted that the building is in good shape, but all building systems will need to be updated and the inside of the building renovated to make it appropriate for the programs.

Bloom noted that 10,000 square feet of the building may not be used and he asked if Media Arts will have priority on that space since this is a field that is expected to grow. Hay stated that Media Arts will have priority over the space.

Farrell asked if the film program will move over to the Johnny Carson Center. Elliott stated that the film option is being phased out and will be replaced by Media Arts and there will be a virtual production component. She noted that the space is being treated as a broader eco-system and they do not want to repeat equipment facilities that are already located elsewhere on campus and that can be utilized. Hay pointed out that there has been a concerted effort to keep the costs down for the project.

Farrell asked if the building is going to be large enough. Hay stated that a number of experts have said that at some point more space will be needed, but for now this building is a good start. Farrell stated that he thinks that having a Media Arts Center is a tremendous opportunity and UNL can stand out with it in the Big Ten. Elliott noted that there will be a graduate program associated with Media Arts.

Hay reported that \$9 million has been budgeted for the project and it is all coming from the Johnny Carson endowment. Ruiz pointed out that Media Arts has been working with the Dance program to create an interdisciplinary space that would not only be used for dance, but with other productions as well. Hay noted that the acoustics and vibration factor are being considered to make sure there is no interference. She reported that the space for Dance is as much as they have currently and the building better accommodates the program.

Farrell asked if there is any room for expansion of the building given that it is somewhat landlocked. Nunez stated that the owners of Wendy's property are not interested in selling and the nearby church has not been approached. He stated that currently the only possibility is the small building east of where the Johnny Carson Center will be located that has been leased by the university for quite a few years immediately, but at this time, the university is letting the lease lapse.

Nunez reported that last semester the Mabel Lee Hall PIR was reviewed by the APC and the Johnny Carson Center is an extension of that PIR with the Dance program being relocated. Plowman stated that she has been impressed with the way that everyone involved has looked at the space to keep it adaptive. She pointed out that space within the building will be much more multi-purpose than people would expect. She stated that one concern is that the ceilings are not as high as would be desired for the Dance program. She pointed out that the building will be a very attractive entrance to the campus and will be a source of energy in that corner of the campus. Nunez noted that the campus master plan considers that area of the campus the arts district.

Clarke pointed out that there is some concern with the height of the ceilings and possible vibrations and questioned whether these concerns will factor into accreditation of the programs. Ruiz stated that this will not be a factor and they have been working with the national accrediting body already to address any concerns.

Bloom asked if there was a motion to endorse the project. Farrell moved that the project be endorsed. Nunez seconded the motion. Motion approved.

3.0 Approval of the October 18, 2017 Minutes

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

4.0 Budget Hearing Procedures

Bloom reported that there have been some recent developments with the budget procedures. He noted that the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors have been working hard to prepare for the budget cut proposals and to have them ready by November 15. However, the proposed cuts will now be released in two stages. He stated that during the first release of the budget cuts the administrative cuts will be provided to the APC on November 15, with a second release on December 6. He noted that this timeline will give the administrative leaders some additional time to work on the cuts and will ease some of the pressures on the APC.

Bloom stated that there is now a website (<https://www.unl.edu/chancellor/2018budget>) describing the budget cutting process and schedule. He stated that with the change in the timeline, hearings on the budget cuts will probably take place in early spring semester with the goal of concluding the budget cutting procedures by March 1. He pointed out that the schedule could change again.

Bloom stated that he plans to put the meeting on November 15 in an executive session. He pointed out that the administrative and non-academic cuts may be less controversial than the academic program cuts, but the APC needs to be careful with the information that is provided. He stated that meetings for the Committee are scheduled for November 29, December 6, and December 13. On November 29th the Committee can discuss the Central cuts. He noted that the first meeting in the spring semester will not be until January 17 and suggested that the Committee might need to meet on January 10.

Plowman reported that the 2018 budget website will be updated when the proposals are released. Bloom stated that he would like the APC to have the opportunity to consult on the proposed budget cuts before they are publicly announced. Nunez stated that he thinks the Chancellor would agree to this.

Bender reported that the APC Long Range Planning Subcommittee met last week and discussed how to evaluate the proposals for budget reductions. He stated that the Subcommittee felt it would be helpful to know what alternative proposals would be, but acknowledged that this was very sensitive information because it could be demoralizing if information was leaked. He stated that the goal would be to make any information anonymous as possible and to only identify departments generically. He stated that the Subcommittee also discussed how there will be a need of information from deans and directors for departments that are signaled out for reduction. He reported that the Subcommittee also discussed what kind of information will be needed from the Deans. He pointed out that there will need to be consideration regarding how the elimination of a program can affect other programs.

Bloom stated that in preparation for dealing with the budget cuts he would like the APC to review two documents. One is the APC Budget Hearing Announcement which provides

information on the procedures to present testimony at scheduled budget hearings. The other document is on the APC Procedures for Phase Three of the UNL 2018 Budget Reduction Process. He noted that these documents will eventually be placed on the budget reduction website, but first he wants to the Committee to review and provide input on the documents. Marron asked when Bloom wanted feedback on the documents. Bloom reported that feedback is not needed immediately.

Nunez stated that the documents goals are the same; to communicate what we are trying to accomplish and inform the campus what is being proposed for reduction. He stated that one way of communicating is through written documents. He noted that a lot of information was provided during the 2010 budget cutting hearings, and he and Griffin will work on compiling the documents for the budget cuts for this fiscal year. Aune asked how the information will be communicated to the undergraduates. Nunez stated that the mechanism previously used will be utilized again, but we need to consider the use of social media as well. Trainin noted that during the 2004 cuts when a department or section was going to be reduced the faculty and administration went to the students to rally support and most students found out about it from their programs.

Plowman noted that information will be made public and the APC needs to have a conversation regarding the use of social media to communicate this information. Nunez noted that University Communications does have a Twitter account that could possibly be used. Bloom asked Aune if she had any suggestions on how best to provide the information to the students. Aune stated that the information needs to be made clearly and should be easily accessible. She stated that creating an event on a social media platform would be effective and using the residence halls in an untapped way could be helpful. Trainin pointed out that the fewer places though that deliver the information, the less conflicting the information will be. He stated that it is important not to have media overload. Farrell noted that the information that goes out needs to state the purpose of the hearings and the expected outcomes so people do not get confused as to why it is being done.

Bloom asked the APC to look the documents over and to send suggestions to him. Goddard cautioned that if social media is used there could be numerous comments made from the public, some of which may be trying to bait the issue. He pointed out that it will be important that we don't respond to all of the comments.

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

Plowman reported that for the last couple of weeks she has been meeting individually with some of the deans about the budget reductions, but she has not had the opportunity to meet with all of them yet. She pointed out that everyone is grateful for the slow down with the timeline of the budget cuts, but everyone is taking the tasks of the cuts very seriously.

Plowman stated that the response to the two Faculty Club nights has been very positive with attendance of 120 people at the last one. She noted that the Faculty Club night is held in a private room of The Mill at NIC.

Plowman wanted to thank all of those who have been involved with the First Generation Initiative. She reported that the first event with the students was very well attended.

Plowman reported that the College of Business is in the final stages of the Dean search and two finalists will come to campus for interviews. She reported that the search for the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development is in process and she has an upcoming phone call with the search firm that will hopefully bring the process to the next step in identifying candidates and holding airport interviews. She stated that efforts are underway to hire a director for Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics (formerly Institutional Research). She pointed out that this is a critical position because we need someone in charge who can provide accurate data because these statistics are used in ranking UNL.

Goddard reported that there is an upcoming Faculty Connector event on November 8 with featured readings of recent works by Jennine Capó Crucet, Assistant Professor of English and Grace Bauer, Professor of English. He noted that the goal of the Connectors is to provide connection points for faculty and their colleagues. He stated that this event will be part of the official 2017 UNL Research Fair.

Goddard stated that Nebraska Innovation Campus has recently been honored with the Emerging Research Park Award from the Association of University Research Parks. He pointed out that really good progress is being made on NIC and another new ground breaking is taking place. He reported that efforts are being made to refocus on the type of companies coming to NIC so that there is more contact with the faculty.

Goddard reported that he has met with each of the colleges to talk about metrics for research and for creative and scholarly activity. He noted that the emphasis is to think of what excellence looks like in your particular discipline. He stated that one of the metrics is research expenditures. He noted that there is a target goal of \$600 million by 2025 for research expenditures and targets have been set for each college, but they are ambitious and he is working with the deans to see if they are realistic. He stated that there has been really good discussion with the deans and he hopes the faculty are getting feedback about the discussions.

Goddard stated that he has also had discussions with the deans about F & A distribution. He noted that the funds were distributed at the end of the fiscal year, but the administration is looking at how this can be changed over the next budget cycle so that the funds can be distributed in a more timely fashion. He stated that he created a task force of faculty members to think through ideas of how these changes can be made and he hopes to have a new policy by the end of the semester. He pointed out that we need to find a different way to fund start up packages.

Goddard reported that the Fall Research Fair is next week. He stated that the Fair will begin with featured speaker Dr. Kathie Olsen, founder and managing director of ScienceWorks, LLC who will discuss how to maximize opportunities for research funding. He noted that there will be a faculty recognition breakfast on November 7 and Professor Matthew Waite from the College of Journalism and Mass Communications will be the Nebraska Lecture featured speaker.

Plowman stated that she is so impressed with the APRs and how we have so many programs on campus to be proud of. She stated that in the APR process programs are looked at and reviewed carefully and feedback is provided. She stated that she appreciates all the work that people in the units do for the APRs.

6.0 Other Business

Bloom stated that he had followed up on the suggestion at the last meeting that the APC should receive a briefing on possible new budget models for the university. It turns out that such a presentation would be premature right now, and he will return to the issue another time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Georgian Suite. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.