

MINUTES

January 31, 2018 University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Aune, Bender, Bloom, DaSilva, Farrell, Franke-Schubert, Minter, Moberly, O'Connor, Plowman, Sollars, Trainin, Tschetter, Woodman, Zeleny

Members Absent: Boehm, Clarke, Goddard, Purdum

Others Attending: Joe Zach, ASUN; Amy Lanham, UAAD; Barbara Homer, UNOPA

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 3:05 p.m. He welcomed Dean Richard Moberly to the APC who is replacing former Dean Marron.

2.0 Approval of January 17, 2018 Minutes

Minter moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by DaSilva and approved by the APC.

3.0 Chancellor Green

The APC moved into Executive Session at 3:09 to speak to Chancellor Green to receive a briefing on the latest developments with the budget given the Governor's proposal to give the University further budget cuts for this fiscal year and for the next fiscal year.

4.0 Transmittal Letter to Chancellor Green Regarding Proposed Budget Cuts

The APC reviewed the draft letter to Chancellor Green regarding the proposed budget cuts presented to the APC on November 15. Farrell moved to approve the letter. Motion seconded by O'Connor.

Woodman asked if the reallocation of the state-appropriated-funded staff to Technology Fee will have impacts on funding the lab equipment in various colleges. Trainin pointed out that the Technology Fee was budgeted to build a cash reserve and this reserve is now sufficient, and reallocating the funds is a way to distribute the excess reserve. He noted that some of the costs for technology have decreased over the years.

Bloom asked if the students would be subjected to higher tech fees because of the removal of these funds. Plowman reported that the reserve will be reduced and should a costly emergency situation arise, it could deplete the reserve completely. Woodman asked if there would be any impacts at the college level. O'Connor noted that the colleges do get an allocation from the tech fees and the amount of the allocation could be reduced. Plowman pointed out that if enrollment drops, the amount of tech fees collected would be reduced which could have impacts such as the limiting of upgrading equipment in the colleges.

The APC approved the transmittal letter. Bloom stated that he will send the letter to Chancellor Green.

5.0 APC Representatives Needed for Fall APRs

Bloom noted that an APC representative is needed for three APRs in the fall:

Textiles, Fashion Merchandising & Design: September 30-October 3

Philosophy: October 7-October 10 (Tschetter volunteered to serve as the APC rep)

Biological Systems Engineering: October 22-October 26

Bloom pointed out that several faculty members were unable to attend the meeting and suggested postponing appointing of the APC representatives to the two other APRs.

6.0 Proposal for New Graduate Certificate in Rural Economic & Community Vitality

Bloom reported that the APC typically has a subcommittee review the proposal and report back to the Committee on proposed new programs. Trainin and Moberly volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

7.0 Proposal to Establish Bachelor of Fine Arts with a Major in Emerging Media Arts

Bloom asked for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee to review the proposal. Farrell and Franke-Schubert volunteered.

8.0 Reports from the Executive Vice Chancellor, Vice Chancellor of IANR, Interim Vice Chancellor of Research & Economic Development

Plowman reported that recently there was a training session for senior leadership, including Deans, team where the issues of free speech and academic freedom were discussed. She stated that there will be training for department chairs regarding the issue and the plan is to have the chairs convey this information to department faculty. She also noted that next there will be a series of workshops on how to have difficult conversations.

Plowman reported that Interim Dean Tim Carr has put into place training programs for TAs and 110 graduate students have now gone through the program. Plowman pointed out that our graduate students need more mentoring and training than they have been receiving. She stated that her office will be enlisting the help of the campus to get the graduate students, especially the TAs, into these workshops. She noted that more learning workshops will be coming from Graduate Studies and these will be required training before graduate students can teach.

Plowman announced that preliminary enrollment figures for next year are looking good.

Plowman pointed out that for too long the campus has been talking about diversity efforts and after the consultant worked with the campus last year it was pointed out that we need to hire a chief diversity officer. She stated that she has been working with the Diversity Council to develop a proposal outlining the responsibilities of a chief diversity officer and what an office of diversity would look like. She noted that she will be seeking input from various groups on campus regarding the proposal and she will share the proposal with the Faculty Senate. She pointed out that funds have been set aside for some time now to create this position, but the

administration is well aware of the budget cuts we are facing and realizes that this may not be the ideal time to create the position, but she hopes that a committee can be formed this summer to start working on plans for an office of diversity.

Plowman reported that four candidates recently came to campus for interviews for the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development position. She stated that she and the Chancellor are working on narrowing down the candidates.

Woodman stated that he appreciates having a TA training. He pointed out that he has 40 undergraduate student TAs who assist with the lab courses and asked if the training could be made available for these students too. Plowman stated that this is a good point that she will pursue with Interim Dean Carr.

DaSilva stated that some of the Graduate Student Assembly officers went to the training, and although it was helpful, they felt that some issues were not addressed. She suggested that feedback from the GSA officers be obtained in order to improve the training program. Plowman noted that, given the events this past fall, graduate students feel vulnerable and that they do not have the support of the administration. She reported that Interim Dean Carr is aware of these concerns and his goal is to continue having discussions to improve the training sessions. She pointed out that each one of the training sessions is helpful, but are still being piloted. She stated that the sessions also need to include more general information regarding teaching such, as how to get started using Canvas in the classroom.

9.0 Other Business

Bloom noted that President Bounds will be addressing the Appropriations Committee on February 14th. He asked if the APC should meet at 1:30 on the 14th to view the hearing. He asked Griffin to reserve a room so the Committee can view the hearings.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 3:00 in the City Campus Union, Georgian Suite (viewing the Appropriations Committee hearing will begin at 1:30 and will be held in the Georgian Suite). The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.