

**MINUTES**  
**October 21, 2020**  
**University of Nebraska – Lincoln**  
**Academic Planning Committee**

**Members Present:** Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Buan, Clarke, Everhart, Gay, Geisinger, Hachtmann, Hebets, Latta Konecky, Miller, Moberly, Rodene, Smith, Spiller, Tschetter, Wilhelm, Zeleny

**Members Absent:**

**Others Attending:**

**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**

Geisinger called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**2.0 Public Hearing on Proposed Elimination of Hospitality, Restaurant, and Tourism Management Program-IANR, General Comments on Proposed Budget Cuts**

The APC heard comments regarding the proposed elimination of the HRTM program in IANR and general comments about concerns with the budget cutting procedures.

**3.0 Review of Program Proposal to Establish the Center for Agricultural Productivity (Clarke and Gay)**

Clarke reported that she and Gay initially began the review of the proposal during the spring semester but there were questions that needed to be addressed which resulted in an updated proposal. She noted that the Center for Agricultural Productivity (CAP) would be housed in Agricultural Economics, but it would also involve faculty members from other departments. She stated that the Center would provide farmers and ranchers with expertise that would enable them to remain profitable since these professions are seeing drastic changes.

Clarke stated that numerous letters of support for CAP were received but there were no commitments to provide funds to help support the Center. Gay stated that the proposed budget was unconvincing given that there are no firm commitments, but he does strongly favor the idea of the Center. Spiller noted that there is a distinction between the idea of a center and the cost of that idea. Wilhelm pointed out that in the future more outside funding will be needed to create and maintain centers.

Buan asked if the faculty associated with the center have an Extension appointment. Gay stated that Extension faculty could be brought into the center. Buan asked if the faculty members with the center will be prevented from conducting their own entrepreneurial pursuit. Clarke stated that it is her understanding that the initial faculty members, who are from several different disciplines, will get release time from their FTE

apportionments to contribute to the center. She stated that working in the center would not be an overload of work for the faculty. Moberly stated that he thinks having an umbrella center is a great idea and that we should have more of them. Bloom pointed out that the University needs a clearer definition on what a center is. Moberly noted that there are challenges created by the Regents Bylaws and the CCPE with opening a center.

Clarke moved to approve the proposal. Motion seconded by Moberly. The proposal was approved with 17 in favor and 2 abstentions.

#### **4.0 Review of Program Proposal to Establish the Personal Leadership Program (Clarke and Gay)**

Clarke noted that the department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication is proposing the program and the department already has an existing Masters program which this program will be associated with. She reported that six hours of required courses must be taken along with six hours of elective courses. She stated that the purpose is to build knowledge about leadership.

Clarke stated that she and Gay questioned the requirement of two years of professional experience for admission, but it was explained that graduate education can meet this requirement. She pointed out that the program seems to be aimed at distance education graduate students or part-time professional students. Ankerson noted that leaders from multi-national corporations are asking for students with more leadership skills and she can envision the course being taken by students in other disciplines. Buan asked if this kind of program would be better in the Business College. Clarke noted that the proposers have done a very careful review to ensure there would be no duplication of the course and the program would be the only one being offered at UNL. Boehm pointed out that effective leadership skills are critical in today's world.

Spiller noted that a recommendation that came out of the COVID-19 Budget Advisory Task Force is that there needs to be a more robust system of pre-consultation between departments and the APC when new programs are being developed for proposal. Clarke pointed out that when graduate programs and certificates come to the APC, they have already been carefully reviewed by the Graduate Council who do a lot of the preliminary work in examining the proposed program.

Clarke moved to approve the program. Motion seconded by Everhart and approved with 12 in favor, 2 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

#### **5.0 Reports from the Executive Vice Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for IANR, Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development** VC for IANR

Boehm reported that he is worried that COVID-19 is now appearing in the rural communities in Nebraska and that it is having twice the impact as it did in NYC. He pointed out that the rural communities do not have the health care networks to deal with the virus. He noted that he was pleased with how the campus has dealt with the

pandemic, although he acknowledged that this has been a hard and difficult semester for everyone.

Boehm pointed out that the East Campus Union is now open after being renovated and CYT Library's renovation is coming along. He reported that \$5 million was just added to the gnotobiotic mouse facility construction project. He stated that East Campus did receive approval from the Chancellor to fill a few faculty lines.

#### EVC Spiller

Spiller stated that the COVID-19 situation in the State and in Lincoln are of enormous concern. She noted that the COVID-19 Task Force had discussed whether program duplication was as strategic as it could be. She thanked Clarke and Gay for their persistence in getting their questions answered in the CAP program proposal. She suggested that it would be helpful for the APC to provide consultation on proposals to the departments before the proposals go through the approval process.

Spiller stated that we need to think about the N2025 Plan and the incentive-based budget model to ensure that there is no damper on curricular innovations and we need to be mindful that we are able to have cross-disciplinary collaboration. She noted that she met with the Deans yesterday and discussed equity gaps, retention concerns, and experiential learning. She stated that the N2025 goals are good, but noted that they are ambitious.

#### VC Wilhelm

Wilhelm reported that since March ORED has made many adjustments to help faculty to get their work done including numerous safety plans which were developed with the help of a research task force. He noted that work is already in progress which will allow us to be prepared for the spring semester.

Wilhelm stated that extramural funding is slightly down due to the reduction in proposals this month, although he knows that there are research proposals being developed. He reported that we are slightly ahead in awards this year in comparison with last year, although we continue to be lagging in expenditures. He pointed out that he believes research will grow again as we manage through the pandemic. Wilhelm reported that there is considerable activity with patent disclosures and licenses and there are also proposals on the table that collaborates with companies and others.

Wilhelm stated that the research days will occur November 2 – 6, and most of the events will be virtual this year. He noted that a considerable amount of recognition will be given to faculty members and there will be speakers throughout the event.

### **6.0 Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 3:00 by Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.