

MINUTES

September 22, 2021

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Buan, Clarke, Doll, Hachtmann, Hebets, Latta Konecky, Rodene, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Wilhelm, Zeleny

Members Absent: Ibrahim, Vuran, Spiller

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

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

2.0 Introduction of New Committee Member: Professor Hideaki Moriyama

Hachtmann welcomed Professor Moriyama, the new Biological Sciences representative, who filled the open seat due to Professor Everhart leaving the University to assume a position at another university.

3.0 Announcement

Hachtmann reminded the APC that agenda items for the APC to consider must be submitted by noon the Friday prior to the meeting. She stated that agenda items received after the deadline date will be placed on the following meeting's agenda.

3.0 Approval of September 1, 2021 Minutes

Ankerson moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Theiss-Morse and approved by the APC.

4.0 Election of Vice Chair

Latta Konecky nominated Tschetter who accepted the nomination. The APC voted unanimously for Tschetter to be Vice Chair.

5.0 Guidelines for Program Proposal Reviews

The APC discussed the need for a set of guidelines for APC members to use when reviewing proposals for a new program. It was decided that the Long-Range Planning Committee should create the guidelines.

6.0 Subcommittee Needed to Review Proposal to Create the Financial Analytics Graduate Certificate and to Review the Sales Excellence Graduate Certificate

Hachtmann and Latta Konecky volunteered to review the program proposals.

7.0 Subcommittee Needed to Review Chromatography and Analytical Separations Graduate Certificate and to Review the Proposal for Bioanalytical Chemistry Graduate Certificate

Bloom and Moriyama volunteered to review the program proposals.

8.0 Proposal to Rename the Agricultural Education B.S. Degree to Agricultural, Leadership, Education and Communication and Delete the existing B.S. in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Communication

Theiss-Morse questioned why the options were included in the proposal. Heng-Moss stated that the options were approved at the college level but to be transparent it was decided to include the options in the proposal. She noted that the name change of the program is to have consistency with our academic peers who have a similar program. Bloom asked if there is an issue of having a duplicate program. Heng-Moss pointed out that the proposal would actually reduce the number of programs.

Ankerson moved for approval of the proposal. Motion seconded by Tschetter and approved by the APC.

9.0 Reports from VC Boehm and VC Wilhelm

Wilhelm reported that faculty should have received emails regarding the Grand Challenges Catalyst Competition. He noted that \$10 million is available for allocation for the next four years (2022-2025) for two types of support: planning grants and catalyst awards. He stated that the deadline dates for proposal submission will be in the spring with the awards given out by the end of June 2022. He stated that more information about the call for proposals will be available in November during Research Week.

Wilhelm stated that we are in the second year of the research leadership training program. He noted that this program is for faculty who are further along in their career and who are thinking about taking on a leadership role with a research group or with other collaborators involved in a larger research project.

Wilhelm reported that the first faculty connector program begins today. He noted that this program helps faculty members to network with others and provides ideas for proposals. He stated that Dean Stewart will be talking about open scholarship.

Wilhelm stated that despite the COVID pandemic Nebraska Innovation Campus has had more build out in terms of support and activity with four different entities that are offering operating support for start-up companies. He stated that faculty just developing a start-up company can get a desk free of charge to work at the Landing at NIC. He reported that the Food Processing Center is for companies that want to collaborate with the University in terms of food processing and stated that there is a combined starter accelerator which supports companies from Nebraska, or those companies wanting to come here for agriculture technology. He stated that the Biotech connector offers shared lab space where people could rent six feet or more of lab space.

Wilhelm stated that Senator Fortenberry is working closely with the University to extend our partnership with the USDA, and we have enough federal funds to build a facility at NIC which would house more USDA scientists.

Wilhelm stated that the Makers Space on NIC is having a grand reopening and encouraged people to see the facility which has a variety of equipment and experts available to help. He stated that makers can use the facility for things such as sewing, metal working, wood working, and welding.

Wilhelm reported that there have been measurable increases in licensing renewal and new license revenue. He stated that we are in the same neighborhood as last year in terms of the number of proposals and awards, but we are healthily ahead in research expenditures. He stated that many good things are occurring in terms of recognition of the work of our faculty.

Boehm reported that Heng-Moss will be advocating for the Statistics and Data Analytics major to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education tomorrow. He reported on pathway programs for students in K-12 that the University is developing which will have relevance to the citizens of the State. He noted that the education compact in northeast Nebraska was the first program and the goal is to determine how we can enhance student outcomes for students that will assist them in their career development or prepare them for pre-college.

Boehm stated that the university is thinking about the COVID relief funds that the Legislature will consider in January. He reported that a national search for the Director of the Holland Computing Center is getting started. He noted that Clarke received a \$500,000 grant to help develop an open data depository that would allow agricultural researchers to have access to data that is being generated by producers and processors. He stated that another component deals with cyber security and safeguarding our agriculture. He reported that work continues in Washington, D.C. to try to get appropriations for the University in areas pertaining to agriculture and climate change.

Heng-Moss stated that a year ago the University partnered with the Lincoln Public Schools to form the Early College and Career STEM Program at Lincoln Northeast High School. She stated that this program will prepare students in the areas of natural resources, food, water, and energy and teachers at Northeast are excited that they can expand their curriculum and be able to work with the University. She noted that the program is for students whether they plan to pursue a two- or four-year college degree as well as students who plan to enter the workforce after graduating high school. She reported that students are being brought to campus to expose them to the University and to help build their curiosity about what they would be interested in pursuing as a career. She reported that LPS wants to create more partnerships with the University and the idea is to expand programs with other colleges on campus. She noted that the idea is to take these programs to Scottsbluff and Gering to leverage our Research and Extension Centers. She stated that two new faculty members will be hired, one in the Panhandle area and the other in northeast Nebraska, and these agricultural educators will help support these programs and help to recruit students.

10.0 Other Business

Budget Reduction Procedures

Bloom suggested that the APC should take the opportunity to review the budget reduction procedures to see if improvements could be made. Clarke agreed and noted that by the time the proposals came to the APC it was difficult to get a good sense of where the budget cuts were coming from and what would be the implications from these cuts. She pointed out that there was discussion about horizontal versus vertical cuts and noted that it is difficult to justify horizontal cuts if we are not in financial exigency. Tschetter stated that more information was needed earlier in the process for the APC to have good discussions about proposed cuts. Hebets stated that the APC was put into a difficult situation because it didn't have input into the approach, or the process, and the Committee was essentially handed the output without having much power to change it. She stated that it was very frustrating and there was the sense that it was an almost forgone conclusion that the Committee would approve the proposed cuts.

Bloom pointed out that the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocation and Reductions were revised in the spring of 2019. He stated that he thinks a problem is that the APC does not have a vision of what the framework should be, there isn't a good concept about the public hearings and what they should look like, and only one side of the story was presented about the proposed cuts. He suggested that these are some things the APC might want to look at.

Ankerson noted that there is an assumption that everything across the colleges and departments is okay as it currently exists, but the campus should take a clear look to see if there are duplication of courses or if changes need to be made. Hebets agreed and stated that we need to take the opportunity to look at the curriculum more strategically.

Tschetter suggested that this is a project for the Long-Range Planning Committee to work on.

Accreditation of Programs

Hachtmann noted that the APC spends considerable time on academic program reviews and asked whether there should be an APC representative when programs are accredited or a summary report to the APC by the dean or chair after the accreditation review. Zeleny suggested contacting AVC Walker to get her thoughts on this idea.

Buan asked how different is the accreditation process from an academic program review? Boehm stated that they are very different. With accreditation there is a national set of standards that must be met and most of the standards apply to teaching with not as much consideration given to research, outreach, or service. He felt that the APR is more holistic and wholesome. Ankerson pointed out that in architecture it is very different with a defined team of educators and professionals coming to campus to interview faculty and students and there is a defined process. She stated that they would probably not allow another person to be on the defined team. Doll reported that there are 12 accredited programs in CEHS, but each department goes through an APR. Boehm noted that at a previous university he worked at there was a set of principles that was used to determine if a unit should undergo an APR. He suggested that if there is a single reaccreditation or reaffirmation visit that can do a thorough examination of a program that is great, but if it is felt that an APR would be helpful it should be considered. Buan suggested that a summary report of an accreditation could be sent to the APC.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 3:00 by Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.