

MINUTES

January 26, 2022

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Academic Planning Committee

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

Members Absent: Ibrahim

Guests: Professors Marley, Wolf, Clarke, and Perkey

Zoom Meeting

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 Welcome Dean Button

Hachtmann welcomed Dean Button who will serve as one of the Dean's representatives on the APC now that Ankerson has become Executive Vice Chancellor.

3.0 Review of Proposal to Create an Undergraduate Degree Program in Data Science (Bloom, Clarke, Doll, Theiss-Morse)

Clarke reported that the proposal to create the Data Science undergraduate degree was submitted jointly by Mathematics, Statistics, and the School of Computing. She stated that the program would prepare students to work with complex and massive data sources from the planning of the acquisition of the data, to what will be done with it, and to how it will be stored which is the reason that multiple colleges are collaborating on it. She noted that the college in which the student is enrolled will determine the particular path towards the degree. She stated that there will be focus areas so students will learn how data science is used in different disciplines and different applications, and all students, regardless of their home college, will receive the same foundational training through a set of core courses. She reported that internships will be available.

Clarke stated that the department and colleges worked hard to develop the proposal and the program is very well structured. She noted that the major was designed to allow students to double major if they wish. She reported that the APC subcommittee reviewing the proposal felt that it was a good starting point for the program and acknowledged that some adjustments might need to be made should challenges arise with some of the particular degree paths. She pointed out that included in the proposal is a management plan which outlines how the colleges will interact with each other and how the courses will be rolled out.

Doll reported that the APC review committee thoroughly reviewed the proposal and raised questions if they thought there was something that could be problematical later on. She noted that the proposers were very responsive to the comments raised by the review committee, and they showed evidence of how they will work together in the future. Bloom pointed out that the proposal calls for students needing two focus areas but only six credit hours and he did question if students could get the needed knowledge from just two courses. He noted that the proposal is to have three different programs with three different requirements but with some overlapping courses. He stated that the proposers have worked hard to unify the programs as much as they can, and he thinks the proposal is a good start to implement the Data Science undergraduate degree program. Moriyama asked how the credit hours will be satisfied if the course load is being reduced. Clarke pointed out that internships and independent studies would be counted as credit hours and the emphasis is to provide more research opportunities for students.

Theiss-Morse pointed out that the governance document included with the proposal is a very positive addition to the proposal and the colleges did an excellent job in creating it and she would recommend that the university look at it for other interdisciplinary programs. She noted that there was some concern that the Coordinating Commission on Secondary Education would wonder if there was some duplication with the program, but she believes the proposers dealt with this well.

Clarke stated that the review committee recommends the proposal for approval. The APC approved the proposal, there was one abstention.

4.0 Approval of November 17, 2021 and December 15, 2021 Minutes

Hachtmann noted that the approval of the November 17th minutes was postponed due to the shortened meeting on December 15th due to impending severe weather. Doll moved, and Theiss-Morse seconded approval of both sets of minutes. The APC approved the minutes.

5.0 APC Representatives Needed for Educational Administration APR (October 25-27, 2022) and Mathematics (October 9-11, 2022)

Hachtmann asked for volunteers to serve on the two academic program reviews this fall. Theiss-Morse volunteered for the Mathematics APR and Clarke volunteered for the Educational Administration APR with Tschetter volunteering to serve as a backup should Clarke have a scheduling conflict.

6.0 Report on Statistics Academic Program Review (Hachtmann)

Hachtmann reported that the Statistics APR was conducted virtually last spring and the external review team members were very good. She noted that the department was formed in 2003 as a 50-50 merger of Biometry and Mathematics but in 2018, Statistics was formed, and all faculty FTEs were moved to IANR which has created a more stable position for the department. She stated that for a small department it is very productive and accomplished, and not only provides instruction for graduate teaching assistants but also helps support research efforts across the campus.

Hachtmann stated that the self-study was lengthy but well done and included an analysis of the opportunities and questions the department was seeking answers to from the external review team. She stated that the team addressed the questions and compared six positive developments in the department since its last APR including the hiring of highly qualified faculty members and commended the department for the Statistics Help Desk that was established. She reported that the review team felt there was a huge opportunity for growth in the department and recommended that data science be identified as an area of expertise that should be emphasized, and the undergraduate program should be a primary focus. The review team suggested that the department could host small research conferences which would help showcase the department. She noted that the review team did feel that new faculty members need to be hired to develop the coursework for a new major.

Hachtmann stated that overall, the APR was a smooth process and needed no further follow-up.

7.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, and VC Wilhelm

Ankerson reported that she will soon be visiting with each of the colleges and will have meetings with the deans to discuss their plans. She noted that she is eager to get out to the colleges to learn more about each of them.

Ankerson stated that enrollment data is now being compiled and she will be able to report on it at the next APC meeting. She noted that freshmen enrollment is up almost 10% but the number of deposits is currently lower than last year at this time. She stated that it is possible that faculty members will be asked to make phone calls to perspective students and current students may be asked to speak to perspective students in order to provide them with a sense of the campus and our attributes.

Ankerson stated that there are overview meetings occurring with the colleges on the budget model and a schedule has been developed for the implementation of the budget model on July 1.

Boehm reported that Charles Stoltenow has been appointed as Dean and Director of Extension and he began his position on January 1. He noted that with Nebraska Extension, the UNL campus extends across the state and Dean Stoltenow's responsibilities covers approximately 345 Extension Educators, Extension Assistants, and Extension Associates and keeping them connected with the programs across UNL.

Boehm reported that Mary Emery has been hired as Director of Rural Prosperity Nebraska which combines the scholarship of UNL professors and researchers with Extension Educators to help strengthen activity and quality of life in Nebraska's rural communities. He noted that Dr. Emery was the department chair of Rural Sociology at South Dakota State University.

Boehm announced that Dean Archie Clutter has announced his retirement and Dean Heng-Moss and Professor Cahoon will serve as co-chairs of the search committee. He stated that he hopes to have the job opening announced in March and a new dean in place by the start of the fall semester.

Boehm stated that there will be a celebration of CASNR turning 150 this year, noting that the College was founded shortly after the university began.

8.0 Review of Proposal to Create a Master's of Science in Athletics Training and to Delete the B.S. in Athletics Training (Clarke and Moriyama)

Clarke noted that the reason for the proposal is due to a change in the CAATE national accreditation requirements. She stated that Professor Perkey worked with Tim Carr, previous Dean of Graduate Studies, and is now working with Dean Deb Hope to make the necessary changes. Clarke stated that the program is very well structured and prepares students to take an accreditation exam and is similar to programs at our sister campuses. She noted that although the other NU campuses offer a similar program, each one has a different emphasis. She reported that the program is designed so students can complete it in five semesters, and it provides classroom work with clinical experience. She stated that each of the courses have been approved through Graduate Studies. She pointed out that students currently in the undergraduate program will be grandfathered in, but new students will be admitted at the master's level.

Clarke stated that she and Moriyama had discussions about staffing and faculty, and she noted that the department of Nutrition and Health Sciences is currently hiring and plans to properly staff the program. She noted that the strength of the program is that it is a joint program between Nutrition and Health Sciences and Athletics and there are also clinical partners that will be involved. She pointed out that the existing faculty members all have strong relationships with the clinical partners. Moriyama reported that it is obvious that the program is a requirement for students to obtain a license in athletic training and Clarke noted that there is a clear demand for the program.

Bloom stated that he was concerned that the Zoom interviews of perspective students would be based on appearance and poise as stated in the proposal. Perkey stated that a straight, common rubric will be used to determine a perspective student's interest and knowledge of the profession because the department wants students who understand what will be required of them in the program. Bloom suggested finding different language for the proposal other than appearance and poise. He pointed out that the program is entirely staffed by Lecturers and Professors of Practice and asked if there was concern about the University's commitment to the program. Perkey stated that CAATE's requirements are quite demanding and since Lecturers and Professors of Practice do not have a research component it will allow them to conduct assessments which is critical for the program. Clarke pointed out that it is not a research-based program, and it is strictly for accreditation purposes. Doll stated that the faculty members need to be credentialed athletic trainers who can supervise and evaluate athletic training skills and it would be difficult to maintain a license while also maintaining a research program. Perkey noted that CAATE requires the faculty to be accredited and he is not worried about the university not supporting the program because it is in high demand.

Theiss-Morse noted that the proposal states that two new faculty members will be hired but the Table of Expenses shows only one salary. She asked if the second hire will be paid through projected revenue which is questionable since the undergraduate program is

being eliminated. Perkey stated that he does not believe much revenue will be lost because undergraduate students could move into the master's program. He pointed out that we are one of the few schools left that hasn't made the transition yet to the program now required by CAATE. He noted that the previous Director of the program left and the department is currently conducting a search to fill that position.

Doll moved for approval of the proposal. Motion seconded by Heng-Moss and approved by the APC.

9.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 3:00 by Zoom. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.