

**MINUTES**  
**March 9, 2022**

**University of Nebraska – Lincoln**  
**Academic Planning Committee**

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

**Members Absent:** Ibrahim, Wilhelm

**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**

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

**2.0 Approval of February 9, 2022 Minutes**

Zeleny moved for approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Ankerson and approved by the APC.

**3.0 Proposal to Delete the BA/BS in Latin American Studies**

Hachtmann asked if there was any discussion regarding the proposal which was being made by the department. No discussion followed. Tschetter moved to approve the proposal. Motion seconded by Latta Konecky and approved by the APC.

Ankerson noted that at the University’s Chief Academic Officers’ meeting a topic that was discussed was that when a proposal is made to create a new program that would combine or eliminate another program, that both proposals be forwarded at the same time, rather than having a time lapse between the two proposals. Griffin stated that this typically has been done and questioned whether it might be helpful to revise the program proposal guidelines to provide more information for departments who are looking to create new programs. Ankerson stated that the APC needs to be involved in the process if the guidelines are revised.

**4.0 Budget Model Advisory Committee Update (Theiss-Morse)**

Theiss-Morse noted that she is the APC representative on the Budget Model Advisory Committee (BMAC) but Bloom, who co-chairs the committee, Clarke, Ankerson, and Button, are also on it. She stated that the governance documents for the budget model can be found on the web (<https://budget.unl.edu/governance>) although the model and the governance documents are still being finalized. She pointed out that the APC is an integral part of the budget model governance and the BMAC will be tasked with speaking to the APC, in addition to the Chancellor and the executive leadership team about the budget model.

Theiss-Morse reported that the BMAC does not make any budgetary decisions, rather it considers whether refinements need to be made to the budget model and the Committee tries to provide advice whenever it is needed. She pointed out that almost all program decisions have a

budgetary aspect which means that the APC would need to be more hands on about budget decisions in order to make good decisions about programs and the APC will also have to consider carefully whether there are duplicate courses or programs.

Theiss-Morse stated that there are three main sources of funding for the campus: state-aided, tuition, and grants. She reported that the units identified in the budget model are the primary units, which are basically the colleges, support units, and auxiliary units. She noted that the three main reasons for using the new budget model is to try to incentivize programs which will allow them to grow, to increase transparency, and to have a more rational budget which is not just based on historic funding. She pointed out that most of the state-aided appropriations are used for salaries and benefits, so the budget model affects more of the other available funding, although some state appropriations could be used to invest in new initiatives which are in alignment with the N2025 goals.

Theiss-Morse noted that there are complexities to the budget model such as how to disperse tuition revenue if a student majoring in one college takes courses in another college. She reported that it was decided that 75% of the revenue would follow the college of the instructor and 25% would go to the student's home college, she noted that the reason for this is because the cost of the instructor is greater than the cost associated with the student's college. She stated that another issue is with remissions and who should cover these costs. Should 100% of the remission costs be on a student's college, or should it be divided like it was decided with the tuition revenue. Another issue is how sponsored research funding should be divided and how it would be taxed. She reported that the BMAC is still working on these issues.

Theiss-Morse stated that the plan was to have a shadow model for a year to see what refinements needed to be made but the budget numbers from last year which will be used for the FY23 budget, have been skewed because of the pandemic. She noted that every single primary unit is in deficit mode, but state-aided dollars will be available to help with the deficit. Bloom pointed out that our tuition rates are based to keep costs down so receiving state-aided funds are necessary to support the university.

Hachtmann asked what the next steps will be for the budget model. Theiss-Morse stated that we begin using the new model on July 1 and it will be watched carefully to see how it is functioning. She pointed out that it will be APC's job to stay very well informed of how the budget model is working and needs to watch that the new model does not create internal competition and that interdisciplinary work continues to be incentivized.

Hebets noted that there was a big push to have life sciences team taught, but some departments have moved away from this because of logistical issues. She pointed out that there are some unique and powerful opportunities for interdisciplinary programs but asked how these would work with the new budget model. Bloom stated that we don't want to disincentivize interdisciplinary programs and noted that the college of the instructor will get the bulk of the tuition revenue. He noted that technical details of how the tuition revenues are accounted will be done by Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics, but we need to keep track to make sure that it is all handled carefully.

Heng-Moss stated that collectively the deans want to grow partnerships which would have courses taught by co-instructors and there is a model for how to divide the tuition revenue for these types of courses. She noted that with the data science program an alliance was formed by the three departments involved to make sure that the program can grow and survive. She pointed out that the budget model is a tool, and it cannot get in the way of our creativity. Button stated that we will flourish as long as we are collaborative and can facilitate the kind of teaching and research we strive for, but if we get into competing with each other the outcome would be much different. He noted that we can create agreements between the units to make sure that we support each of the units and we need more collaborative programs like data science and life sciences.

Boehm asked if there was a sense that there will be an additional workload on the APC with the new budget model. Theiss-Morse stated that refinements are continuing to be made with the budget model guidelines and she has spoken with Hachtmann about providing a report to the APC once a semester. She noted that program proposals will need to provide more detailed budget information, and the APC will need to ask very good, important questions when new programs are proposed. Boehm suggested that the academic leaders could provide more information to the APC when a program is being proposed in their unit. Ankerson reported that Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics has piloted some new forms that would be valuable in looking at the costs of a program which would be helpful with new program proposals.

Clarke stated that units need to be more aware of existing programs already being offered in a college and department to see if there are any duplications, but also to see if there are opportunities for collaboration. She pointed out that this should all be done before the proposal comes to the APC.

Hachtmann thanked Theiss-Morse and the others on the BMAC for all of their work.

#### **5.0 Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reductions and Reallocations**

Hachtmann noted that, after the APC's experience last year with the budget cuts, the Committee decided that revisions were needed for the procedures, and she is forming an ad hoc committee to work on revising the procedures. She reported that Bloom has agreed to chair the ad hoc committee and she then asked for volunteers. Theiss-Morse, Vuran, Zeleny, Tschetter, and Clarke volunteered.

Bloom pointed out that a few years ago the procedures were revised to streamline them but noted that there could still be a smoother process. Tschetter stated that the revisions should allow the APC to be more proactive rather than reactive and pointed out that APC needs to be involved earlier in the budget cutting process which could be possible with the new budget model.

Buan suggested that the APC consider multiple strategies for dealing with budget reductions such as considering furloughs rather than eliminating positions.

#### **6.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, and VC Wilhelm** EVC Ankerson

Ankerson reported that candidates are currently being interviewed for the Dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts and noted that there was a strong pool of candidates. She stated that a search committee for the Dean of Architecture would be put together soon with Dean Kathy Farrell chairing the committee.

Ankerson noted that recently a video with the co-leaders of the N2025 plan was distributed to the campus to remind people of the aims of the plan and to see what progress has been made towards it. She reported that a series of videos are being created that will include the Deans and they will highlight the work that is being done in their college to achieve each of the aims. She stated that learning what is happening in each of the colleges and units has been very invigorating and it is encouraging to see how people are actively engaged.

Ankerson noted that we are in an important period for recruiting incoming freshmen and there is good enrollment for Admit Day where colleges and units will be engaging with students in some way. She pointed out that the market for recruiting new students is very complex and currently the enrollment projection for fall is relatively flat and we may even be down about a half percent. She stated that everyone on campus can help by communicating effectively with prospective students.

Tschetter asked if there were any changes with our international student enrollment. Ankerson noted that international student enrollment went down a few years ago due to the national political situation and then Covid. She reported that AVC Winter and AVC Davis are working closely to try to maximize our partnerships with other countries to improve international student enrollment.

Vuran pointed out that due to the pandemic junior faculty members have been allowed to extend their tenure clock or freeze it which he thinks is very beneficial, but he said the same consideration was not being given to faculty who are tenured but not fully promoted and asked if this is being considered. Ankerson noted that Assistant Professors are time bound for achieving tenure and promotion and while there may be expectations for when Associate Professors would go up for promotion, it is not time bound. She stated that there have been no discussions about the point that Vuran made since she became EVC, but she would bring this up with academic leaders. Boehm noted that the intent was to infuse annual evaluations, of both faculty and staff, with a lot of humanity and grace as we all dealt with the difficult situation of the pandemic. He pointed out that as scholars it is incumbent upon us to remind ourselves that while the pandemic may be retreating, the impacts of it on such things as research and creative activity will be impacted for a considerable time and the actual recovery time will be long.

#### VC Boehm

Boehm reported that the public announcement for the position of the Dean of the Agricultural Research Division will be made soon. He stated that he is excited over the highly accomplished people that will be serving on the search committee and noted that the hope is to have the final slate of candidates for campus interviews identified by July. He stated that he hopes that we can get someone in the position quickly but no later than January 1, 2023.

Boehm reported that a \$75 million budget request from ARFA funds is being made by the University to the State legislature. He noted that \$25 million would be used to build a companion facility to the USDA's Center for Resilient and Regenerative Agriculture Center and \$50 million would be used to move and expand the Holland Computing Center to Nebraska Innovation Campus. He noted the expansion would help provide greater cybersecurity to the University.

Boehm reported that Congress released the text of its omnibus bill and nested in it is funding for the University of Nebraska which includes approximately \$40.5 million for UNL. He noted that some of the funding would go to the School of Computing, the Drought Mitigation Center, and funds from the Department of Defense would eventually make its way to the Engineering College. He stated that \$30 million would support agricultural and food systems in Nebraska but pointed out that there is still a long way to go in the approval process for the bill.

#### **7.0 Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the APC is Wednesday, March 23, 2022. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.