

MINUTES
January 25, 2023

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Boehm, Clarke, Davis, Doll, Donesky, Drake, Hiatt, Latta Konecky, Kelley, Kolbe, Moriyama, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Wilhelm

Members Absent: Boehm, Ourada, Vuran

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

Tschetter called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m.

2.0 Introduction of Josh Davis, Chief of Staff and Associate to the Chancellor

Members of the APC introduced themselves to Davis who then explained that he has been at the University for 11 years starting in Central Administration and then moving to IANR before going to the EVC's office for the past three years.

3.0 APC Reps Needed for the following APRs: English, Biochemistry, Special Education and Communication Disorders, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Agronomy and Horticulture

The following APC members volunteered to serve on fall APRs:

Biochemistry (September 18-22, 2023) – Hiatt volunteered,
Agronomy & Horticulture (October 2-6, 2023) – Clarke volunteered,
Special Education & Communication Disorders (October 10-12, 2023) – Doll volunteered,
Earth & Atmospheric Sciences (October 23-25, 2023), Moriyama volunteered,
English (October 30-November 1, 2023) – Tschetter volunteered.

4.0 Proposed Revisions to APR Guidelines

Tschetter noted that AVC Goodburn and Faculty Director for Undergraduate Brassil suggested revising the Guidelines for Academic Program Reviews to include in the common data set the following language: Major by full/part-time status, gender and age, first-generation status; four and six-year graduation rates; and majors by race/ethnicity, first-generation status. Button strongly supports the revised language and moved to approve it. Latta Konecky seconded the motion.

Heng-Moss suggested that as more graduate programs are developed, information in the data set should also pertain to graduate student information. Ankerson noted that Graduate Studies is making great strides in many areas and suggested sending the proposed revisions back to Goodburn and Brassil and asking them to work with Graduate Studies to define what data should be gathered. Clarke suggested that the APC approve the proposed revisions now, saying that she

would take the suggestion to include information on graduate students and programs to the Graduate Council and will report back on the Council's recommendations.

Kelley asked when the revisions would apply to the APRs. Tschetter stated that it would start with the fall APRs.

5.0 Guidelines for Reviewing Program Proposals

Tschetter thanked Clarke and Doll for their work in providing further revisions to the draft guidelines for reviewing program proposals.

Ankerson noted that the guidelines made her think how we might also consider how a proposed program might affect other programs and what synergies would be created. She suggested that proposers should keep in mind the opportunities that could arise that could affect equity, inclusion, and excellence on campus.

Heng-Moss pointed out that there are many things that proposers must consider when developing a program proposal, however, one thing that the Provost's office and the Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education look for is to see if the program is a duplicate not only at UNL, but in the NU system, and now for the state of Nebraska. She suggested that this information should be included in program proposals. Ankerson wondered if we could be more comprehensive in what is required in the program proposal template, identifying what the APC looks at when reviewing the proposal, what the Board of Regents, and the CCPE looks for. Heng-Moss reported that most often additional information is being requested for the proposal and proposers need to thoroughly assess and provide data on how the program addresses such things as the work force needs, not just in Nebraska but also nationally. Ankerson suggested that the EVC office could work with the APC to make sure that appropriate information needed for program proposals throughout the entire process is in sync with what the APC considers when reviewing the proposals.

Doll pointed out that the intent of the guidelines was not to add new requirements for program proposals, but simply to provide guidance on what should be considered when APC members review program proposals. EVC Ankerson noted that the guidelines are generating ideas on how the proposal process can be improved so the necessary information is provided earlier in the process. Kolbe suggested having a university facing web document that fully describes what is being looked at by each group that reviews a proposal.

Button stated that the proposal template needs to be reviewed and probably revised to ensure that proposers are providing the needed information and suggested that the guidelines be used as a resource for updating the template. Button noted that the review process usually begins with the college curriculum committee.

Ankerson stated that she would take the suggestions back to her office to begin discussions on re-designing the template as process improvement.

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

Ankerson reported that the new AVC for Digital and Online Learning, Kevin Shriner, will begin working on campus on February 1. She noted that initially he will be involved with on-boarding, and he will be meeting with each of the Deans and colleges. She noted that the Dean of Architecture, Kevin Van Wylemelenberg, started his position on January 1. She pointed out that diversity ambassadors were used for each of the searches and every feedback she received about having a diversity ambassador on the search committee has been very positive.

Ankerson stated that the six-day census would be coming out soon for the spring semester. She reported that the January pre-session offered 68 courses and 70% of these courses were either offered online or by web conferencing. She stated that the number of students enrolled was 1,764 which generated approximately 4,100 student credit hours. She noted that we cannot compare it yet with previous enrollment data because it is the first time the three-week spring pre-session has been offered outside of Covid-19.

Ankerson reported that enrollment is on top of everyone's mind at the university and while it is still very early in the process, our resident applications are up 4.8% although we are down on our out-of-state applications by about 17%, however, this is typical at this time of year for the fall semester. She noted that international applications are up by about 45% but the total market is still low. She reported that a lot of activities are coming up for prospective students and ASEM is working closely with the colleges on recruitment efforts including increased marketing efforts and promoting scholarships and financial aid. She noted that both the Engineering College and the College of Business recently were highly ranked nationally.

Kolbe stated that it would be good to see what the average class size was for the online courses during the January pre-session and to see more of the aggregate data for these courses. He asked how AVC Shriner would be involved with the online courses. Ankerson reported that AVC Shriner's focus will not be on the modality of the courses being offered in the spring and fall, whether they are strictly online or in-person. She noted that the Center for Transformative Teaching's (CTT) instructional designers work with faculty to develop the pedagogy for courses and the AVC will be focused on programs, such as the MBA program, online. She noted that AVC Shriner will be interacting closely with the CTT, but his focus is on online programs.

Tschetter asked if the January pre-session will continue in the future. Ankerson pointed out that there is the University-wide Calendar Committee that has been working together on implications of aligning the academic calendar between the university's campuses and (President Carter asked that the January pre-session be offered at each of the campuses and alignment in the academic calendar among UNL, UNO, and UNK). She reported that the Board of Regents has approved the January pre-session for the next two years. She stated that there are pros and cons to having a January pre-session. Latta Konecky stated that she has heard that there are discussions about having a 14-week semester rather than a 15-week semester. Ankerson stated that there have been very rich discussions on this topic, although there are people both in favor and against it. She stated that there are some positives about having the January pre-session but also challenges with it.

VC Wilhelm

Wilhelm reported that there is a new faculty development program to help UNL faculty members be more competitive for NIH grants.

Wilhelm stated that the campus is now in round two of the Grand Challenges and there will be a Townhall meeting on February 15th about it. He reported that the final deadline date for submitting proposals is April 25 and stated that awards would be announced at a later date.

Wilhelm reported that over the holiday break some faculty members participated in developing two large scale NSF proposals, one of which is a \$160 million regional proposal. He stated that Graduate Studies and New Venture have been working for some time to participate in the GEM program which promotes corporate funding of graduate students in the STEM fields, particularly under-represented graduate students. He reported that we already have our first GEM fellow and we are looking to have six or more.

Wilhelm noted that two searches are currently underway. He stated that three finalists for the next Executive Director of NE Innovation Campus, which will now be defined as an Associate VC, were brought in for interviews and he hopes that the positions will be filled soon. He noted that previously Emeritus Professor Hoyt served as a Research Integrity Officer and this position is now being redefined as a full-time position which he hopes to have filled by the end of the semester.

Wilhelm stated that external funding proposals, awards and expenditures have all increased. He stated that proposal numbers were better than anticipated, awards are ahead of anything that has been seen in the past, and the same goes for spending. All of these are good indicators in terms of what the faculty are doing in research. He noted that there will be an announcement on February 1 of a significant award.

Dean Heng-Moss for VC Boehm:

Heng-Moss reported that Boehm was unable to attend the meeting. She stated that the new Dean of the Agricultural Research Division, Derek McLean, began working on January 1, and he has already begun traveling the state. She stated that a huge thank-you needs to be extended to those people working in the Research & Extension Centers for taking care of the animals during the difficult winter weather that parts of the state have been experiencing.

7.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m. The next meeting of the APC is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2023. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.