

MINUTES
January 24, 2024

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Academic Planning Committee

Members Present: Ankerson, Bloom, Boehm, Button, Clarke, Doll, Heng-Moss, Jones, Latta Konecky, Minter, Mowat, Ourada, Pechous, Theiss-Morse, Tschetter, Vuran, Haake

Members Absent: Cressler, Davis, Russo, Gonzales

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. This is a summary of the discussions at the Academic Planning Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call

Vuran called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Introduction of New APC Member

Vuran reported that Professor Russo has been elected to replace Professor Hiatt on the APC. He noted that Russo was unable to attend today's meeting due to a previously scheduled meeting.

3.0 Approval of December 13, 2023 Minutes

Vuran asked for approval of the minutes. Tschetter moved and Minter seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Vuran then asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved.

4.0 APC Representative Needed for Child, Youth and Family Studies APR (November 3-5, 2024)

Vuran asked for a volunteer to serve on the Child, Youth and Family Studies APR. Ourada volunteered to serve as the APC representative.

5.0 APC Representative Needed for Classics and Religious Studies APR (October 27-29, 2024)

Vuran asked for a volunteer to serve on the Classics and Religious Studies APR. Tschetter agreed to serve as the APC representative.

6.0 Discussion on Activities that the Campus May Undertake to Mitigate the Negative Impacts of the Budget Reductions

6.1 Review of Fall Budget Reduction Process – What went well and what didn't.

Clarke stated that with the Chancellor's recent announcement with the budget cuts there is a need for the campus to work together to see how we can mitigate the negative impacts of the reductions. She pointed out that there should be a communication strategy, including talking points, for faculty members to help retain and recruit new faculty members and students. Vuran stated that it is important for the APC members to get a better understanding of why the Committee's recommendations were not accepted so the Committee can make a better impact in future budget reductions. Bloom pointed out that the APC needs a real articulation of strategy

for the next round of budget reductions. The strategy should define what needs to be defended and protected when budget reductions are necessary. Theiss Morse noted that the university system, as well as the Chancellor, needs to designate a vision.

Vuran stated that he hopes that the APC will not have to rush to react to budget reductions, but instead would be part of the process from the beginning. He noted that the Committee has been hearing that the next round of reductions will more than likely include some academic program reductions and pointed out the APC will follow the procedures as defined in the Procedures to be Invoked for Significant Budget Reallocations and Reductions. He stated that the Committee needs to find a balance between being a part of the process early on, but also having ample time to make deliberate decisions on the data that is provided.

7.0 Phase II Budget Reduction Process

Vuran reported that at this time there is no information from Central Administration regarding further budget reduction amounts.

8.0 Report on Educational Administration APR (Clarke)

Clarke reported that she was the APC representative for the Educational Administration APR which was conducted in 2022. She noted that the external review team was very positive and thought that the department's self-assessment was well done. She stated that the team was very positive about the department culture which treated faculty members equitably and where discussions are openly held. She stated that the Higher Education and Student Affairs profile is well regarded nationally and noted that most doctoral students are online with most of them pursuing an EdD and many of the graduate students are full-time working professionals. She pointed out that the department is one of the most engaged units with respect to diversity and inclusion and is one of the most engaged units and a leader in the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Clarke reported that the external team recommended that the department get more external funding but noted that this is difficult to do when many graduate students are online only and working professionals. She stated that the department has very few senior faculty members which creates difficulties for the promotion and tenure process and puts a burden on the associate professors who are swamped with advising and teaching students. She pointed out that although there are good opportunities for growth because of the demand for the program, the department cannot increase the number of students unless they get support to hire additional faculty members.

Clarke stated that the department received a very positive review from the external team and the department's response was positive.

Jones pointed out that Educational Administration is a graduate only department and does not offer any undergraduate courses and noted that the department has already begun addressing the recommendations made by the external team.

Jones asked if there is a common set of data that the APC would like to see in the APR reports. She suggested that having this data would allow the APC to have a regular review which could

empower the APC to address its charge to help programs change, grow, or even eliminate some programs. She noted that she had the very difficult decision of recommending the elimination of the Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design in 2020 and stated that having an ongoing review with the APRs would have been helpful. Vuran noted that when the APC is not dealing with budget reductions it could investigate the possibility of Jones' suggestion.

9.0 Update on the Business Analytics Proposal

Ankerson reported that Dean Farrell of the College of Business reached out to the deans and chairs that are involved with the Data Science program to have further discussions about the Business Analytics proposal and whether it was a duplicate program. She noted that there is support for the Business Analytics proposal, but revisions were suggested for it and once revised the proposal will come back to the EVC office and eventually back to the APC.

Heng-Moss noted that CASNR is working with the EVC to see if there are ways to integrate some proposals with existing degree programs. She asked if the Deans/Chairs of the units can be invited to attend the APC meeting when the proposal is being discussed in order to provide additional information and address any questions that may arise. Vuran stated that invitations can be sent to those submitting the proposals.

10.0 Reports from EVC Ankerson, VC Boehm, Interim VC Jones

Ankerson

Ankerson reported that the CAO's of the sister campuses meet regularly to discuss a variety of things which allows them to know what is occurring at the other campuses, including issues such as mental health concerns and how each campus is addressing the problem. She stated that the CAO's are always working on the academic arrays and is currently looking at programs that do not meet the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education's (CCPE) minimum threshold which is that over a five-year period an undergraduate program needs at least 7, master's at least 5, and doctoral program at least 3 students. She noted we do have some programs that fall into these categories but pointed out that any new program needs time to develop their enrollment. She stated that she has communicated with the deans about the programs that are not meeting the threshold and is receiving feedback on strategies to look into how these programs could possibly be restructured. Bloom asked if during the CAO meeting discussions about collaboration are occurring to make sure that there are not duplicate programs. Ankerson reported that these discussions are occurring to a certain degree.

Vuran noted that he received a request last semester about the current docket of pending proposals at the EVC office and when it can be anticipated that these proposals will move forward. He asked if there is a way to speed up the process because for some proposals, the process is very lengthy. Ankerson pointed out that there can be multiple reasons for the delay.

Ankerson reported that Kiewitt Hall is now open and in use. She noted that the building is the university's academic hub for engineering education and connects five engineering facilities.

Ankerson reported that housing contracts for next fall are trending above where they were last year for first-time freshmen. She noted that this spring's enrollment will not be reported until next week, but as of now, from last year we are about 1% positive in enrollment growth which

indicates a better retention rate for the spring semester. She stated that our applications for admittance are relatively flat in number, but our admittance is up about 4.5% and the qualifications of students were higher. She reported that our enrollment deposits are higher at this time than they have been in the past five years, and she is hoping to see an increase in the number after February 1 when those students who applied by November 1 will receive notice of their scholarship funding. She stated that graduate applications are up, and international student applications are slightly increasing.

Ankerson stated that the CCPE, in partnership with the state, has developed a direct road of education pathways and a list of opportunities that would be supported by tuition scholarships for student teachers. She noted that the scholarships are to be tuition agnostic and if used at UNL it would be used to cover tuition and other student costs, but if used at another institution in the state, the scholarship would only cover tuition.

Heng-Moss

Heng-Moss noted that Boehm had to leave to attend another meeting and she would be reporting for him. She stated that Boehm wanted to give a shout out to all of those that have been working across the state during the severe winter weather to care for their livestock noting that these people worked for very long hours in extremely difficult conditions and as a result of all of their efforts, no animals were lost.

Heng-Moss reported that the Governor has been forthcoming about his interest in the workforce for animal health and has put \$10 million towards the effort. She pointed out that we have a 2+2 program with Iowa State in Veterinary Medicine and tomorrow will kick off the Veterinary Medicine program noting that there will be a soft release of a scholarship program. She stated that we are hoping to continue having further dialogue with the hope of developing a loan forgiveness program for those students seeking a Veterinary Medicine degree. She noted that there is a definite need throughout the state for mixed practices of small and large animals.

Heng-Moss stated that the Kimmel Foundation has provided a gift of \$1 million to help develop the Nebraska Equine Sports Complex. She noted that UNL is developing a project to create a \$4.5 million state-of-the-art equine sports complex which will be the destination for students across the state and beyond who are interested in equine sports. It will also expand our experiential learning programming by providing a one-of-a-kind teaching and learning facility and it will connect youth and extension education activities. She stated that having this platform will make us competitive with community colleges around the state and we hopefully won't be losing students to Wyoming and other states.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting of the APC will be on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator.