

NOTES

IANR Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

10:30-12:30pm

Nebraska East Union, Bluestem Room

In Attendance: Julie Albrecht (excused early at 11:30am), Angela Pannier, Ellen Papparozzi, Ann Fenton, Thomas Hunt, Randy Pryor

Excused: Jiri Adamec

From the VC Office: Ronnie Green, Jeff Bassford, Jill Brown, Zaneta Hahn (recorder)

Roads Scholar Tour

The committee updated Jill Brown on last spring's Roads Scholar Tour. There has been a very positive response. Great things have been said by both attendees and people from the destinations. The committee and Jill discussed when and where the next tour should be held. No decision was made. Expanding the tour was mentioned. Jill stated that adding a second bus is a big question, since the logistics of some of the locations could prevent 2 buses. The group agreed that it would probably be better to offer 2 tours, possibly 1 next spring and 1 next fall. Perhaps one tour could be in the Eastern area of the state. Dr. Green shared that the time of the year can be an issue. Sometimes taking the tour right after classes end can prevent some participation. Jill asked the committee what locations in Eastern Nebraska people would like to see. Randy suggested Mead. Jill asked if the tour should last one more day. The consensus was that 2 tours would be better than a longer one. There was a brief discussion on whether or not new hires from other colleges on campus should be invited, but no decision was made. The committee will decide who will assist the VC office with planning and let Jill know.

Revolving Tax

The committee asked Dr. Green to confirm that the money assessed from the 5% tax will stay within IANR. Dr. Green confirmed that this is correct. Angie asked how the funds would be used, and if there would be a faculty oversight committee. She also asked how exemptions were being handled. Dr. Green noted that a process has been put in place for requesting exemptions. Each unit has completed the process and exempt accounts have been identified. Based on projections, we are guessing the assessment in IANR may generate \$600,000 this year. The use of the funds are dedicated to maintenance needs on the campus infrastructure. They have been budgeted as deferred maintenance and no other purpose. The end of the first year of collection is June. An oversight board has not yet been set up, but there will be one. Jeff shared with the committee that the assessment is done to all accounts across UNL. The mechanics of collecting the revenue and distributing it is not done at IANR but downtown. What we set up was a way for a unit to ask for an exemption. After the assessment is collected, it will be returned to the unit for exempt accounts. Most exemptions came from accounts with insurance reimbursements, pass through accounts, and accounts with cash flow problems. The vice chancellor's office (Jeff Bassford and Ron Yoder) made evaluations together with the unit

heads. A list was created and legitimate justifications were approved. Angie asked if this was a once a year or rolling process. Jeff indicated it would be once per year unless an account is added mid-year. Some exemptions may change from year to year. Ellen asked if student lab fees were assessed. Jeff answered that downtown has made the decision to assess student lab fee accounts. Ellen pointed out that some faculty may increase fees because of this. Randy shared that 4-H dues are handled differently per county depending on how they choose to have them paid. Ones who choose to have them paid through UNL, acquire a lot of fees. At the end, there isn't a lot of money left for the program. Jeff agreed that this is more a question of what revenue should run through 4-H council and what should go through UNL accounting. This is a complicated arena, and there does not seem to be a blanket solution for 4-H. Dr. Green shared that the original discussion around the revolving tax did not include segregation of dollars. IANR agreed to the 5% because we were allowed to have some control over how the money was used.

Campus building/landscape planning

There is some concern amongst the faculty about a dorm being placed where the Biochemistry building is now. Concerns include traffic flow and landscaping. The committee asked for an explanation for that site vs. other sites. Dr. Green shared that the Board of Regents will be reviewing this request on Friday and will vote on it in November. The proposal is for a 380-bed, \$40 million dollar project, with half traditional dorm rooms and half suite style. The increased capacity will be roughly 110 beds. Dr. Green expects it to pass as it has been supported. There are 2 reasons for using this site: 1) Master plan for UNL fits into the design of that plan for the Burr/Fedde space to be tied to rec center and parking on the perimeter (playing field space and additional parking). 2) This plan moves student life into center of campus, which ties into increased use of the Union and the repurposing of CYT into a student learning commons. Some major concerns he has heard are changing the tree scape (there will be some trees that have to come down), parking (east of here would be full, but the nursing center will not go there as earlier thought), over use of the arboretum (this is a legitimate concern, and we will have to educate students on use). Dr. Green shared that all committees in the process on campus have had the opportunity to comment. There were a few concerns raised. We took a step back at that point to look at the configuration. The architects studied the space and verified that it will not overwhelm the space. Ellen pointed out that some larger universities are moving to a more peripheral approach for housing, instead of the center of campus. Land-locking the building doesn't allow for as much growth. Dr. Green noted that moving parking can allow for more growth in the future. He also shared that there has been some initial discussion about married/professional student housing behind the Barkley Center. Ellen also shared concerns about international students struggling to come to campus on the weekends without a bus service. Another concern is lack of classroom space. Dr. Green shared that when FDST moves to NIC, instructional space will be freed up. Also the renovation of the library will include instructional space. There is also planning being done for an auditorium classroom behind the Dairy Store in a portion of what will then be the former Food Processing Center.

Presidential Search

Dr. Green shared that the UN Presidential search is progressing. His committee completed their part of the work in August. He feels that Interim President Linder is doing a tremendous job.

Food Science Move

Everything is on schedule for the move of the Food Science and Technology Department to NIC. Occupancy will start next July. Classes will be taught at NIC in the fall of 2015. Timing of classes and bus service is being handled.

EdMedia Restructure

The restructuring of educational media and technology needs for IANR was announced in early October. A plan for moving forward is now in process. We are not doing away with all of the functions of EdMedia just the name. 14 positions were eliminated effective January 1, 2015. Print/publications, event planning, and web services will no longer be offered through what was formerly EdMedia. 14 positions have been retained. 3 more will be added: a coordinator, media specialist, and web strategist, who will all work closely with UComm. ITS and UComm have been very helpful with the transitions. We are obviously in a transition period until January. Jeff shared that the IANR HR employees have been assisting the individuals whose positions are being eliminated during this process. Dr. Green shared that although this process was facilitated by the budget reallocation, the reorganization was not driven by the budget reduction amount of \$400,000, but instead to develop a structure for delivering the needs in this area for IANR long-term in a sustainable manner not dependent on cost recovery.

Healthcare

The committee asked if the University was looking for other providers since Blue Cross and Blue Shield has not worked out a deal with Catholic Health Services. Dr. Green and Jeff shared that CFO Dave Lechner in Varner Hall is looking into options. Ellen asked if there would be interaction with faculty before a decision is made. Jeff was not sure. He reminded the group that there will still be access to services, just through a different process and rates.

Department Head Evaluation Time Line

The committee asked if there is a time frame for evaluating department heads. Dr. Green stated that annual evaluations are now solicited electronically for faculty and staff to give feedback on their unit head. The anonymous results are shared with the unit heads from IANR administration. The ability to do the same on higher administrators needs to be put in place annually. Dr. Green indicated that will be in place in the future.

Eastern Nebraska REC

The committee asked for an update on the task force recommendations on the Eastern Nebraska research and extension sites. Dr. Green acknowledged that the NEREC director position has been vacant since January, and that other retirements are likely this year. The task force is currently evaluating the region, and they will be reporting on the infrastructure side and submitting a proposal by the end of the calendar year. The leadership portion is currently

being put aside until we get the infrastructure questions answered. The goal is to have a plan in place for the infrastructure by spring break. Then the planning will move to people/management. The committee is chaired by Deans Clutter and Hibberd. Dr. Green projected the end of the fiscal year or calendar year 2015 before the plan begins to move forward.

VSIP Update

Dr. Green shared that there are a fairly large amount of IANR faculty eligible for the VSIP. 14 have submitted application thus far. He is projecting 20-25 FTE. If 18 applications are approved, we will have reached the planning horizons for future hiring. 4 years ago, 21 took the VSIP – 30% of those eligible at the time.

Nomination to IANR Committees

The committee reported that they will look at the bylaws and change the nomination process, so as to prevent the issues we had this past year.

12:30pm Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wed, Dec 17, 2014, 1:00-3:00pm (Dr. Green joins at 2:00pm)
- Fri, Feb 6, 2015, 2:00-4:00pm (Dr. Green joins at 3:00pm)
- Fri, April 3, 2015, 2:00-4:00pm (Dr. Green joins at 3:00pm)