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3-2-2012

## March 2, 2012 - ALEC UCC Meeting Minutes

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**Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Minutes**  
**March 2, 2012**

Present: Mark Balschweid, Kathy Bennetch, Karen Cannon, Myunghwa Kang, Matt Kreifels, Gina Matkin, Jennifer Schoen, Roger Terry and Malika Yadgarova.

Minutes from February 3, 2012 were approved.

**Unfinished Business/Ongoing Business**

*CASNR Core Program requirements* – Matkin reported that the CASNR Curriculum Committee is looking at college core requirements. To facilitate a discussion with faculty, the CASNR Curriculum Committee compared the college core requirements with other Big Ten land grant institutions primarily for math and science. Some programs offered more science and others less than we do. What was the core in the College of Agriculture? Some didn't have a core or there was a university core. UNL's was listed at the top in terms of math requirements. UNL's is five hours above and beyond college algebra. Science requirements it varied. UNL was at the lower level in terms of core requirements for science. This doesn't mean our programs don't offer science it means that just in the college core, that is what it appeared to be. The new life science core curriculum may be impacting this request. If ALEC wanted to change the CASNR core, what would you do? What would you change? Would the math requirements be increased? Would you want more of it in the core instead of in your program? The change from 125 to 120 removed a humanities elective from the core and then two hours across the board from everybody's elective credit hours. It didn't impact math and science requirements at all. It did impact social science requirements. Matkin reported one of the questions raised at the CASNR Curriculum Committee was what constitutes a science class and an education class? Are economics classes math classes and also social sciences classes? Do they count as science classes for the students in the social sciences? At the next CASNR Curriculum Committee meeting Tiffany Heng-Moss will present information about the life sciences curriculum and how that might impact our core in the future.

*412 update* – Cannon gathered some syllabi from other universities to see what kinds of units ALEC might put together to update our Agricultural Journalism curriculum. More classes in multimedia might be considered. The goal now is to get ALEC 412 back on the books and make it useful to the students while they are students here. Adding an additional course is also being considered. Students have taken visual literacy courses in Journalism so they have experience with photography and web design. Also, how to use multimedia should be part of a strategic discussion. Cannon plans on having a draft syllabus to present at the next UCC meeting. Ed Media staff will be asked to offer their expertise on certain sections of this course. The timeline is spring 2012 or fall 2013. Matkin mentioned there might be some implications here for the graduate specialization in distance education which Jim King oversaw previously. At the time it was an undergraduate class. There was strong interest in that specialization by both the undergraduate and graduate students.

*ALEC 388/AECN 388 Ethics in Agriculture and Natural Resources* – Balschweid has had no further conversations with Larry Van Tassel, head of Ag Economics, to know whether or not they've made a decision. ALEC will teach it this fall and AECN in the spring. If they don't identify somebody to teach it, we'll have the option of teaching it, in which case it might be a course where we hire an adjunct to teach. Those are flow-through dollars so it wouldn't negatively impact our budget. ALEC is the parent

department for the course but it's definitely a course that Ag Econ students populate specifically in the semester that Ag Econ teaches it or provides the instructor. This summer Balschweid will consult with Ag Econ to finalize the arrangements for both departments satisfaction.

*HRTM Curriculum changes and internship course* – Kang outlined the process she had gone through to get to where she is now with the new HRTM curriculum which was approved by College Education and Human Sciences Curriculum Committee. One of the biggest changes was the 128 credits. We have a HRTM core, HRTM professionals' elective leadership minor. Students will take 21 credit hours as professional electives where they focus on lodging and tourism. Matkin stated before they had specific courses that they required for leadership and now they're opening it up to whatever the minor requires which should be very helpful. In CASNR you cannot have a course count towards your program requirements and your college requirements for ACE. Kang indicated CEHS has approved already. Terry asked if the CASNR Curriculum Committee needs to approve it as well? Matkin replied up until this point it's been two separate programs. The Deans of CASNR and CEHS have tied to create, for the first time, a UNL degree program where the student would receive a joint degree from two colleges so their diploma will read CEHS and CASNR. It was suggested Kang visit with Dr. Husmann before bringing this proposal back to ALEC's Curriculum Committee. Other discussion followed about recruitment aspects of these changes, getting bulletin descriptions clearly defined for our students.

Discussion followed about the internship course ALEC 495 and having a new ALEC 495C section especially for HRTM. A new course development Form A, and syllabus will need be submitted to the ALEC Undergraduate Curriculum Committee next month. Cross-listing the course would give the students options to take either ALEC 495 or HRTM 477 as an ACE 10 course. These changes probably will not be effective until fall or summer 2013. Kang indicated she has students who usually work during the summer. Kang's contract is for nine months and she will be gone during the summer. Further discussion is warranted regarding the hiring of new faculty, increased student enrollment and additional teaching loads.

*Ag Literacy course proposals* – Terry announced the proposals need to have the ace requirements application ready as well. The forms for a new course and syllabus need to be presented and approved at our next meeting April 6. Once approved here they are then submitted two weeks before the May 11 CASNR Curriculum Committee meeting. The target date for the first offering for the class is spring 2013.

*ALEC Instructional Improvement Plan (Updates)* – The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee serves as the Instructional Improvement Plan committee also. Balschweid reminded the committee members that every department is required to have an instructional improvement plan. ALEC's Instructional Improvement Plan this year is to utilize our in-house expertise to help the EdMedia faculty with their classroom teaching. Dr. Bell will offer an open brown bag forum session this summer to our Ed Media faculty. He teaches an advanced teaching strategies course that gets great reviews from graduate students, to new TA's, and to those in a variety of non-traditional teaching settings. **New Business**

*Endorsement Program changes Agricultural Education*- Kreifels indicated he is representing the teacher education group. Since CASNR doesn't deal with endorsements and CEHS does we are asking for

approval on the following two items: 1) Diversified Occupations, cooperative education endorsement which is at the high school level with schools that do school/work programs. According to the Department of Education, Agricultural Education endorsed teachers can get the cooperative education endorsement. The university side isn't set up that way. ALEC 234, which Kreifels teaches, is added to their program to get the cooperative education that our graduates need. Endorsements are state designed. Cannon moved to approve the Cooperative Education Endorsement and move it on to the CEHS committee. Approved.

2) Skilled and Technical Science (STS) endorsement – Kreifels indicated the Department of Education re-visited the STS endorsement, which was called Industrial Technology. Looking across the state of Nebraska, there are 500 plus Industrial Technology teachers with 40% retiring in the next several years. The Department of Education in this endorsement revision process said agricultural education teaches very similar things in some respects to what our STS program does. They want to make it available so if an Ag Education teacher has enough industry experience hours in one of four different areas they can tack on a few more hours and gain a supplemental endorsement in Skills and Technical Sciences. The state has had this for a while but the university never built a program around this. This formalizes a program for Ag teachers to also tack on the supplemental STS endorsement that will enable them to teach in one of the four areas based on where they have industry experience. Matkin moved to approve. Approved.

### **Announcements/Updates**

*Recruitment* – Yadgarova listed the following new student admittance for Fall 2012: Ag Education (13), Ag Journalism (3) Hospitality, Restaurant & Tourism Management (3)

Big Red Roadshow - March 4, 2012 at the CenturyLink in Omaha

Nebraska State FFA Convention Booth – March 29 (1:00 – 4:00)

Teach Ag Luncheon – March 30 (11:00-1:00) A luncheon for potential Ag Education students and advisors.

Blue & Gold – Experience the Power of Red Open House – March 30 (1:00 – 3:00)

CASNR Salute to Graduates ALEC Reception – May 4 (3:00 – 4:00) Reception for ALEC Spring graduates, families & advisors

ALEC Graduates – Spring 2012

Ag Education (13)

Ag Journalism (1)

Hospitality, Restaurant & Tourism Management (4)

Kang has questions about how to appropriately answer student's questions, "Which college is better or what is the difference between the colleges?" How to reach the goal of 252 students in 5 years under

two colleges? Because we don't have options anymore administratively the student credits is going to be split between CEHS and CASNR.

*Search Committees* - Kang reported they are hiring two professors of practice and reviewing resumes presently.

Meeting adjourned.