

SPECIAL ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 9/04/07 MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Jannet Vreeland (Interim Provost-chair)
Ted Batchman (Engineering)
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)
Charlie Bullock (HHS)
Marsha Read (Research/Graduate School)
Mark Brenner (Research/Graduate School)
Greg Mosier (Business Administration)
Bill Follette (Faculty Senate)
Bill Sparkman (Education)
Dave Thawley (CABNR)
Karen Hinton (UNCE)
Jeff Thompson (Science)
Paul Neil (Core Curriculum)
Mike Collopy (Academy for the Environment)
Steve Zink (Library/IT)
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)
Bruce Shively (PBA)

Discussion Topic:

University Metrics

The sole purpose of this meeting was a discussion of a draft metrics document that had been distributed prior to the meeting. The appropriate peer group to use for establishing goals was discussed. The pros and cons of groups like Western Land Grant institutions, historical peers, and PAC institutions were explored. The impact on our current standing due to finances, entering students' GPAs, and admissions standards as compared to other institutions was of concern. Some members felt that a comparison group for faculty outputs could be helpful but might not be feasible for students because the inputs are so varied across the country.

There was a discussion on student enrichment as a metric. Should it be a metric or a strategy for improving a metric? The need to include metrics related to recruitment (numbers and quality), diversity, retention/persistence, years to graduation was agreed upon.

Graduate education metrics were also explored. Marsha Read and Mark Brenner shared some possible metrics for graduate education which were related to recruitment, the number of Ph.D.'s granted, competitive fellowships, the number of fully-funded graduate students, diversity of the graduate student body, and faculty. They noted that the amount of sponsored project dollars per faculty member here is respectable. Increasing that level with the current facilities, ICR, and level of graduate student support is problematic, however. The possible strategies and constraints associated with each metric for graduate education were explored.

A document on outreach metrics prepared by Fred Holman and Karen Hinton was distributed. More engagement in the economic development of the communities we serve was suggested, but

an appropriate metric for this was not clear. One suggestion would be tracking the number of students produced by the university that are employable in the Reno area. Others noted, however, that there are other ways that the university contributes to the community. Art Town, the Library, and the School of the Arts were mentioned. These services and activities and possible metrics for them were explored.

As the meeting adjourned, Jannet noted that the work and discussion would continue and that she would keep the group updated.