

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 7/22/08 MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)  
Dawn Arnold (Engineering)  
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)  
John McDonald (Health Sciences)  
Greg Mosier (Business Administration)  
Karen Hinton (Cooperative Extension)  
Marsha Read (VPR/Grad. School)  
Jerry Ceppos (RSJ)  
Jeff Thompson (Science)  
Bill Sparkman (Education)  
Dave Lupan (Medicine)  
Rang Narayanan (CABNR)  
Steve Zink (Library/IT)  
Bill Follette (Faculty Senate)  
Elliott Parker (Faculty Senate)  
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)  
Paul Neill (Core Curriculum)  
Mike Collopy (UNAE)  
Bruce Shively (PBA)

### Announcements:

1. **Requests to Provost.** The provost requested that deans ensure that requests from faculty or department chairs are routed through their offices before coming to him for approval.
2. **Good News Items.** Karen Hinton announced that Marilyn Smith has won the 2008 National Excellence in Extension Award from NASULGC. This award is presented annually to an individual who has strived throughout their career to achieve benchmarks reflective of excellence in Extension educational programming. She will receive her award and \$5,000 check at this year's NASULGC meeting on Sunday, November 9. Greg Mosier announced that Bill Eadington will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Macau at their upcoming commencement.

### Discussion Topics:

#### Review of VPR Offices

Marsha Read reported that she had notified each of the divisions that will be reviewed. Included in the review will be customer service and the regulatory environment. The intent is to complete these reviews in the fall semester, with performance standards developed by the first of December and implemented in the spring. It was noted that the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on research and grants will be chaired by Jeff Englin. One of the goals of that committee is to provide input to the VPR. There are 10 members of that committee thus far, and the plan is to have at least one member from the Faculty Senate Committee on each of the review committees. The provost and VPR are also meeting with each of the members of the Research

Advisory Committee formed last year and will take their concerns back to the various VPR offices.

Steve Zink noted that any IT issues are not easily solved because there isn't one package that serves all the needs and uses of the various VPR offices.

#### Criteria for Selecting Programs to be Reviewed

The provost distributed a document of the goals, strategies, and considerations that could be used in the review process and noted that a lot of the university's flexible resources are in personnel.

Another handout with program enrollment and graduate figures was provided. The provost noted that programs with high output could be informed that they will not be the subject of a review. However, screening devices to look more closely at this are needed. Other factors to look at could include cost effectiveness, centrality of service to other departments, and researching funding. Bruce Shively reported he would ask Institutional Analysis to see what they could come up with in this regard. Criteria for evaluating graduate programs and institutes and centers were also discussed.

#### Regents/UNR Workload Standards

There was a discussion of the teaching load for tenure track and tenured faculty. The deans noted that there needs to be a clear message from the provost concerning this. In addition, we should not lose sight of the limiting factor of classroom size. Other factors to be considered were the culture of teaching smaller sections, and the M/W or T/TH preferences. Offering 3/2 teaching loads is also problematic for new hires when there are institutions offering semesters off and reduced teaching loads during the probationary period.

Elliott Parker inquired if it were possible to establish an average goal for a department overall, with the department working out the various loads for its faculty to try to meet that goal. Another temporary measure would be to ask for volunteers to teach an increased load with the understanding that it would be considered at merit time when perhaps research productivity decreases somewhat.

One dean reported that they have started to look at people who are not doing their 100%. They are also auditing course releases and average teaching loads and setting minimum targets. One dean noted that voluntary programs with incentives are more temporary whereas regulations are more permanent. The importance of using role statements correctly was also mentioned. Another dean mentioned the difficulty in reassigning a faculty member when a course is cancelled because of low enrollment. There are also problems with course banking or allowing a course release with the understanding that it will be paid back later. The benefits and obstacles to counting summer courses as part of teaching load were also mentioned.

Copies of the April 2008 memo from Interim Provost Jannet Vreeland with the workload policies attached were provided for reference.

#### Proposed Moratorium on New Curricular Programs

It was reported that the Chair of the Board of Regents has asked the Student & Academic Affairs Council to consider a proposal for a moratorium on new programs at its August meeting. The

provost noted that he would like the colleges and departments to continue to work on new programs so that they are ready to go when the moratorium is lifted. It is expected that any proposals that would create efficiencies in offering programs would be considered.

#### Fall 2008 Student Follow-up; Winter Commencement

Shannon Ellis thanked the deans and their staff for following up with students who had been advised but had not enrolled in classes for the fall. She provided each dean with a list of students in their college who were academically qualified to attend but who had not registered. She asked that someone from each college follow up with them. Melisa Choroszy was also present and asked the deans to identify who will be following up with the students so that she could send them additional information.

Melisa and Shannon shared that they had been asked to look into the concern that winter commencement occurs before final exams. They reported that graduate students liked the idea of a commencement being held after exams on a Thursday night. Undergraduates, however, preferred Saturday or perhaps a Friday night. There was a discussion. It was agreed that the matter would be presented for feedback at the August Faculty Senate meeting. If there is a change, it would not be made for the upcoming commencement. However, a decision is needed at the first of September.

#### Advertising Campaign

Bruce Shively shared details on an advertising campaign at national ski resorts that the University is participating in. If colleges wished to contribute to the cost, they could arrange for targeted advertising of their programs in this campaign. COBA has already agreed to participate, and other colleges are considering.