

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 8/5/08 MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)
Dawn Arnold (Engineering)
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)
Marsha Read (Research/Graduate School)
Richelle O'Driscoll (Health Sciences)
Greg Mosier (Business Administration)
Karen Hinton (Cooperative Extension)
Jeff Thompson (Science)
Bill Sparkman (Education)
Dave Thawley (CABNR)
Dave Lupan (Medicine)
Steve Zink (Library/IT)
Elliott Parker (Faculty Senate)
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)
Mike Collopy (Academy for the Environment)
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)
Paul Neill (Core Curriculum)
Bruce Shively (PBA)

Discussion Topics:

Sabbaticals/Professional Development Leaves

Upon question from the deans, the Provost noted that he knows of no proposal being discussed that would establish a moratorium of sabbaticals or development leaves. He added that even through the crisis, we need to keep developing our faculty, and we need to keep as many positive things as we can.

Buyouts

It was announced that there are currently only a few academic faculty who have expressed interest in a buy out. However, if there are faculty who have expressed interest, the respective dean will be contacted to discuss the details. Deans were asked to advise anyone who approaches them about a buyout to contact Michelle Kelly in HR Benefits regarding their retirement and insurance benefits.

Bylaws

Elliott Parker provided information on where they were with bylaw revisions. He asked the deans to let them know if there are any to add to the list or corrections to the list of departments that should be made.

Website Update

Jake Kupiec was present and announced that shortly after the semester starts there will be a new top-level website design. In advance of that, those interested can go to the Silver & Blue kit

page and click on blog to see the work in progress. She reviewed the format of the new pages and noted there will be two new sections: community partners and parents. The student site will be more student friendly and less complicated. There will also be a faculty and staff entry point.

She noted that Digital Initiatives focuses on projects related to student recruitment or those projects for larger units or with presence across colleges or the university. She cautioned that they will not link a unit's website to the University's website if the logo is not present. In addition, those websites must adhere to the graphic standards.

Jake reminded the deans about the print release process, and stated that someone must look at publications to make sure they are ok before being finalized and printed. If there are questions, it is better to get them dealt with beforehand. Otherwise, they must get forgiveness from the Provost's office. The print release and the first page of the publication can be faxed to their office, and turnaround is within 24 hours. A print release is now required for all items printed with the University's logo, including decals, banners, shirts, pens, hats, and gift items. Their office is sending current logos and standards to printers, news outlets, engravers, etc. Jannet noted that if she gets requests after the fact, she will call the deans and vice presidents.

VPR Division Reviews

Marsha Read gave an update on the status of the various quality improvement reviews. She noted she is trying to get the review committees to rally quickly. The IRB Review Committee was meeting that afternoon. One member of the Faculty Senate committee will serve on each review committee. Upon question, she noted that the committees will be provided with any reports done to date. They are hoping for reports by December 1, with implementation of improvements as quickly as possible. She asked the deans to talk up the positive aspects of the reviews as a way to make sure we are doing research in a professional way.

Budget Update

Bruce Shively was asked to provide any additional information he had. Bruce shared that the current percentage for this year was an additional 3.42%, which amounts to \$4.8 million. This is in addition to the 4.5% cut already made. However, he noted that since we cut more than requested earlier, we only have to cut an additional \$2.8 million. Upon question, he clarified that this is only for the UNR appropriation. The President will address the Board of Regents at a special meeting later this month on how we will address this additional cut. The ideas currently being promoted are using equipment replacement monies, using across-the-board cuts of operating budgets (excluding scholarships and utilities) and strict application of the hiring freeze. LOA and scholarly activity pool budgets will remain as is, but academic needs and operating will not. The deans were asked for their thoughts on these ideas. They recommended that there be some communications during this quiet period as faculty and staff are likely thinking that the crisis has passed.

Marc Johnson noted that the 5-10% plans submitted by the colleges will be finalized soon, with implementation as soon as possible. These plans will be shared with faculty as soon as they return.

Elliott Parker explained the current processes in the code and bylaws for cutting positions. There was a discussion of things the dean could act on now.

Academic Program Moratorium

Bill Cathey provided background on the proposal to be considered by the Board of Regents for a moratorium on new academic programs. The deans were informed that new programs that they had in the works should proceed through the university processes. Additionally, any programs that will save money will likely be allowed to go forward. There was a discussion on the problem of new specializations, and Bill noted that these would be scrutinized carefully at the campus level, though they did not require Board of Regents' approval.

Program Reviews

The program review process is proceeding this year. Bill Cathey reported that there are a number of reviews that will be finished up from last year, with additional programs being scheduled for review.

Prospective Student Communications

Marc distributed a schedule of communications provided by the Office of Prospective Students. He indicated he believed we need to think through how the OPS and College communications flow can be arranged for maximum impact. There was a discussion. Deans were asked to work with OPS to try to unify the various communications. The importance of web and electronic communications with potential students, particularly text messaging, was noted. There was agreement that more communication about careers and professions, rather than just going to college, was needed. Also, graduate recruitment should not be overlooked.

Budget Reductions

Marc distributed procedures for following up on budget reductions and reviewed each of the actions in detail with examples of some strategies that might be used by the deans. There was a discussion on different strategies that could help with the budget that needed closer examination such as using GA's or TA's rather than LOA's, reviewing the number of credits needed for completion of certain degree programs and ensuring an equitable and appropriate workload for each faculty member.