

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2008, MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)  
Manos Maragakis (Engineering)  
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)  
Kambiz Raffiee (Business Administration)  
Karen Hinton (Cooperative Extension)  
Jeff Thompson (Science)  
Jerry Ceppos (Journalism)  
Bill Sparkman (Education)  
Dave Lupan (Medicine)  
Steve Zink (Library/IT)  
Steve Rock (Faculty Senate)  
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)  
Bruce Shively (PBA)  
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)  
Jannet Vreeland (Vice Provost)  
Paul Neill (Core Curriculum)

Announcements:

Veteran Students

The provost asked the deans to remind their faculty that veteran students are protected in employment and in every other respect, including as students. Student services personnel are hearing that some instructors are not excusing them from classes to do their duty.

Forrest Sawyer Q & A Session

This event will be held this coming Thursday from 3-3:45 p.m. in the JCSU Theatre.

\$200,000 Requests

The purpose of these requests to the academic deans was explained. The provost noted that they needed to know the deans' priorities or targets in order to decide what assistance to provide for them to move on them. The provost cautioned that there was not \$200,000 per college to be distributed, however. They will be getting back to some of the deans on which searches can go forward.

Writing & Math Centers

The provost announced that these centers will be closing at the end of the fiscal year. Alternatives to provide assistance to students are being explored.

Earmark Proposals

The procedure for submitting proposals was described. A request has been sent by Audrey. They expect to see 3-5 year base funding that will create an opportunity to grow built into the

proposals. The provost advised thinking of these proposals as a “start up” package—an opportunity on which we can build sustainability and self-support.

#### Salary Letters

The deans were thanked for their efforts on providing the letters regarding their faculty salaries. The provost explained the background for the request.

#### Development

The deans’ development goals have been submitted to the president. There was a short discussion. The consensus was that a discussion of development was needed in order to gain an understanding on how to construct these goals so that they are realistic. It was felt that there needs to be a discussion with John Carothers and Bruce Mack on the objectives that they have for building matching funds. Deans said they felt they needed to understand this so that they can set their own goals and make progress on them.

#### Discussion Topics:

##### Criteria for Teaching Resource Management

The provost noted that he was hearing many fears associated with this issue. Many faculty believe that teaching loads are going up, when the goal is really to look at and address small classes and small majors. He acknowledged the limiting factors that exist in departments. David Lupan noted that there is some undergraduate teaching that is being done by UNSOM faculty that is not incentivized. This occurs in Biology, for instance. He noted that there was probably FTE that is not credited to UNSOM.

The impact of the high number of students who do not have identified homes was discussed. Paul Neill was asked about raising the capstones to 40 students, and he indicated he currently allows this to be the prerogative of the faculty member instructing the course. The deans felt it should be a policy at least for the interim. It was also recommended that small classes be looked at to see if they could be offered once every 2 years rather than ever year, with certain mechanisms to help students plan so they can graduate in a timely manner. The provost noted that the first goal was not to raise teaching loads but to make sure that there is a class schedule that is more likely to succeed.

Bill noted that they are getting rates on D/F/Withdrawn marks to identify classes where rates are excessive and then work on reducing them.

There was a brief discussion on the current rule that credits comps. to chairs. It was reported that this is a provost rule, and that Admissions & Records is only enforcing the rule. The provost indicated he would look into it.

##### Accountability Measures

Bill Cathey described the VSA program and showed ALC members the home page and UNR college portrait page. This website allows parents and students to compare institutions who are a part of the program. The UNR page was reviewed. Bill noted that students learning outcomes

are still being worked on at UNR, but that this was the 4<sup>th</sup> year of work. Soon we will be able to indicate student learning in a few key areas.

### New Teaching Programs

The deans were reminded that if they have anything to offer on faculty development or teaching development that they let other colleges know. Ideas for efforts that might be taken institution wide were solicited.

### Tutoring & Supplemental Education

The provost noted that the math and writing centers will stay open through May. The closing will be under review by a faculty/student committee. The provost described the various services and products that exist and may be able to be outsourced, either for a fee or for no fee. He will ask ASUN President Eli Reilley to provide the names of 3 students for the committee and will ask Faculty Senate for 3 faculty names. There will also be a representative from Student Services and one from Extended Studies. One question they will answer is this: Do we need to plan for re-institution of the math and writing center when we can afford it, and if so, how will this be done?

### On-Line Education

Fred Holman has been asked to lead a group to look at on-line courses for various things—course completion, advising, tutoring, etc.

### Direct Administrative Management

The provost noted that this was formerly referred to as “receivership.” The Executive Board of the Faculty Senate has developed a procedure. This was distributed for review and comment. The role of the Executive Board was examined. It was noted that their role would be to know that it is occurring and that it be communicated to them so that they can assure faculty in the unit that process is being followed. The provost added that they would also be given the right to comment. A decision about whether this should go in the UNR bylaws or the University Administrative Manual will need to be made.