

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

October 7, 2008, MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)
Manos Maragakis (Engineering)
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)
Greg Mosier (Business Administration)
Karen Hinton (Cooperative Extension)
Roger Lewis (CABNR)
Jeff Thompson (Science)
Jerry Ceppos (Journalism)
Bill Sparkman (Education)
John McDonald (Health Sciences)
Janita Jobe (Library/IT)
Steve Rock (Faculty Senate)
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)
Mike Collopy (UNAE)
Bruce Shively (PBA)
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)
Jannet Vreeland (Vice Provost)
Paul Neill (Core Curriculum)

Discussion Topics:

New Budget Information

The provost shared that individuals who have had interaction with the Governor's staff are saying the numbers are looking more dismal and have increased the shortfall beyond 14% to 16-22% in the next biennium. There is an NSHE revolving fund which has suffered reverses as well, and when that fund drops below a certain level, the flow to the institutions drops or stops. The provost noted that there was an Investment Committee meeting on Friday to figure out what this means. Marc reported on the message delivered by Senator Buckley on October 6.

Teaching Resource Management

The provost announced that he would be happy to be invited to faculty meetings at the department or college level to talk about what teaching resource management means. He noted that the university did not want to be noncompetitive in hiring great faculty and that this was not about forcing everyone to the regents' standard. Rather, it was about genuine management of teaching resources in departments. He advised the departments to look particularly at smaller classes and ask whether the LOA budget for that class could be trimmed in some way. He added that small majors should also be looked at. He noted that they are after any inefficient course offering patterns. He stated that offering large classes should also be looked at, but that the purpose of the exercise was not to make UNR an uncompetitive place to work. He is asking for a spirit of participation by all faculty and departments. The LOA vs. TT faculty argument was explored. The provost explained that the goal is to trim at the edges, which will require cutting LOA dollars. This will mean not having to look at trimming core (TT and tenured) faculty.

Teaching resource management plans are due by November 17. Answers on what is happening with the centers are due at the same time. After that, the provost explained they would take stock and see what else could be done to meet the targeted reduction. He noted that the current process represented the faculty's opportunity to make decisions, but if they don't, the college will use a central, internal process to make the cut. Faculty Senate is also trying to figure out a way to get there.

The goal is not to lose tenured or tenure-track people. Deans reported that chairs were taking it seriously. The provost offered to work with the deans to meet with faculty who are looking to move that they cannot afford to lose. There will be a meeting with Chairs on October 17 at 9 a.m. to answer questions. Deans should try to attend and also attend any department meetings.

Center Reviews

The documents from the centers are coming in. Faculty Senate will provide the names of two faculty who will do a first review with the provost. The provost will ask these reviewers to think about the centers in the context of centrality to mission and productivity. He will then meet with the dean and center directors to think through options. The first pass will not be to close any centers but to figure out how to keep them without using so much state money in the next biennium. Interdisciplinary programs have also been added to the list for reviews. The hope is to find monies for additional graduate student stipends out of these reviews.

Elevator Speech

The provost asked the deans to be thinking about positive things that could be talked about that represent the university in a short speech. He suggested thinking about it this way: If you were in an elevator going just to the 5th floor, what could you say to others in the elevator about the university's mission and quality attributes? Something like, the University is the choice for science and engineering in this state. Or, the University has the only accredited journalism program in the state. Or, the University is the only school that prepares M.D.'s in the state. Other ideas were offered—UNCE is present in every county; the only Agriculture program in the state; NSBDC is present in every county; Arts and quality of life; Basque studies; Knowledge Center; Jazz festival; impact of the University in northern Nevada.

Recruitment Meetings

The provost explained the purposes of the upcoming recruiting/retention meetings. Recruitment will be the main topic, but retention will also be covered somewhat. The goal is to have everyone on the same page regarding recruitment activities. Another purpose of the meeting will be to look at recruiting and things that could be done to improve targeted college activities. Another topic will be improving recruitment of students of color.

It was mentioned that UNCE offices are not getting information to put out to students. It was felt that there are a lot of lost opportunities from OPS. There was also a question as to whether there were any restrictions as to the number or method of contacts with the various schools or districts.

Target 500 brought in 176 students, but retention numbers declined. The deans noted that they need regular data on enrollment at all levels. The web page and the ease of use and the informative nature of the information there need to be looked at.

Announcements:

The provost asked for announcements and good news items.

- Jerry Ceppos announced that his school had received a planning grant from the Reynolds Foundation to do some planning, particularly in the area of bringing their technology up to date. They are also starting a high school journalism association.
- UNSOM had several positive outcomes from a recent accreditation visit of its residency programs.
- The NWCCU visit will be one person for one day.
- The University Courses & Curriculum Committee has gone electronic. It is using Sharepoint for reviewing curriculum. There is no tracking scheme yet, however.
- The College of Science received an NSF Epscor award that cuts across several colleges and an estate gift for an endowed chair in physics. The first electronic College of Science newsletter will go out on Friday.
- Mike Collopy noted that UNR and the UNAE had a prominent profile in a recent Chronicle article.
- Ron Pardini noted the increased enrollment in CABNR. They also held a field day on September 20 with 600-650 people attending. There were a lot of kids taking advantage of faculty posters and tours. The science area was very popular with the kids.
- Karen Hinton noted that all UNCE faculty and staff were on campus for a meeting. This only happens every 2 years. Sue Donaldson will receive a national award for her partnership with the USDA on Living on the Land.
- Bill Sparkman announced that the college will receive a check for \$200,000 from AT & T next Thursday for the Dean's Future Scholars program.
- The College of Engineering is really excited about working with its advisory board and about working on some collaborative projects with other colleges.
- Janita Jobe noted that they had expedited removal from Getchell. Students are also very excited about the Knowledge Center.
- Fred Holman noted that a Committee for Technology has begun meeting. The Nontraditional No More continues to work and plan.
- Steve Rock announced that the bylaw changes have been approved. Department bylaws can now be approved at the college level.

- Greg Mosier reported that the partnership with Port of Subs had made national headlines. A planning retreat for SBDC in Minden was recently held with positive results. The Princeton Review will include COBA in its list of best business schools.
- Heather Hardy noted that Isabelle Allende was coming to campus on Thursday. There will first be a public meeting with students as well as her appearance in the evening. These events are being paid for by the Foundation.