

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DECEMBER 2, 2008, MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)
Manos Maragakis (Engineering)
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)
John McDonald (Health Sciences)
Kambiz Raffiee (Business Administration)
Karen Hinton (Cooperative Extension)
Jeff Thompson (Science)
Jerry Ceppos (Journalism)
Bill Sparkman (Education)
Dave Thawley (CABNR)
Janita Jobe (Library/IT)
Marsha Read (VPR)
Steve Rock (Faculty Senate)
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)
Mike Collopy (Academy for the Environment)
Bruce Shively (PBA)
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)
Jannet Vreeland (Vice Provost)
Paul Neill (Core Curriculum)

Discussion Topics:

Target 500

Bruce Shively and Steve Maples were present to provide a report on Target 500. A summary of the Target 500 outcomes (Fall 2007 to Fall 2008) was provided. The positive outcomes reported were an increase of FTE by 279; a 7.6% increase in the number of students with composite ACT scores of 26 or better; and the addition of 8 National Merit finalists to the freshmen class. This last accomplishment results in the University being qualified as a National Merit Sponsoring institution. Bruce reported increased interest by National Merit students from out of state. The average ACT score of entering freshmen has increased to 23, and the average credit load for freshmen increased from 13.89 to 14.50 credit hours. Finally, Bruce reported that the number of admits had increased 8.5%; unfortunately, the admit to yield ratio had decreased to 51%. Freshmen to sophomore retention also decreased. There was a discussion on the possible reasons for success and areas that need to be worked on.

A document detailing admit and enroll numbers and yield rates for the various markets was also provided. Steve Maples shared numbers from last year's Fall Preview, Destination Nevada, and Nevada Bound. He also noted the increase in the number of attendees to these events this fall. Bruce announced that January 23 is the Best and Brightest Nevada Bound session and asked the Colleges to make sure this date was added to relevant calendars in the colleges. The events of this day were described. A handout on Retention Rates by Composite ACT score for the past 6 years was also provided and discussed.

Upon question, Steve Maples announced that they were conducting a survey to attempt to learn why students came as well as why admitted students decided not to come. The effect of the economy on the number of students actually attending from Clark County was noted.

Target 500 is supporting home visits of National Merit Scholars, and we will be coming to the colleges requesting that visits be made. Travel monies are available. Steve Maples and one college or department representative will also go.

Alternative Admission Standard

The Provost asked for a discussion on adoption of an alternative admission standard. He noted he would like to bring this conversation to closure and asked the members of the ALC for their opinion on what was needed. Some members recommended an index score that is a combination of ACT and SAT. There was a discussion on the likely impact of a change, what would be the approval process, and how this might be handled effectively. One dean noted that because the University doesn't require the ACT score for admission, students who take it don't care how they score. Another ALC member noted that the biggest argument against a combined index would be the effect it might have on the admission eligibility of those students we are wanting to attract to improve the diversity at this institution. The importance of getting students through developmental courses in the summer before they start at the University was discussed.

Teaching Resource Management

The provost announced that work is ongoing on teaching resource management, including processing necessary course & curriculum changes and classroom scheduling improvements. Jannet noted they are also reviewing department scheduled rooms and the various conference rooms on campus. Bill Cathey recommended that if significant curriculum changes are proposed the college package it all together in one proposal.

Center Review Update

The provost reported that the Center reviews were nearly complete and that MOUs for each are being prepared for review and signature.

Institutional Strategic Plan

The provost will be sending requests to all vice presidents, deans, and ALC members for planning information that will be assembled into a first draft of an Institutional Strategic Plan. Deans were asked to let the provost know whether he should use the information they prepared for him when he first arrived or whether they will be preparing something new.

Sabbaticals

The provost noted that only 16 sabbaticals were awarded this year and that the letters went out just before Thanksgiving.

Promotion & Tenure

The review committee will meet on December 10, and the Provost noted he would meet with the President shortly after that, with letters going out by December 19. That is the target, but if this target is not met, the letters will likely go out after Christmas.

VPR Reviews

Marsha Read indicated that some reviews were already submitted, with a few being expected at the end of this week. Marsha and the provost will review these and will use the Spring semester for implementation.

Supplemental Instruction Committee

This committee is composed of 9 members—3 faculty from Faculty Senate; 3 undergraduate students from ASUN; 1 graduate student from GSA; 1 member from Extended Studies; and 1 member from Student Services. The committee will look at tutoring and potentials for other kinds of help that may be useful, including online tutoring options. The committee will also look at how writing and math tutoring will be handled in the short and long-term. It is hoped that the committee will come up with a whole battery of recommendations.

Online Courses

Fred Holman is leading a group looking at more online strategies.

Budget Update

State government is working very hard to cover the budget shortfall of \$300 million in the current year. However, the provost asked the deans to determine how they would cover the shortfall if the state turns to us again. Bruce noted that we will know more after the special session.

Capstone Courses

There was a discussion about the capstone courses and number and current requirements for capstone courses.

Continuous Registration of Students

Marsha related the problem of graduate students not actually registering for classes when they are working on their dissertations. This results in them not being eligible as students for the various library and IT privileges or for graduation. Marsha described the various problems they have encountered and the solutions they are currently using. The proposal was that the requirement that all graduate students must maintain at least a 3 credit course load each semester to remain a student be firmly enforced. There would be a request for a leave of absence available. It was recommended that Marsha start with a firm message to graduate program directors about enforcement of the rule.

Safety Committee

Marsha mentioned that there is a safety committee that wants to look at establishing a safety representative for every building or if the building had 25 or more occupants, a safety committee for the building. Jannet Vreeland mentioned that this is a contentious issue because multiple units occupy many buildings. Marsha asked for suggestions on how this might be approached.

Websites

Jannet Vreeland reminded the Academic Leadership Council that as of January 1 she will be strictly enforcing the graphic standards requiring an N be on all websites and printed materials.