

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FEBRUARY 3, 2009, MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)
John McDonald (Health Sciences)
Greg Mosier (Business Administration)
John Burton (Cooperative Extension)
Jeff Thompson (Science)
Jerry Ceppos (Journalism)
Bill Sparkman (Education)
Ron Pardini (CABNR)
Steve Zink (Library/IT)
Marsha Read (VPR)
Elliott Parker (Faculty Senate)
Ole Thienhaus (UNSOM)
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)
Mike Collopy (Academy for the Environment)
Bruce Shively (PBA)
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)
Jannet Vreeland (Vice Provost)

Discussion Topics:

Enrollment Report, Spring 2009

Bruce Shively distributed a report on enrollment for the spring semester. This report showed that Full Time Equivalents were up 5.31% over last spring. However, headcount stayed about the same. Bruce explained that the increase came about because students are taking more classes, probably partly due to the recession but also because advisors are getting the word out to students that they should take 15 credits in order to graduate in 4 years. The second page of the report showed headcount comparisons for each of the colleges for January 2008 and 2009.

Strategic Planning

The latest version of the strategic planning matrix was provided for further review and comment. The provost noted that he wanted to finalize this soon, and asked the members to take one more look. He reported that a data based review of the clusters of work of faculty through information contained in Digital Measures using the software program “Mindmeister” is also being explored for strategic planning purposes. Members noted that there had been previous work on determining “clusters of excellence” that might be useful and cautioned that using Digital Measures would mean that the work of administrative faculty would not be captured. The provost asked that when a draft of the strategic plan document is distributed that it be looked at in a positive light. There was a discussion on how the document would move from the matrix to the narrative. There was also concern expressed over the order of the topical focus areas on the matrix and in the report.

President's Report

President Glick was present and offered some information on what he has heard from some of the legislative committees regarding the higher education budget. The impact of the proposed federal stimulus package was also noted. Most decisions regarding the budget are expected before June, and he noted that we have some time before any decisions regarding closing programs need to be made. Therefore, he asked the deans for their leadership in cautioning their tenured and tenure-track faculty about looking for new jobs. He advised the deans to work with their chairs to identify faculty who are nervous and to encourage them to come to the Town Hall on February 12 to ask their questions and hear rumors dispelled. Details on other faculty and student forums on the budget were provided.

The president noted he was also hoping to put together a Town Hall for advisory board members in the near future to solicit their support. The deans strongly encouraged the president to make this happen soon.

Federal Earmarks

The provost announced that the federal earmarks to be presented by the University were pretty well determined as soon as a few umbrella statements were finalized. He noted that it was not possible to put forward all \$176 million in requests. However, most of the projects going forward fit under a few "umbrella" areas including sustainability/renewable energy, business/economic development, agriculture, and health sciences.

Draft Cell Phone Policy

A draft of two possible processes to be considered in the future regarding business wireless communication devices was distributed. There was a brief discussion. The provost asked the members to review the draft and be prepared to provide input and discuss the two possibilities at a future meeting.

Other

The deans were provided information regarding next year's professional development and promotion & tenure processes.

As an outcome of the first researchers' forum held on January 30, the provost clarified that there are no plans to cut the TA or GA support budgets.

The Red Tape Committee is going forward. They are forming subgroups to work on developing recommendations for improvement of some procedures on campus.

The reports from the various VPR committees are being reviewed with plans to act on the recommendations as soon as possible.