

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

April 21, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)
Richelle O'Driscoll (Health Sciences)
Greg Mosier (Business Administration)
Karen Hinton (Cooperative Extension)
David Lupan (UNSOM)
Dawn Arnold (Engineering)
Jeff Thompson (Science)
Bill Sparkman (Education)
Rang Narayanan (CABNR)
Steve Zink (Library/IT)
Marsha Read (VPR)
Elliott Parker (Faculty Senate)
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)
Jannet Vreeland (Vice Provost)
Bruce Shively (PBA)
Paul Neill (Core Curriculum)

Announcements:

1. Steve Zink noted that there is a revised checklist that will be available from HR soon for separating employees. This list will incorporate IT related items (phone, e-mail, key cards, etc.) with HR related items. He will send the current draft to ALC members.
2. David Thawley is doing well. He is still in New Zealand.
3. Congratulations to the UNR Concrete Canoe team for qualifying for the national event and for their awards in the regional event.
4. Bill Cathey noted the updated WCSD data profile is online. He stated he would send it to the ALC members as well.
5. Interviews are taking place for the Associate Dean for the College of Engineering.
6. Fred Holman announced that 10,000 people are expected to attend the Reno Jazz Festival that weekend.
7. Greg Mosier announced that the college's founding dean, Robert Weems, passed away. Also, the college hosted the first West Coast Economics Teaching summit last week with over 100 registrants.

8. Heather Hardy reminded the ALC of the May 1 & 2 Spring Dance Concert. It is open seating, so she advised getting there early. Also, Criminal Justice students won the recent College Bowl for that area.
9. Bill Cathey announced that the 4 remaining WCSO superintendent candidates were in town for open forums that evening.
10. Steve Zink shared that the FTC is requiring us to come up with a “red flag” system for identity theft. This is required for entities taking credit cards. The policy is going to the UAM. He will send this information as well.
11. Paul Neill distributed the most current lists of college metrics he has been working on for strategic planning. He will also distribute these electronically after the meeting. He asked the deans to get this information to the chairs and faculty for their input, with a due date of May 15.

Discussion Topics:

Support for Best & Brightest Students

Tamara Valentine and Bill Cathey led a discussion on the experiences provided to best & brightest students, including National Merits. Recent accomplishments of students applying for and receiving fellowships were shared. Tamara briefly summarized the history of the honors program at UNR. The benefits and drawbacks of required advising for honors students at the college and at the honors level were discussed. It was noted that this is not uncommon at other universities. The process for developing and offering honors classes was discussed, and the challenges departments faced if they offered an honors course. There was a discussion on ways of improving the honors experience, especially in light of expected increases in numbers. Increasing the number of students going for fellowships is also a goal of the program. Tamara asked for the names of faculty members she could invite to serve on the Honors Advisory Board. She stated she would like to board to meet at least once before the semester ended.

Budget Update

Bruce provided an update from the hearings he attended last week. He noted the extensive discussion on the waiver for access to stimulus dollars and the requirement that the higher education budget be funded at a certain level to qualify for the waiver. Bruce shared preliminary numbers but cautioned that they were not final. He also explained some of the remaining budget challenges that will need to be worked out. Marc Johnson and President Glick provided their thoughts as well.

DFW Action Plan

Bill Cathey announced that colleges will be asked to help with retention. The following needs to be addressed: (1) identifying at risk students; (2) contacting them; (3) providing assistance; and (4) assessing what we are doing. He noted that there are many examples on campus of things that work (i.e., TRIO program, Athletics Advising). One thing they are trying to pursue is early warning. The idea is that if we get to them early enough, they will turn themselves around and be successful. One identifying phase is courses that have a large % of D's, F's, or W's. This is

an easy place to start. Paul Neill provided a handout and described the process for mid-semester warnings currently being used. It was noted that there is a difference between early warning and mid-semester grade reports or warnings.

It was agreed that the following needs to be accomplished:

- Collectively determine appropriate gateway courses.
- Implement a plan for using student-identified e-mail accounts for these warnings.
- Make sure students know what to do when they get these warnings.
- Identify who in the colleges should also get these messages (advisors, chairs?) and how they should act on them.

The deans were asked to think about other schemes for identifying and helping students early.

ARF Space Policy

Marsha Read provided a handout summarizing the history, use, and operating principles of the ARF facility. She reminded the deans that the space is not permanently assigned to a college or department. The Facilities Resource Committee will consider any reassignment of spaces that are vacated. Fred Holman noted that this was true of the Redfield Building as well.

NWCCU Focused Interim Visit

The members of the ALC were reminded of the upcoming interim accreditation visit. The schedule and focus areas were briefly reviewed.

Book Orders

Marc noted that he had learned that a larger percent of book orders are being turned in late. He reminded the deans that if book orders are turned in on time, the bookstore can go into the market and negotiate for discounts, which can be passed on to students. If orders are late, however, these discounts are not offered and books often arrive late. He asked the deans to impress upon the chairs and faculty the importance of meeting this particular deadline.

Strategic Planning Update

The provost updated the ALC of the strategic planning process going forward. The deans, 8 faculty from academic units, 2 undergraduate and 1 graduate student, and Elliott Parker and Bill Follette will meet for two discussions on April 30 and May 7 for a discussion on a second draft of the strategic plan, due out shortly. Bill Follette will lead the discussion.