

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

June 16, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)
Greg Mosier (Business Administration)
Karen Hinton (Cooperative Extension)
John McDonald (Health Sciences)
Jerry Ceppos (Journalism)
David Lupan (UNSOM)
Manos Maragakis (Engineering)
Jeff Thompson (Science)
Bill Sparkman (Education)
Carol Condit (CABNR)
Eric Herzik (Faculty Senate)
Steve Zink (Library/IT)
Marsha Read (VPR)
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)
Mike Collopy (UNAE)
Paul Neill (Core Curriculum)
Bruce Shively (PBA)

Announcements:

1. Bill Sparkman noted that federal stimulus money through the Nevada Works Program had allowed 49 Dean's Future Scholars student interns to be employed on campus this summer. These students have been with the DFS program for 6 years. In addition to taking classes, they are working 16 hours a week in various campus offices until the end of July.
2. Jerry Ceppos announced that two or three national student and professional groups will be holding meetings in their building this summer.
3. Fred Holman noted that Kids' University had started on Monday.
4. Mike Collopy described the Walker Basin meeting to take place in Yerington on June 24. Various researchers will present their findings to the community during this event.
5. Manos Maragakis reported that the UNR canoe team had done very well at the national competition. They won the actual race event and did well in other categories. In addition, the College of Engineering's Advisory Board recently began a new year with Jeff Ceccarelli as its new chair.
6. Bruce Shively announced that the Fall to Fall retention numbers are looking good and that the University has a good shot at setting a record. He thanked the College deans and recruitment and retention personnel for their efforts in this regard.

7. Eric Herzik noted that the Faculty Senate Executive Board retreat was to be held soon and that he expected a lot of things to report at the next meeting.
8. Bill Cathey asked the deans to provide feedback on the usefulness of the retention information they had received recently from Institutional Analysis.
9. Carol Condit announced that this year's 4-H Discover Your Future event for 14-18 year olds was turning out to be the biggest event yet, with double the number of participants this year.
10. Karen Hinton added that every college was participating in the Discover Your Future event. The focus is generally STEM for the activities the students experience; however, they have broadened it slightly this year so that every college can participate.
11. Steve Zink reported that he will be sending a note to the colleges regarding a campus license for Turn-It-In, the anti-plagiarism software.
12. Heather Hardy reported that the second *Great Conversations* event lead by Eric Herzik had taken place in Las Vegas and had been very well received.
13. John McDonald noted that his division was working on two initiatives: (1) Reconstruction of the Sanford Center for Aging, with Jane Fisher assisting with this effort; (2) Multi-disciplinary training in the health sciences.

Discussion Topics:

Supplemental Instruction Committee Report

Marc Johnson highlighted the recommendations contained in this committee's report. In addition to suggestions that could be implemented now, the report emphasized that when we get back to the tutoring centers, methods to assess the effectiveness of the centers need to be developed. In the next biennium, the committee recommended the purchase of 2,000 hours of tutoring assistance from Smarthinking, a 24 hour on-line tutoring service. This is currently being considered, with discussions taking place with ASUN leadership.

Budget Update

Bruce reported that overall the University had received a \$33 million reduction in state general funds. This is approximately a 15% reduction over all appropriation areas. Allocations to the colleges have been made, and members of the budget office are working hard to make sure the deans and budget officers know exactly what is in their allocationa. Bruce stressed that there are no reserves in our budget. The fringe pool is tight, and not much in the way of salary savings is expected. He also cautioned that he might have to come back to the colleges for help if additional cuts were required.

Marc noted he was meeting with each dean to discuss where things have ended up. In these meetings he is asking if there are any major things that have been overlooked. The deans were

reminded that though they will gain any salary savings in their colleges, they should operate conservatively when positions become vacant.

The deans were also reminded that the provost's office would no longer pay for one membership per college. However, it will still pay for specialized accreditation memberships and fees. In addition, cuts were made to scholarly activity funds. Colleges should expect to receive about 2/3 of what has been provided in the past.

Salary Reduction Plan; Tuition Increase

Regarding the plan for tuition increases, Marc reported that the Board of Regents will consider an additional 5% increase in each year of the biennium. One quarter of the money generated from the increase will go to financial aid. This increase is supported by the students. The provost noted that to avoid curricular review, the University must be very careful in the next year. Upon request from the Board, it was reported that 289 positions were eliminated by the University, which accounted for 13% of our state positions.

Marc also reported that the Board will also consider furloughs or salary reductions for faculty. The presidents are working to put forward a uniform proposal. The options of the special system committee include reduced FTE, furloughs, salary reductions in FY 11, and a 4% increase in SFTE required per academic faculty member in FY 11. Classified staff will take the furlough days mandated by the state legislature. There was a discussion on the various issues and arguments surrounding these proposals.

Summer Orientation; Summer Scholars

Paul Neill provided an update of where things stood with the schedule for the opening ceremony and Summer Scholars Program on Saturday, August 22. He noted that he had received feedback from the college recruitments officers that there was little or no interest in having college welcome time on the schedule that day. Some of the deans corrected this feedback by stating that they just could not see it working for them on that day given that it was a Saturday and the schedule constraints. Some deans expressed that they would like 15-20 minutes after the opening ceremony for a short welcome. There was a discussion on how the various colleges used their welcome time and the challenges this new day and schedule presented.

Paul announced that the website for the Summer Scholars program would be going live soon. (The site is now live at: <http://www.unr.edu/book/>) The book selected for the program is the *Proof* by David Auburn. He added that Faculty Senate is putting together a committee to assess the success of the program and develop procedures for selecting the book in future years.

Department Performance Data Update

Paul Neill thanked the deans for their feedback on the metrics list that had been prepared for each college. He distributed the most recent versions to each of the deans. There was a discussion concerning the variables with the data, either as it is entered or when it is reported. Paul agreed to do some analysis on the data based on the input he received. It was suggested that the Digital Measures website include some instructions on how certain activities should be entered. Upon question, it was confirmed that arrangements could be made for administrative

faculty who are doing scholarly work to enter their data. In this way, colleges and departments would get credit for all work being produced by faculty.

Finally, Paul stated he would be looking at two-year averages of the data at the provost's request. Eventually, three-year averages will be used. Marc stressed that it was important that faculty understand the metrics and were confident that they are good data sources for growth in their units.

Program Review

Bill Cathey announced the program reviews for the next academic year. Deans with questions about the process or schedule should contact Bill Cathey.

Remedial Placement Scores

Bill Cathey announced a change at the system level in the ACT/SAT scores used to determine placement in English and math courses. Bill went on to explain that at the system level we no longer have a consistency for courses above remedial level. However, it is the expectation that there is a consistency at the interface of remedial and lower level courses. The math score went up by 1 point to 18. The English (101) score went down 3 points to 22. To accommodate the change, UNR will now offer a "stretch" English course of 5 credits for students with scores below the cut off. Bill noted that the next step will be to get a higher level determiner for these scores such as Accuplacer, which gives more complex information. He added that there is also a move from the system to have standardized scores at all institutions for placement into Math 120 and 126.

Faculty Hiring/Leaving

The provost asked the deans to provide information on any recent experiences they have had with faculty leaving because of better opportunities elsewhere or any difficulties with hiring faculty because of the current budget climate and uncertainty. He asked for e-mails by the end of the day.