

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

September 8, 2009, MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Marc Johnson (Provost)
Heather Hardy (Liberal Arts)
Greg Mosier (Business Administration)
John McDonald (Health Sciences)
Jerry Ceppos (Journalism)
Jeff Thompson (Science)
Bill Sparkman (Education)
Ron Pardini (CABNR)
Elliott Parker (Faculty Senate)
Steve Zink (Library/IT)
Marsha Read (VPR)
Fred Holman (Extended Studies)
Bill Cathey (Vice Provost)
Paul Neill (Core Curriculum)
Jannet Vreeland (Vice Provost)
Bruce Shively (PBA)

Discussion Topics:

Academic Standards Committee Recommendations

Elliott Parker distributed a document containing the recommendations for changes in academic standards proposed by the Academic Standards Committee and approved at the August 2009 Faculty Senate meeting. He reported that these policy changes are currently being considered by the president. If approved soon, they would be effective by the Spring 2010 semester. Upon question, the deans were informed that academic advisors had been consulted in the development of the policy changes.

Possible Change to the University Academic Promotion & Tenure Committee

Elliott Parker introduced for discussion a possible change to the criteria for membership on the committee to require it be composed of only full professors. There was a discussion of this proposal and the issues with the current criteria as well as those that would arise with a change.

SFTE Generation Measurement

The provost distributed a summary report showing average SFTE generated by each department and college. The handout included FY08 and FY09 averages as well as FY10 targets given the Board of Regents' mandate that tenured faculty increase their workload by 4.6%. Institutional Analysis will forward the college reports with individual faculty detail to each dean. They will also be running the report for the current semester to see how Teaching Resource Management has affected the numbers.

Steering Committee Updates

Mining Industry Human Resource Development Committee Report

Jeff Thompson reported that the committee had traveled to Elko to meet with representatives from Barrick regarding their HR needs and how the university can be better partner with them. A similar trip and meeting with Newmont representatives is planned.

K-12 Connections Committee Report

Bill Sparkman noted that the committee has identified faculty within each of the units interested in beginning a long-term sustained relationship with K-12. He shared that one issue that has come up is the competition and overlaps with grant activities. Another issue the committee has been asked to work on is spreading the wealth of opportunities around so that high-needs schools are not inundated with requests. The plan is to have a first meeting to determine needs and an action plan.

Renewable Energy Committee Report

Ron Pardini and Jeff Thompson reported that this group and its subgroups have been meeting for some months. Faculty joined subgroups on solar, geothermal, wind, biofuels, and the grid, and those groups have been meeting to plan joint projects and grant proposals. To date, over \$100 million in grant applications have been submitted. The creation of a physical location for a Center for Renewable Energy is also being explored.

Outreach Council

Marc Johnson reported that an Outreach Council will be formed and start meeting in October. Representative names from most colleges have been submitted, but the deans were told that they still had time to submit a representative. This would be someone who handles a lot of outreach.. Fred Holman will chair this council. Fred reported his ideas for the council and explained that it will start by looking at the Carnegie Standards for an Engaged University to see how well UNR is doing and to determine what additional things it can do to become more engaged. This document will provide a foundation for the council's work.

Regents' Teaching and Academic Advising Awards

Audrey Casey provided a handout on this year's award processes. One change agreed to will be that nominations for these awards will be submitted through the deans' offices. Calls for nominations will go out to faculty, staff, and students through various outlets. Nominations are due to the deans by the end of the day on September 11, with names due to the provost's office shortly thereafter. The provost's office will contact the nominees to request materials for consideration by committees.

Institutional Strategic Plan & Academic Master Plan

Marc Johnson reported that the strategic plan is being considered by the Board of Regents at its September 17-18 meeting. Following that, an Academic Master Plan will be prepared and submitted. The deans were reminded to submit any degree programs being planned for the next 6 years to him for inclusion in the AMP. Programs not included in this plan will not be able to be proposed.

Announcements

Bruce Shively reported that the retention figure for freshmen being retained from last year to this year had just been released. Of 2,261 freshmen, 1,800 had returned this fall for a retention of 79.6 or 80%.

Ron Pardini reminded everyone about the upcoming Field Day at the Main Station Farm on Saturday, September 12. He described the events and activities that take place and encouraged ALC members to attend.