

MINUTES
Academic Council
March 4, 2014

The Academic Council met on Tuesday, March 4 at 8:30 a.m. in the Smoky Hill Room of the Memorial Union.

Members present: Mark Bannister, Jeff Briggs, Tim Crowley, Eric Deyo, Paul Faber, Shala Mills, Robert Scott, and Chris Crawford, Chair

The meeting was called to order.

1. Eduventures Conference Call

The University currently subscribes to two collaboratives with Eduventures--online learning and leadership/assessment. The conference call included: Catherine Birdwell, client advisor; Lesley Nelson, accountant director for FHSU; and Cara Strachan, content director. The Leadership/Assessment collaborative was created for provosts, presidents and deans and what is important to them. This collaborative provides content across a much wider spectrum from previous systems. They do customized research for each client in a sequential way. The deans were asked about what issues are important to have researched. Dr. Briggs indicated the concept of managing growth, growth related challenges and how to deliver a quality product. The other is retention of students at an institutional level. Dr. Crawford is not sure a second collaborative will be beneficial to us. In addition to customized research, members have access to the Knowledge Community Works and other resources. The Knowledge Community provides the availability of peers to talk strategy about high-level issues. One such benefit is the large scale foundational insight that is addressed by the online research. This is updated yearly and addresses competency based and how it fits into the online community. Institutions can key their target audiences and have longitudinal data. Also, we would have access to all of their principal analysts and can talk to them anytime. Members can also attend their annual conference and they offer webinars free to subscribers. One topic they will be providing in reports and webinars is on how to build an infrastructure and managing innovation (change framework for education). The annual conference will be in Boston on June 5-6. There is not currently a list of leadership clients but can provide that at a later date. The agenda is robust but is about \$15,000 a year. Chris indicated he will contact Eduventures after the meeting and let them know our decision.

2. Four Year 20th Day Headcount and SCH Trend Report

Dr. Crowley explained the data in the attached agenda. The fall and spring semesters have seen double number growth in off campus courses. This includes: MBA, MPS and MLS. Without additional funds or faculty, we will just maintain instead of being able to grow in the MBA. We don't have much dedicated programming for graduate courses

and it is coming out of the faculty hides. The Department of AEP has 12 members and has 134 students in comparison to a few years ago when it was 11 faculty with 82 majors. Spring is always a time of growth for graduate students. The SCH looks like a mirror of headcount. SCH has been above 10,000 for the past three years. There are 83 GTA's across 18 departments and 73 GA's this year. The trend is going up on GA students. Dr. Crawford feels like we are standing at a cross roads with our graduate programs. We have a very high performance and strategic growth needs to be discussed. Two barriers are GTA's. The question was raise as to whether the stipend for GTA's need to be raised. ESU has the same stipend level as we do; PSU has a variable stipend rate depending on the college and some are as low as \$1500. We may be on the lower end or in the middle with other peers in the MIAA Conference. Our current stipend is \$7,000 and has been that for 10 years. Is 2014 the year to move forward with the GTA enhancement as our priority or do we want to align academic affairs with the strategic planning themes? Dr. Crowley is going to ask for a position control meeting with the President to ask for increase in GTA's stipend but it helps if the deans back him up when they talk to the President. Faculty Senate is creating a faculty plan to sustain growth at the University for the next president. Cost of living has increased about 22% which is about \$1500 and makes sense to ask for that amount for each stipend. Dr. Crowley was asked to put together a \$200,000 proposal for position control.

3. GetEducated.Com Cost Increases

Dennis indicated the Virtual College will not be able to continue to pay for the hot links to the departmental programs. Over the past 12 years, the cost has gone up 115 percent. We are looking at a \$33,000 expense if keep up what we are doing today. Most of the increase is in the past three years. He wanted to provide advance notice that the Virtual College will be discontinuing this practice. Please share this information with the department.

4. Course Approvals for fall and summer

Dennis will be sending this out to front office staff. There will be a change to the approval form to indicate if they are an adjunct faculty. The Virtual College Advisory and Student Advisory Committees are going through the info page and suggesting changes to make it easy for everyone to use.

5. ACA - Implications for Students and Adjuncts

The University had its first experience for an adjunct faculty who teaches above the 12 hour cut off. It is in the Department of Music and Theatre. Since we include summer in the average, faculty teaching during the fall and spring semesters are considered part time. Dr. Crawford reminded deans that we need to be vigilant on not making it a practice. We also don't want students working over 20 hours, especially students on call during the fall and spring semesters. Dr. Faber will email Todd about students working in the summer up to 40 hours.

6. KBOR 2008-2013 Comparisons

The distribution of the block grant funds has not been done in a systematic formula since the implementation in 2001; it has been done in the traditional way. The House and Senate are interested in realignment of the distribution of the funds in the block grant. We stand to gain no matter how the Regents or Legislators change the funding formula. Dr. Crawford doesn't think it will happen this legislative session but maybe next year. The distribution could be up to a \$5 million benefit to FHSU.

7. KBOR 2013 Performance Agreement Report

Chris discussed the data sheet. Some of the highlights of the report include an increase in Goal 1. The alignment of programs with NCKTC has increased by 58 students. We also have an increase in enrollment. In the student learning goal, we have had great results from CLA. There is a significant jump in undergraduate research projects. It is the final year for this performance agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.