

Minutes

Provost's Council

August 26, 2008

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

Members present: Jeff Briggs, Chris Crawford, Tim Crowley, Cindy Elliott, Paul Faber, Dennis King, Debbie Mercer, Carl Parker, John Ross and Larry Gould

A. Call to Order

Action: The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

1. Strategy Items

a) Incremental Innovation – Five Academic Affairs Projects

Action: The Provost wanted to reemphasize the five pieces he talked about at the Fall Convocation. There are elements of change we need to close the loop on. The first one is the continued unfolding of the concept of scholarship. The other thing we would like to do is put the Faculty and Unclassified Staff Handbook on a disk so new faculty have an opportunity to look at it before they arrive on campus. We need to also develop examples of scholarship. It is also a good recruitment tool for new faculty. The second one is to make an appeal directly to faculty about academic scholarship and to ask them to urge students who have potential to speak with Matt Means. He would also like to appeal to the faculty to continue nominating their colleagues for the faculty awards. The third appeal is the better use of assessment tools. We need to make better use of the findings from the assessment surveys. The University spends close to \$15,000 on the tools. The fourth is the evaluation instruments. The Faculty Senate is not happy with the current AAUP evaluation of the administration. The Faculty Senate president would like to work with the Provost to create an evaluation system that will incorporate AQIP initiatives. You may see examples of these initiatives in various ways. He would like these examples to be brought forward so they can be published. The fifth one is the Virtual College Course Development Quality Assurance Process.

b) Virtual College Courses – Retention/Planning

Action: What the Provost is doing is attempting to continue to receive salary dollars for the Virtual College. He has asked Sheila McGuire to determine the number of students we are losing from the 1st to the 20th day. We are losing around seven percent. He is also trying to define what is the cost of offering a Virtual College course? North Central Kansas Technical College has agreed to start their courses a little later to allow students to enroll in their classes once there is no longer capacity in the Virtual College. This is an option for our students to take needed

general education courses. The deans were asked to notify their chairs and faculty of this option for our students.

c) Assimilation Strategy – Summer Bridge

Action: Discussed this as a tie to our summer academy. It is clear this kind of bridging is necessary for the retention of our students. It was suggested experimenting with this—maybe a weekend for non-traditional students. It was agreed the bridging concept is a good one and we need to adapt the strategy at FHSU. The Provost will share the idea with the Vice President for Student Affairs and suggest a joint venture with them. He will also suggest the idea of a summit with the Council and Student Affairs personnel. The Council was instructed to think about what academic affairs goals are and how we can tie them with student affairs.

2. Discussion/Deliberation Items

a) Draft of Graduate School Reorganization Proposal

Action: It is a revised copy of the reorganization of the Graduate School.

b) Feedback on Fall Convocation

Action: Feedback included the appreciation of the break and the inclusion of the classified staff at the event. It was suggested projecting the award winners simultaneously to their announcements.

c) Foundation Showcase

Action: Checked to see if everyone is ready for the Foundation Showcase on Thursday.

d) COET Organization, Program, Etc.

Action: The Provost is requesting each of the Council members prepare an internal organization chart at the college level to be included in the annual report.

e) Budget Comparison

Action: This is a funding comparison of what we look like for FY 08 versus FY 07. The point is we are doing more with less. Sometimes that is not a positive thing, but for Legislators it looks good. This is all student information and the Provost asked Mike Barnett to prepare the same kind of comparison for staff.

f) Kansas Mentoring Programs

Action: The Governor has approved 90-minute periods for staff to take off time to mentor in the community. The Provost is supportive of the initiative.

g) Email Alternatives

Action: The University is looking at possible alternatives to the current email system on campus.

h) Bridging Program

Action: This is a financial phased retirement program to help faculty pay for health insurance. It is an important tool that can be used to facilitate retirement before the age of 67.

3. Informational Items

a) Scholarship Lunches AY 08-09

Action: The Graduate School and the Research Environment Committee are sponsoring a series of lunches which allow faculty to present their scholarship and related topics of scholarly activities.

b) Gilman International Scholarship

Action: Please announce the availability of the scholarship.

c) Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad

Action: This might be for Arts and Sciences but available for small group projects.

d) Budget

Action: Quick look at the state budget. It breaks down the costs and revenue of funding.

e) Faculty Distinction Program

Action: This has been renewed for one year. The University has two programs of distinction—Leadership Studies and Teacher Education. We have a few potential donors to this program in the works.

f) First time Freshmen Admitted and Enrolled on the Basis of Test Score

Action: Data on admissions of freshmen based on their test score. The in-state is dropping and the out of state is increasing.

g) A Bookended Approach to Attracting Chinese Students

Action: Description of the 1+2+1 program.

h) Expanding Student Choices in Study Abroad

Action: There are some real opportunities for funding of some of our study abroad opportunities.

B. Announcements/New Business

1) The Provost distributed an article entitled, *A Central Place to Meet and Greet*. This article ties into an outdoor classroom at the University.

2) If we are looking for new programs with China, the Provost is suggesting: higher education administration, business English and environmental science. The Council was instructed to take a look at the article and think about ways to come up with curriculum to offer to China.

3) Distributed a handout on trends in Adult Learning that can be shared with faculty.

C. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

c: Dr. Edward Hammond
Dr. Tisa Mason
Mr. Larry Getty
Dr. Joey Linn
Dr. Kenneth Trantham
Mr. Tyler Hughes
Ms. Casey Kelch
Provost's Council Secretaries