

MINUTES
Provost's Council
August 5, 2008

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 in the President's Conference Room, SH 306.

Members present: Jeff Briggs, Cindy Elliott, Lou Caplan for Paul Faber, Chris Crawford, Tim Crowley, Dennis King, Debbie Mercer, Micol Maughan, John Ross and Larry Gould

A. Call to Order

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

1. Strategy Items

a) Showcasing the Division of Academic Affairs for the Foundation

Action: Each Council member was asked to send their potential presentations to Cindy Cline. Dr. Gould will review the information and create an agenda to be submitted to the Foundation. The deadline for submission is: August 18.

b) Prior Learning Assessment

Action: It is difficult to grow academic programs without learning assessment. The Provost asked the Council what they think about this? If we are going to increase growth at the University and bring quality with the numbers, we need to have something like this in place. Cindy Elliott, Lou Caplan and Dennis King were asked to develop a planning strategy by October 15. It will be put back on the agenda at a later date.

2. Decision Items

a) Graduate Grade Appeals Policy

Action: All of the old graduate appeals will be replaced by this process, if approved. It will be used for all learning experience appeals. Learning experience appeals include: course management, errors in grading and administration of the learning experience, not the content. The form will be used by all graduate appeals and will be available online. It aligns with the undergraduate appeal process. The Council adopted the policy and asked Dr. Crowley to have our General Counsel review it. If there are no issues, then it will be adopted for the fall 2008 semester. The policy must also be approved by the Graduate Council before it is adopted.

b) Program Certificates

Action: The Committee is still working on the initiative. One of the issues is the cost to departments and who will be responsible for issuing the certificates.

Dennis King is looking at an identity standard that will incorporate all of the departments' certificates and will prepare an action plan to cover the cost of the certificates.

c) Virtual College Allocations

Action: The Provost is going on the assumption that we have \$542,500 for each semester. He will divide that amount among the four academic colleges. The summer 2009 allocation will be \$660,380 unless the Provost tells the deans differently. The deans were asked to send the Provost an email that indicates which classes need to be added for the fall 2008 semester. As of today, there are only ten general education classes available through the Virtual College for the fall semester.

3. Discussion/Deliberation Items

a) Draft of Graduate School Reorganization Proposal

Action: The Graduate School revised their mission and vision statements. The Council was asked to review them for feedback. The two documents will eventually have to be placed on the President's Cabinet agenda.

b) Paid Internship Rule

Action: The President does not want a prohibition against students taking a paid internship. Feedback from the Council is that there are none in three of the colleges and Dr. Caplan will check with the Arts and Sciences chairs.

c) Commencement 2009 - Separate Graduate School Ceremony or Not?

Action: Dr. Crowley was asked to conduct a survey among the graduate faculty about having two ceremonies at Commencement. The cut off date is August 28 to respond to this survey. It will be put back on the agenda for the first September meeting.

d) Study Abroad Certificate

Action: The Graduate School is proposing a nine-credit certificate in Study Abroad. A notation of "Study-Abroad Learning Experience" will be put on the student's transcript. Dr. Crowley asked the deans to review the proposal before going forward with implementation. It will be put back on the agenda in four weeks.

e) Drop Date (August 13) and Checking Tiger Enroll

Action: This is a reminder to deans and chairs of the drop date for Virtual College classes. It has been moved up from the previous year. The Virtual College will be calling these students to see if they are still interested in enrolling in classes after the drop date.

f) Internationalization Forum 2008

Action: Informational item for the Council.

g) Internationalization Course Infusion Challenge Application

Action: It will be announced at the first meeting and distributed to faculty to challenge them to include internationalization in their curriculum. Dr. Crowley will report back to the Council after the first meeting of the Internationalization Committee.

h) Dean/Chair Evaluation/Faculty Senate

Action: AAUP attempted to evaluate deans and chairs with the distributed survey. The Provost's Council will be working with Faculty Senate to improve the evaluating system.

i) Quality Assurance in Virtual College Coursework

Action: CTELT will put this logo on the Virtual College course development through the Virtual College. Departments are expected to take a look at the course after it has been produced. The chair and faculty will have an opportunity to determine if the course meets the quality standards of their department.

j) CTELT Workshops

Action: Dr. Wang asked for feedback from the Council.

k) Scholarship Defined at FHSU

Action: A reminder to the Council that scholarship defined will be the centerpiece of the Provost's presentation at the Fall Convocation. Now that we have the definition, the Provost wants to take it to the next level and to unfold what scholarship means to the departments.

l) Community Engagement

Action: Take a look at this and send any feedback to Chris Crawford. We will be submitting an application by September 1. After a final application is complete, it will be distributed to the deans, the Council and other university members.

4. Informational Items

a) Colleges Trying to Cash in on Wind Power

Action: The deans were informed some departments have been contacted by Fred Ruda about academic courses to offer wind power as a concentration here at the University. There will be opportunities for training technicians for the wind power initiative.

b) Potential Impact of Military Base Realignment on Strategic Enrollment Management

Action: Dennis has learned that Southwestern College received notification from Fort Riley that they will be approved by the military to offer education courses. We don't know if Fort Hays State is still being considered.

c) The Emerging New GI Bill

Action: The new GI Bill does have some money even though it is not close to the old bill. It has around \$5-7 billion dollars.

d) Learning Accountability from Bologna: A Higher Education Policy Primer

Action: Everyone should pay attention to this article, but especially the people who work with assessment. It basically states that none of the accountability practices we are doing is anywhere near actual accountability. It was put on the agenda for internationalization purposes and some of our departments will be asked to participate in the bologna process in the next few years.

e) House and Senate Negotiators Approve Compromise Higher Education Act

Action: This bill affects all of us because of the 150 mandates that will cause us to collect data. There will also be a number of new grants available through this bill. Departments should be aware of these possibilities. States are probably going to level out the grant monies since the allocations will be based on a 5-year average.

f) Congress Reauthorizes the Higher Education Act

Action: It is already part of NCA so this shouldn't be a big deal for us. The diploma mill is finally being defined for the first time.

g) Flex or Fail

Action: Think about other ways of approaching how we are doing things at the University.

New Business/ Announcements

1) The new VP for Student Affairs started yesterday. The Provost will ask her to attend the next Provost's Council meeting.

2) The departments are responsible for letting new faculty know their Lotus Notes, Blackboard, CICS passwords are available and what they are. They are also responsible for sending a LN request to the Computing Center to activate an account for their new faculty members.

3) Fall Convocation - changed the schedule to accommodate the reception times and include a welcome from the Classified Senate President.

C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned 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