

MINUTES
Provost's Council
December 2, 2008

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, December 02, 2008 at 9 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

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

Guests: Jeff Burnett, Tom Gaschler and Kenneth Trantham

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

1. Strategy Items

a) Morale, Coping and Budgetary Incremental Innovation: The Big Trade-Off
Action: You can't just hit one, we know that. There is a trade off--we don't want to kill morale if we just cut budgets but we need to cope in various ways to work within the budget constraints. All three of these cannot be handled by themselves, we need to use all of them. We need to make changes but work with core values.

b) When Access Is Not Enough
Action: Tabled

2. Decision Item

Faculty Awards

Action: The awards recipients were selected.

3. Discussion/Deliberation Items

a) Introduction of Tom Gaschler

Action: Tom Gaschler has been hired as the Director of the Colorado Outreach Office. He is a graduate of FHSU and worked for Xerox for 16 years as a marketing director. He will be housed in our outreach office in Denver. He is looking forward to marketing FHSU.

b) Voluntary Cuts: New Tactic to Preserve State Support

Action: Our legislators are looking for ways to increase faculty productivity while trying to cope with utility efficiencies. The Provost is suggesting preparing a decent package of efficiencies for Academic Affairs that could be presented to Dr. Hammond for presentation to the Legislature.

c) Comprehensives for Graduate Degrees

Action: Dr. Crowley is getting a lot of feedback from the Graduate Council about changing the 4 hour and 8 hour rules. Some disciplines do not specifically require comprehensives for accreditation but use it to define aggregated learning. Academic integrity of a department is being discussed and why do they have to advise the graduate school dean of what they are doing. It's a shared governance issue. MBA's tend to not require comprehensive exams; they require additional courses instead. The concern was there are some programs that are weak to begin with and this policy is a way to water-down the policy so those programs are in compliance. Dr. Crowley would like to talk to the department chairs about this change before it is implemented. It should be part of an academic leadership session which will include the deans.

d) National Survey

Action: Tabled

e) Media for Virtual College

Action: Over the spring semester there was one student requesting a VHS tape. The Virtual College is phasing out VHS tapes but there are still a few courses only available on video. The University receives about 40 percent back in refund fees over the years. Dennis is proposing buying the media, charge a fee and just send out the media directly to the students and not ask for a return. It would be easier to track the media. He wants to have this discussion in the future and maybe go to Faculty Senate if the Provost wants to do that. EdMap is making a presentation to the University on December 11. They are an off-campus book distribution company. Mike Barnett has indicated Bill Smigra will be held harmless for generating fees if we do not renew Barnes and Noble's contract.

f) Easing the Transition from Soldiers to Student

Action: The Provost thinks we have a niche with soldiers by offering off-campus courses and some of the articles show how we can improve our niche. Deans were encouraged to come up with more creative ways to reaffirm this association. It was suggested adding a veterans' blog on the Virtual College webpage. The Council was asked to start thinking about this and put it back on the agenda for further discussion.

g) Strategic Alignment of Goals

Action: This is an update and a reminder we need to work on these goals. The color copy of the document will be sent electronically to the Council.

h) Why Collegiality Matters:

Action: The article talks about how important collegiality is at the university and among the departments. There seems to be some disconnect between junior faculty and senior members of the department. These are just some things we need to do to keep good faculty at the university.

4. Informational Items

a) Final Report of the United Way

Action: We are \$7.25 over our goal with the contributions from faculty and staff.

b) Foreign Students Pour Back Into the U.S.

Action: This article reflects some of our discussions and the importance of finding a country to recruit students.

B. Announcements/New Business

The Council discussed prior learning assessment in regards to the military. We are going to use models that are in place and doing it the right way.

The President indicated we may need to put additional sources into the Virtual College because of the budget crunch.

Chris provided an overview of nominees of each award, the Council and faculty are invited to also provide input on the applications. Paper ballots are distributed for voting for each award.

Thank you to faculty for their contributions to supporting the military enrollment.

C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

c: Dr. Edward Hammond

Dr. Tisa Mason

Mr. Larry Getty

Dr. Joey Linn

Ms. Casey Kelch

Provost's Council Secretaries