

Minutes

Provost's Council
March 25, 2008

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 8 a.m. in the President's Conference Room (Sheridan Hall 306).

Members present: Jeff Briggs, Chris Crawford, Cindy Elliott, Paul Faber, Dennis King, Debbie Mercer, Lynn Haggard for John Ross, Steve Williams and Larry Gould

Guests: Matthew Means and Casey Rackaway

A. Call to Order

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

1. Decision Items

a) Approval of 2009 Class Schedule Preparation Calendars and Pre-enrollment Dates

Action: The Council approved the calendars and pre-enrollment dates.

b) Weather Policy

Action: The Council approved the policy.

2. Discussion/Deliberations Items

a) Noel-Levitz Priorities Survey for Online Learners/Analysis of FHSU Results for the 2007 NSSE

Action: Tabled until next meeting.

b) Change in the Comprehensive Exams Effective S2008

Action: There is a change in the MLS comprehensive exams. Students will be required to take eight hours of comprehensive examinations—four hours in their concentration and four hours related to the liberal arts component.

c) Sample Advertisement for Tenure-Track Positions

Action: The Council suggested posting a group advertisement in October 1 and January 15 issues of the Chronicle.

d) Recruiting the Military

Action: The data indicates enrollment by military students is up 14 percent. Cindy Elliott has detailed notes that need to be reviewed before a decision can be made on how much it costs to continue the initiative. The provost will review the document and then make a decision on whether we want to continue to recruit military personnel.

e) Schedule for Merit Evaluations Followup

Action: The provost talked to Todd Powell about the dates for merit evaluation. We will be using the dates that were approved by the MOA and Faculty and Unclassified Handbook.

f) International Faculty Development

Action: Tabled until the next meeting

g) Master's Program in a Box

Action: Tabled until the next meeting.

h) Faculty at Commencement

Action: The provost continues to be concerned about the attendance of faculty at Commencement. He asked for ideas or suggestions to improve their attendance. It was decided to use this year as a base line to determine how many faculty are participating in the event.

i) Florida Opportunities/Colleges Could Turn Away 60,000, Report Says

Action: The provost continues to find evidence that there are many students who will not have access to higher education in Florida. This is an excellent opportunity for FHSU to recruit students to our Virtual College program and possibly on-campus transfer students as well. If we get the demand for our classes, the provost will fund additional general education classes. The provost will also fund the advertising in Florida. Casey Rackaway was instructed to work with Joey Linn and Trish Cline on determining the target areas and type of media in Florida. This campaign will target students for the fall 2008 semester. We will continue to explore summer possibilities.

j) Language for Completion of a Doctorate Degree

Action: The deans were concerned about not including a date of completion. For AACSB accreditation, it is important there be some date on the contract. Todd Powell will be asked to attend the next PC meeting for discussion of this item.

k) March 1 Freshman Admitted Comparison

Action: Discussed the data from the Admissions Office.

l) Exploring Potential Research with SMARTHINKING

Action: SMARTHINKING is trying to grow Straighterline which is their answer to offering general education courses to students. FHSU has the opportunity to be one of the universities who will be offering the general education courses through SMARTHINKING for a fee. The American Enterprise Institute is a think-tank group in Washington. The big question from the group is assessment. Can SMARTHINKING do a better job than higher education in offering quality courses to students? SMARTHINKING is planning to roll out these courses in May. The price of each course will be \$400 and the university will get \$70 per student at first and then \$35 per student after the initial enrollment. Students taking courses through Straighterline will receive credit on their FHSU transcript. There seems to be a national agenda on this issue. Everyone is interested in tracking these students. This could be a very interesting

research project for someone with some major research funds from the government and foundations. The deans were asked to identify someone from the task force who would be interested in writing a grant by next week. The individual names should be sent to Chris Crawford.

m) Ed2Go

Action: The University participated in a pilot project for one year with Ed2Go. The feedback from the students who participated in this pilot was very good. An incentive was included in the program that if a student completed three courses, the student would receive a certificate. To continue this project, the university will have to offer 75 percent of their courses. Right now there is very little maintenance on our part with a small margin of profit. Where do we want to go from here? Dennis was instructed to send the other courses to the other three deans for review. A decision will then be made if we want to continue participating in the program.

n) Orientation Rates: Seal the Deal

Action: Tabled until the next meeting.

o) Data-Based Decision Making for Retention

Action: Tabled until the next meeting.

p) Building a Public Agenda for Higher Education: Five Strategic Questions

Action: Instead of a strategic plan, Reggie Robinson has been working off these five strategic questions. The provost included a copy of the document in the agenda as an informational item for the Council. Department and college goals should be based on this document as a starting point because they will probably become university goals.

q) Quick Demo of the New Instructor Database for the VC Website

Action: The site is not live but will contain a searchable database for people to apply for adjunct professor positions. The applicants will be required to submit a vita and then faculty will have an opportunity to look at the information.

r) Academic Scholarship Webpage

Action: Matthew Means who is the Academic Scholarship Support Specialist has created a webpage off the Provost's site. He has gone to Kansas State University and Harvard University to determine what needs to be on the website. The Council was asked to review the site to provide feedback. He will working with students to mentor and prepare them for the International and Competitive Scholarship process.

3. Informational Items

a) Transfer Data to Community Colleges

Action: The community colleges praised WSU for providing a list of the transfer students to each of them. A resolution was passed at the last SCOCAO meeting, that WSU will distribute a template to each state university to provide the same transfer data to the community colleges. When the provost receives it at SCOCAO, he will send it to the deans.

b) College in Front of a Screen

Action: Informational Item

c) Class on Fridays: To Have or Have Not

Action: Informational Item

d) Information Navigation 101

Action: Informational Item

e) Governor's Proclamation of Kansas Distance Learning Week

Action: Informational Item

f) Design Element 6: Foreign Language Requirement

Action: Informational Item

g) Classroom Transparency

Action: Informational Item

B. Strategic Planning and AQIP: An Update

Action: No report

C. Announcements/New Business

1) Faculty and Midterms: A list was distributed and discussed about the faculty who did not turn in midterm grades. The deans were asked to follow up with these faculty. If a faculty member is opposed to turning in midterm grades, they were encouraged to speak with their faculty senate representative since Faculty Senate passed a resolution to submit midterm grades for students. Faculty are to adhere to this policy.

2) Dismissing Classes the Week before Spring Break: As a reminder there are no excused absences for students. The policy is located in the Faculty and Unclassified Staff Handbook and faculty shouldn't be excusing students for extracurricular activities.

3) Web-based Course Development: As a reminder, there is a new Course Development Procedure that all faculty must follow in order to create a new course through CTELT. Deans were asked to remind faculty of this new procedure. If anyone has questions about the procedures, they should contact Dennis King.

4) College Students Today: A National Portrait: Informational item for the Council.

5) Action Plans Funding: The provost read through the list of action plans that were funded by the president. An action plan to fund an online journal was funded. It will be called Teacher Scholar: The Journal of the State Comprehensive University. Each Council member was asked to submit a list of personnel action plans to the provost.

D. Adjournment

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

c: Dr. Edward Hammond

Dr. Herb Songer

Mr. Larry Getty

Dr. Joey Linn

Dr. Daniel Kulmala

Ms. Chelsey Gillogly

Ms. Casey Rackaway

Provost's Council Secretaries

5/20/2008