

MINUTES
Provost's Council
November 18, 2008

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

Guest: President Hammond

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

1. Strategy Items

a) Potential Collaboration in Offering FHSU Credits Via AOJI Enrollment Center

Action: Ms. Elliott explained the AOJI Enrollment Center and its potential to enroll students at FHSU. The Provost asked Cindy Elliott and the four deans to get together and prepare a document that can be forwarded to the President.

b) New Branding World – EMG Progress

Action: A confidential document was distributed and discussed by the Council.

c) Credit by Examination/Documentation

Action: Tabled

2. Decision Item

Selection of Faculty Awards

Action: Tabled. Dr. Crawford indicated the Faculty Senate Executive Committee approved his request to not require faculty to attend Provost's Council when the awards are being decided. However, the Council agreed to ask the faculty senate president and vice president to attend the meetings when the selection of the faculty awards is conducted.

3. Discussion/Deliberation Items

a) TigerTracks Update

Action: Tabled

b) Eduventures Report

Action: Tabled

c) FY 2009 Budget

Action: The Provost suggested the departments take the lead to discuss their items during the President's Annual Meeting. Otherwise, the president's meeting will be spent talking about the department's inefficiencies, Virtual

college courses are not comparable to on-campus courses, and there is one other item which Larry will send to the Council.

Dr. Hammond spoke to the Council about updates on the budget cuts. There will be a freeze on the funding of action plans for one year. This freeze, along with the discretionary funds available to the president, will free up enough money to come up with the three percent cut that is mandated by the state this year. Also with this freeze, Mike Barnett has indicated there will probably be enough funds to release the 40 percent in January. The state budget director has set a budget with a seven percent cut for next year plus other cuts in programs. Dr. Hammond indicated it will probably be in January before we know what the governor's budget will be for FY 2010. The Legislature will discuss the FY 2009 budget until around April when they will start discussing the FY 2010 budget. The University's strategy is to raise tuition to cover four percent of the cut with the three percent cut to OOE. The President is proposing real cuts or efficiency savings. If a department can show they can produce more with less, then the President is willing to not propose a real cut to the departments. The timeline for decisions will probably be in February or March. FHSU relies more heavily on state funds than other Regents universities which means a cut will effect us more because of our lower tuition fees. After the President, Provost and Vice Presidents meet this afternoon, information will be sent to the budget unit directors.

d) Faculty Paid for Summer Courses – Section

Action: Tabled

e) Validation of Online Learners

Action: Tabled

f) Amended Policy for Spoken English Languages Competency of Faculty and Graduate Teaching Assistants

Action: Tabled

g) Performance Agreement

Action: Tabled

h) State University Fall 2008 Enrollment Data

Action: Tabled

i) First-Time Freshman Admitted and/or Enrolled Below a 16 ACT Score

Action: Tabled

j) KBOR's New Sustainability Policy

Action: Tabled

k) University Faculty Lounge Action Plan

Action: Tabled

4. Informational Items

a) Grants Report

Action: Grants are up from last year with some carry over. The publication is well done and is useful for the University. The Foundation sponsored a dessert session that matched students and donors.

b) Where Budget Trouble is Brewing

Action: This article follows up our discussion on budget trouble, the article came out of the Chronicle of Higher Education. There are 28 states who are having budget trouble and which will provide an opportunity for the University to possibly recruit students.

c) The New G.I. Bill

Action: The Provost went to Washington, DC a few weeks ago and met with ACE members and spent an hour talking about a variety of topics but specifically, they talked about the G.I. Bill. Molly Means, who is the president of ACE, is very supportive of the troops and this bill. There will be a group of national leaders led by Kelly Reidel who are going to go to Congress asking that the government beef up the G.I. Bill and that states are not helping and asking President-Elect Obama to provide more support. There seems to be opportunities for us with the military and international students so keep your eyes and ears open.

d) Older, Wiser Students

Action: This is another opportunity for FHSU to attract the older population to our degrees.

B. Announcements/New Business

1) The Action Plan Forum will be used to answer and ask questions about the budget and the status of the University.

2) Academic Certificates. The Council was asked to prepare a policy and a procedure. It will be put back on the agenda at a later date.

3) Gateway went bankrupt on November 7 and is no longer honoring any warranties. Mike Barnett, John Ross and the Provost are in the process of trying to work out a plan to help our students with their warranties.

C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

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