

MINUTES
Provost's Council
October 7, 2008

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, October 7, 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.

1. Strategy Items

a) Priorities for Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Summit

Action: The purpose of the summit is to put together a plan that will make a difference to the dependent variables for both Academic and Student Affairs at FHSU. The Council reviewed the priorities that have been submitted.

Suggestion: create a university-wide committee to review the NSSE, senior survey, Noel-Levitz and other data each time the results are submitted to the University. We need to talk about retention, how we define it for on-campus including blended and international students. It was agreed the Virtual College initiative of follow-up with the students will continue. The first thing we need to do with Student Affairs is to agree on a profile for what is considered a student at FHSU. Recruiting strategy is to receive data on a regular basis from the Student Affairs on the take-rate to continue academic affairs efforts to follow-up with personal contact. Create strategies that foster values we are producing in our general education program. There are three things to focus on: data analysis, analytical approach, recruitment and value cultivation. The Provost will write up the ideas discussed today and consolidate them and then put together a list of ideas and suggestions. What is Student Affairs vision on how it relates to Virtual College students? Which of these approaches do we want to take to Virtual College students – student services or student development? The Council was asked to look at the solutions and review them for discussion at the next meeting.

b) Advising Issues

Action: The Provost wanted to alert the PC members that President Hammond is concerned about the unwillingness of faculty to assume the "high-touch" with our students. He believes our technology-Tigertracks and Tiger enroll are the reasons for the diminished personal attention to the students. There will be

additional discussion at the administrative level and at some point it will have to be discussed at the Council.

c) Retention and Types of Students

Action: This gets to the strategic issue some students need some type of student retention from other students. We need to distinguish on what type of student we are discussing.

d) Adjunct Faculty Online – Support Systems

Action: This is another issue we are going to have to deal with in the future. The Provost wants to initiate an online adjunct process.

2. Discussion/Deliberation Items

a) Co-op Program between the University and Bible/Christian Colleges

Action: Tabled

b) Non Contracted Faculty

Action: Tabled

c) Bookstore Report

Action: Tabled

d) CTELT Entering Students into Blackboard Courses?

Action: CTELT is proposing when students enroll, they will automatically be added to their Blackboard courses. CTELT would like to have permission from the deans that if CTELT personnel runs across students who can be added to the BlackBoard section if the student is enrolled in the class. The deans gave CTELT permission to do so.

e) October 20 is the First Day Virtual College Early Enrollment

Action: This is just an informational item. Enrollment is only for degree seeking students including Virtual College students.

f) Epsilon Environment

Action: Tabled

g) Tenure Powerpoint

Action: The Provost, Dr. Paul Faber and Mr. Glen McNeil spent three hours with new faculty who are in the first- and second-year tenure track lines discussing tenure at FHSU using the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda. The definition of new scholarship was included in the presentation. This is needed for faculty as well as tenure/promotion committees.

h) Tiger Day 2008 Agenda

Action: The Tiger Day and Family Weekend Day are still scheduled on the same weekend. The social events between 9:30-10:30 am should be added to the Tiger Day agenda. Why can't we have just one agenda for the entire day (both happen on the same day).

i) Background Checks

Action: Officially, background checks have been started as of October 1, 2008 on all faculty and staff hires. The deans are responsible, with the cooperation of the chairs to perform the background checks on faculty with contracts that are employed more than six months and all graduate students. Transition faculty will not be required to have background checks on them. The cost of background checks will be absorbed by the university. The final policy will be discussed at President's Cabinet tomorrow.

j) Summer Session Consideration of Classes in Fewer Buildings

Action: This is still something the administration is considering doing next summer. Deans were asked to take this issue back to the chairs and come up with a strategy.

3. Informational Items

a) KSU-Approve Naming New School of Leadership Studies

Action: We have been pre-empted by KSU on this one.

b) KBOR Adult Learning Initiatives

Action: Two of the Regents have indicated we need to do a better job for adult learning initiatives.

c) Faculty Clubs and Dining Rooms

Action: Faculty Senate is following up the Faculty Lounge and Dr. John Heinrichs is chairing a committee to put together a proposal to utilize the funded action plan for a University Lounge. If you have any suggestions, please contact him. They are using this article as background information for the proposal.

B. Announcements/New Business

The president believes the reason our numbers are down on campus is because of the decline in students in our graduate programs.

Tisa and Larry both agree there needs to be numbers from the president on the expected goals for enrollment.

At faculty senate yesterday, Doug Drabkin mentioned this point. Maybe we need to question whether bigger is better? He was establishing trigger points as

to when you would add a faculty member to a department. There were comments about the whole growth issue and it may not be a bad idea for discussion. Some are concerned whether there will be additional faculty and staff and resources forthcoming if we want to continue to grow.

We really need to have some clear policies and procedures in place about the Virtual College.

C. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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