

MINUTES
Provost's Council
September 9, 2008

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, September 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

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

Guests: Dorothy Fulton and Joey Linn

A. Call to Order

Action: The Provost called the meeting to order.

1. Strategy Items

a) CHEA Awards

Action: Dr. Crawford indicated the status of the award is at the department level. Dr. Kathy Dale from the Department of Advanced Education Programs and Dr. Amy Finch from the Department of Communication Disorders are the departments we will be submitting for this award. The award is given to departments who demonstrate the methods used to collect outcomes and how they use these outcomes to make programmatic changes to improve curriculum. The deadline for submission is October 15. One of the ways the university is distinguishing itself from others is by applying for these awards. The Council was asked to think strategically about other departments or areas that may qualify for the awards.

b) Priorities for Academic Affairs with Student Affairs

Action: Tabled

2. Discussion/Deliberation Items

a) Feedback from Graduate Faculty on Commencement

Action: A survey of graduate faculty was conducted on moving the graduate ceremony to Friday night. It looks like we will lose faculty on Saturday morning if we have two ceremonies. It was agreed to not make any changes to the Commencement ceremony this year but to share the information with faculty that there will come a point when we will probably have to change the practice. It was suggested hooding the students two at a time to speed up the ceremony this year. The Provost would like to the Council to consider whether we will be hooding the students this year.

Joey Linn has been nominated as the chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee. Nominations will be taken from September 15 through October 15. He encouraged the Council to nominate deserving staff for this award.

b) MyIdeaToImproveFHSU.edu – Student Idea Website to Improve FHSU for Virtual/What Do You Think?

Action: The Council discussed what can be done to encourage our students to provide us with ideas on how to improve FHSU. Is it appropriate to have something like this on our website? If we do this, we need to show the feedback loop. There also needs some type of security on the site. It will need to be monitored and follow-up is essential. If we celebrate the good ideas, there will probably be more people using the site. Dr. Crawford will do some follow-up on this idea and bring suggestions back to the Council.

c) Study Abroad Certificate

Action: The Council agreed to offer this certificate. The academic courses/credit will come from the departments but will be offered by the Graduate School. Dr. Crowley was asked to consider pursuing the option of completion of this certificate be included on the transcript.

d) Emergency Contact List

Action: The list of departments/areas personnel who do not have their emergency contact information on TigerTracks was distributed. If a faculty member wants to opt out, they can do so on the contact information screen.

e) Tilford Conference

Action: Dr. Dorothy Fulton, our representative on the Tilford Conference Planning Committee, made a presentation to the Council to encourage our faculty to attend the conference. As a reminder, the Conference was established to encourage faculty to come together and share ideas on multicultural/diversity issues and how to incorporate these ideas in their curriculum. This year's conference is October 2-3 and the Provost would like to have 15-20 people attending from our University. The Provost will pay the cost of hotel and the travel by van to the conference for faculty. Dr. Fulton will send out an invitation email to all of the campus. The details and deadlines for the conference will be included in the email. The Provost would like to discuss with the Council the possibility of creating an on-campus Tilford committee but would like to wait until after this year's conference.

f) Problems with Process for Courses and Degree Changes

Action: Tabled

g) Fulbright Prospects

Action: Dr. Crowley is looking for faculty to apply for Fulbright Scholarships. Right now, there are two ways for faculty to fulfill their obligations if they are chosen as a Fulbright scholar: reassigned time and leave without pay. The Council discussed the possibility of offering financial incentives for faculty to apply for the Fulbright Scholarship. What can we do to get the word out to faculty about the scholarship and can the University provide some type of leave with pay for the applicant. Dr. Gould will check with Dr. Hammond about the possibility of this option and report back to the Council. It was suggested getting the word out about the availability of the opportunities by sending out email bulletins and having several forums where former Fulbright Scholars would make a presentation explaining what it means to be a Scholar.

h) Research Policies:

Action: The Council discussed the incentive policy that was on the last Cabinet agenda. There was a proposal to change the wording in the policy. The Council is looking for an equitable formula on how this will be implemented. Dr. Crowley will rewrite the proposal as the second reading of the policy to be included on the President's Cabinet agenda. Dr. Gould will talk with the President about this discussion.

i) Co-op Programs between the University and Bible/Christian Colleges

Action: Tabled

j) Organizational Chart

Action: Tabled

B. Announcements/New Business

None

C. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 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