

MINUTES
Provost's Council
January 16, 2009

The Provost's Council met on Friday, January 16, 2009 in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

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

Guests: Jon Armstrong, Patty Griffin and Joey Linn

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

1. Strategy Items

a) Transfer Students: Characteristics and Needs

Action: We have a number of marketing initiatives targeting transfer students. Transfer students tend to stay at the University longer in comparison to first-time freshmen. The Provost encouraged the Council to find ways to recruit transfer students and then think about how to engage them in activities at the University to maintain their enrollment here. Retention of Hispanic students is one of our KPI's in our performance agreement. FHSU took our transfer data and distributed it to various community colleges. It became an excellent source to track these students and the KBOR staff asked all universities to report this information. A copy of this data was included in the agenda. The Provost asked for feedback from the Council on what their current initiatives are to recruit and maintain transfers. Dr. Crawford was asked to bring the data that will be reported in March to a Council meeting for discussion. The Provost is thinking we need to identify the problems and attempt to ratify them to retain these students. It was suggested that someone take ownership for each performance agreement goal to provide information to the University to determine what is working and what is not. This might be one of the issues we need to talk about with the Office of Student Affairs at our joint retreat. It was suggested looking at the AASCU data about the Hispanic population. AASCU compiled the measures that retained Hispanic students at these colleges and we should be looking at this information to emulate these practices at the University.

b) Management Intensity: State Budget Troubles Worsen

Action: The Provost updated the Council on the latest news about the State budget. The State has moved from a \$144 million to a \$185 million shortfall in FY09. It looks like a three percent cut right now but it may be four percent. This information has to be submitted to the Provost by February 1. The Provost thinks the Legislature will make a final decision about the FY09 budget cuts in the next couple of weeks. The point of contention is whether it will be targeted cuts or across-the-boards cuts.

2. Decision Item

a) Search Continuations

Action: The Provost reviewed the document on the continuation of Academic Affairs searches with the Provost's Council.

3. Discussion/Deliberation Items

a) National Survey of Student Engagement Executive Snapshot 2008

Action: The NSSE Executive Snapshot is produced with the least amount of details on it. On page four, one of the graphics show how we are doing with our comparison groups. The dashes indicate we are performing lower than our comparison groups on a number of these student outcomes. Dr. Crawford has not released the additional comments due to the sensitivity of them. The Provost wants to know what we are going to do about it. If we are not going to take the results seriously, then why keep participating in the survey. Departments should be discussing the big picture of the NSSE results and what they can do to improve the responses. The University should go through the results and determine which outcomes we are going to focus on and which ones are not priorities for our institution. We also need to do a better job of systematically analyzing the data. Dr. Crawford is going to provide feedback from the NSSE committee meeting this afternoon and put more of these results on the agenda for discussion to come up with a solution on improving these outcomes.

b) Does it Matter Where You Go to College?

Action: According to this article, it does matter where you go to college and varies from on-campus versus online students.

c) Integrated Enrollment Management Coordinating Council Feedback

Action: The Council supports this initiative and Jon Armstrong has indicated his interest in serving. Some are concerned about its similarity to the current Integrated Marketing Group and about having to serve on another committee.

d) Pulse Groups Feedback

Action: This is something we don't currently have and may be a good idea. The Council will not make a decision until Dr. Mason comes to the summit and explains the Group.

e) Media for Virtual College

Action: Tabled

f) The New For-Profit Online University

Action: It was put on the agenda for two reasons: new schools are being created and scale and pace of growth is significant of for-profit universities. This growth can take away from non-profit universities such as FHSU. We are in a competitive age and our customer service needs to grow.

g) Career Connections Template

Action: The Provost needs the department chairs to work with Dan Rice by providing names to him for inclusion on our website. We need to connect our degrees with careers and explain the importance of a liberal education in a working environment.

h) New Mini College Retreat

Action: It is a non-credit offering to entice alumni to come back to campus. There may be some interest in it and the deans were going back to their college and determine the interest. The target audiences will not be limited to alumni. It will be based on market interest. This could be a pilot project here on campus. Virtual conferences are becoming more popular and doable. There may be an interest for next year as a podcast or webcast which could free up some faculty time and help department budgets.

i) Course Template Tips

Action: The Provost remains unfulfilled with the current course development process. When he envisioned the concept, a faculty member with an idea for a new course would talk about it with their chair and dean. Upon approval, then that faculty member would go over and talk to someone in CTELT about the possibility of offering this course by exploring the technological implementations and how to offer this course as an online course. The Provost continues to believe there needs to be one semester between the completion and the delivery of the course, with very few exceptions. This gives the chairs and department faculty time to go back and look at the product and give their stamp of approval before it is made available to our students. This also gives CTELT an opportunity to look at the technological aspects of the course to ensure the flow of the media. The accountability factor is very important in this process. The Provost is dependent on the deans to review the product and make a decision if it should go forward as a course. Also, the Provost wants the website to be transparent to anyone who looks at the course development process and know what is happening. There needs to be a contract for every course even if a faculty member is not getting paid for producing it. The Provost is willing to provide 50 percent of the payment between the completion of the course and the semester it is on hold for review. That is not currently happening now.

j) President's Annual Meeting

Action: This is an example of good practice to use for departments and colleges when they meet with the President.

k) Virtual College FY09 Budget

Action: Discussed the inaccuracy of the calculations of the cost of offering classes.

l) AOJI University

Action: This is now the expanded version of study aboard programs. The Council agreed to leave the programs in the form it is now. Cindy Elliott will finalize an agreement with AOJI.

m) Setting Up New Accounts for Faculty

Action: Tabled

n) Senior Survey

Action: Tabled

o) Denver Office

Action: Tabled

p) Summer and Fall Enrollment Procedures

Action: The Enrollment Management Committee is recommending suspending the early enrollment dates for Virtual College for fall 2009 and summer 2009. This would revert the process back to the way we did a couple of years ago by opening it up to all students. The Council decided to have more discussion on Tuesday about these issues--the academic issue and enrolling twice. Joey Linn and Patty Griffin were at the meeting to provide additional input. They will go back to their Committee and see if they can change the schedule to accommodate students in the following manner: summer school will be open to all students, both virtual and on-campus, and then keep the schedule the same by allowing Virtual College students the opportunity to enroll before the on-campus students. The Council would like to have students enroll for summer school first and then enroll for fall.

q) Felice Nudelman from the New York Times at 11 a.m.

Action: Presented information on Epsilon, American Democracy Project and the Subscription to the New York Times.

r) TigerEnroll Approvals

Action: Tabled

s) Term Schedule for the Virtual College with Each Term Lasting 8 Weeks? – John Ross

Action: Tabled

t) 2008-2009 Core Outcomes

Action: Tabled

u) Faculty Office Hours – Paul Faber

Action: Tabled

4. Informational Items

a) Social Networking: Retention's New Frontier

Action: Tabled

b) The 50 Top American Philanthropists

Action: Tabled

c) The Future Workforce of Kansas

Action: Tabled

d) WICHE and WCET Win Grant to Improve Transparency and Accountability in Adult Education

Action: Tabled

e) Colleges, Offices Scrap Land Lines

Action: Tabled

f) What's Hot? Online Schooling

Action: Tabled

g) Appointment of Acting VPSA

Action: Tabled

B. Budget Update

Action: Item removed from agenda.

C. Announcements/New Business

1) Distribution of Performance Agreement Scorecard

Action: The Provost passed out the current performance agreement scorecard.

2) Low Enrollment Course Policies

Action: It is important that we discuss our policies for low enrollment. This should be distributed to chairs and faculty as a reminder to answer questions about low enrollment courses.

3) Auditing of Classes

The Faculty Senate is moving forward with this initiative where there are open seats in a class, the University will offer these courses free of charge to people who are registered at the Unemployment Office.

4) The Provost asked the deans to reply if they will need residential space for their camps. Please let him know ASAP.

D. Adjournment

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

c: Dr. Edward Hammond

Dr. Tisa Mason

Mr. Larry Getty

Dr. Joey Linn

Ms. Casey Kelch

Provost's Council Secretaries