

MINUTES
September 6, 2011
Provost's Council

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the President's Conference Room.

Members present: Mark Bannister, Jeff Briggs, Chris Crawford, Tim Crowley, Cindy Elliott, Paul Faber, Dennis King, John Ross, Rob Scott, and Larry Gould

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order.

1. Strategy Item

a) English Language Screenings

Action: The purpose of the screening is to improve the English of all our international students and the difficulties we have been having as an institution to have competent English speaking students. We are having difficulty evaluating students that come to the University as to their competency in reading, writing and speaking. We are trying to distinguish English competency standards and our admission standards; plus, we are trying to distinguish admission standards versus level of competency required in a program. The English Composition classes taught in China are different from our domestic students because an additional English course must be taken by our international partners students after their sophomore year; and during the first year at the partner university, we are not responsible for their English competency. Both partners have started programs to improve the instruction during the first year. The recommendations for improving Composition I and II is to: change the teaching, create smaller size classes and decrease the four class periods to three. However, the President does not believe this will work.

Reactive and remedial is the big picture of what we are doing to resolve this problem. There needed to be ground work in place to allow the University to require students to improve their English if deemed deficient by the advisor or department. All international students are now being required to be screened for English competency. We need to figure out a way to screen our international students who take virtual college classes. Screening is not the same as a test. The President is also looking at changing the policy that a student be required to be physically at our University for only one year.

The Provost's Council agreed the draft letters are acceptable for the undergraduate and graduate admissions requirements to include language about additional departmental requirements of English language competency to be admitted to a specific program. Dr. Faber will share the documents with the Registrar's Office.

2. Discussion Items

a) Performance Agreement Application for 2011

Action: We are moving Goal 5 to Goal 1. Goal 2 is an enrollment goal and Goal 3 is persistence and retention. We need to move our retention rate 10 percent which will move us from 69% to 75% as prescribed by the KBOR. The system-level learning outcomes are for all KBOR universities. However, this may be thrown out depending on whether KBOR changes it. Goal 5 will now be partnering with NCK.

b) Faculty Larger Agenda Series

Action: The Provost has charged Faculty Senate to start an in-service day in the fall and the spring. The Council was asked if they had ideas for the date to bring Anya to campus. The Provost will bring the Committee together and set a date.

c) Notice of Non-Discrimination, Notice of Accessibility, Equal Employment Opportunity Program

Action: Tabled.

B. Announcements/New Business

1) New NSSE numbers were distributed to the Council. The value adds include the difference between freshmen and seniors. Our students are trending toward not adding as much value as NSSE. Our numbers are not very representative of the university since a large majority of our students are virtual college students and these questions are targeted at on-campus students.

2) The Provost distributed to the deans, the data that was composed by Rick Peters who was a former dean of FHSU. This is an example of a technique of a larger strategy to get the President to agree to a standard. However, now that the Virtual College has exploded and faculty are teaching classes as overloads, this is not completely applicable. There may be some strategies in the document the deans can use for their department review.

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. Chapman Rackaway

Mr. Tyler Thompson

Ms. Casey Rohleder

Provost's Council Secretaries