# Minutes Provost's Council May 8, 2012

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, May 08, 2012 at 8:30 am in the President's Conference Room, SH 306.

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

#### A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

## 1. Discussion Items

### a) Embedded Librarians

Action: The embedded librarian proposal is to have library staff be part of the departments, attend classes and help with research ideas. A librarian will be assigned to specific departments and work with these departments to let them know what the librarians can do for the faculty and the departments. For the virtual college, the idea is to be included in the course development, by course, and be a co-author of courses. The librarians are asked to be included in department meetings and to be part of the classroom. This will be a pilot project and will not be mandatory. It could vary from department to department. John Ross is proposing a hybrid model because the librarians are needed in the library at key times. The librarians could use a conference room and hold office hours; they could then attend the classes the faculty member teaches and provide suggestions on research. The deans were asked to send a list of departments that are interested in participating in the pilot project by the end of May.

#### b) Digital Books

Action: This past academic year, the library began offering academic ebooks for faculty and it was successful with a 30 percent usage. This is the last year of book acquisitions for the library. They are converting to eBooks. All faculty will be able to view the available books and request acquiring these books. These are all cloud based books and allow for simultaneous usage of a portion of the eBook. They are also looking into eJournals which will allow faculty to have any article available to download to their desktops and can be shared with all students. It can also be moved into Blackboard. The eBooks are available in different languages and download to different devises and are available in pdf platform. John will put together a summary of these innovations. They are going live on September 4 with the eBooks announcement.

- c) Moving the Start Date for the Tenure Timeline (three-six year candidates) Action: The Council agreed to keep the start date for these timelines as is.
- d) Standardization of Desktop/Laptop/Tablet Equipment Action: The University has standardized the vendors to order computers—desktops are Dell, laptops are Fujitsu and Apple for tablet computers.

e) MITx: The Next Chapter for University Credentialing

Action: MIT is beyond the open source issue. The Provost doesn't know where credentialing is going in the future. His point is that MIT doesn't need any credentialing to recruit students.

# f) The Theory of the Business

Action: The reason the article is so intriguing is the modalities have a theory as to how they work. Drucker is saying for a strategic theme, direction, or strategy, you have to have a theory of how it works. It is an interesting article and easy to read. The Provost uses it in his strategy as a leader.

## g) Majors for How to Teach Online

Action: What the article is saying: we teach our students in the traditional way when we should be using other technologies.

## h) Transfer policy

Action: Our current practice is to let students take nine hours at Fort Hays State and then transfer the credits back to the community colleges. The President wants this procedure put into policy. A copy of the draft policy was included in the agenda.

## i) Housing Plans

Action: A contractor came up with the housing concept for the buildings to accommodate future students. The idea is to demolish Wiest Hall and replace it with the diagramed housing plan. The University needs housing for the living, learning communities which helps with retention. However, the President is not willing to do this right now. All of this information is in the planning stages. The President's preference is to use the alfalfa field for all housing instead of the proposed housing plans.

#### 2. Decision Items

a) Management Development (MDC) Workshops

Action: The Provost's Council does want to continue this initiative.

#### 3. Informational Items

a) Reserve with Residential Life

Action: The Tiger Den in Custer Hall is being refurbished for KAMS, the Honors Society and available for scheduling by departments. Contact the Office of Residential Office to schedule the room.

b) More Universities Charging More Tuition for Harder Majors

Action: Currently, we are charging accounting majors \$400 per credit hour for online MBA courses versus the \$200 tuition fee per credit hour for other majors. This is the only major we are charging a higher tuition at FHSU and will probably stay that way for now.

#### c) Adaptive Learning Technology

Action: Regarding learning management systems and remedial education sources, the President has indicated this has been taken out of the budget by the Regents to not fund remedial education for higher education universities. This technology is more personalized and applications that are applicable now-a-days. Standardized learning managements systems are being changed as the only learning technology. Pierson is the leader in using these platforms that are coming down the line. Faculty Senate has put forth a resolution to have academic affairs centralize all syllabi. The University has spent money on purchasing software that digitizes syllabi but it will be a year before we will see the fruition of our efforts. The Provost has asked Faculty Senate to provide him with feedback by September.

d) History and Background of the Honors Program Action: This is an informational item for the Council. The history of the Honors Program was compiled by Patty Nicholas from Forsyth Library.

e) Google Drive Review: Adding Cloud Storage to the Mix Action: Informational Item.

## f) Stipends and Gifts from China

Action: University faculty are not allowed to accept stipends or gifts from the NWUN. According to the policy, 9-month faculty are allowed to accept a stipend or gifts. However, 12-month University employees will not be allowed to accept the stipends and gifts. There is no current policy regarding 12-month employees but the President will be creating one in the future.

## g) Military Education

Action: These are the number of FHSU students in the military. The President has indicated he is not doing the deferral for the veterans but asked Dennis to come up with other ways to help military personnel.

- 4. What Should We Know Today?
- a) The President has decided to hire an additional Admissions Counselor for the Colorado area. He is also planning on offering \$500 scholarships to students in specific target majors. The deans were asked to review the list of majors that were distributed. The list contains majors that are low and need improved enrollment. The Provost wrote down 20 suggested majors and will pass them on to the President.
- b) Intersession courses need to be submitted to Chris Crawford. The President asked to review the courses that will be offered during this session.

#### B. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 11:58 a.m.

c: Dr. Edward Hammond

Dr. Tisa Mason Mr. Larry Getty

Dr. Joey Linn Dr. Chapman Rackaway Mr. Tyler Thompson Provost's Council Administrative Assistants