

MINUTES
Provost's Council
October 9, 2012

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, October 09, 2012 at 8:45 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

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

A. Call to Order

Action: The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

1. Strategic Initiatives

a) Formula for Retired Faculty

Action: The Council discussed the formula on how to pay retired or emeriti faculty. An added value to the proposal is: retired faculty have experience, continuity, consistency, and unique skills sets that are not easily replaceable.

b) List of COOL Strategic Ideas – Multiple Choice Test?

Action: The Council will put together a one page template that can be used to determine if we want to move forward with these strategic ideas. Chris Crawford suggested the freshman block scheduling and retention are low priorities right now. We need to figure out how to manage growth and improve efficiency items. We will start out with the freshman block scheduling. Then, summer transition program and then retention. The Provost feels like we need to discuss this issue associated with the Virtual College. The deadline for submission is December 31.

2. Discussion Items

a) Library leaders

Action: For the past several years, John Ross has been looking at how to utilize students in the library. There have been issues about professionalism and customer service. The model he is using is: training students to train. This is one solution to the problem. He is also working on hiring student leaders who will receive a slight salary increase because of their leadership role.

b) Organizational Restructure of the Foryth Library

Action: The library is being restructured to accommodate the new systems including the implementation of Alma and the deletion of other systems such as cataloging. The typical library practice was to buy books/periodicals and hope someone needs them. A functional based structure is the way the library will be using in the future. The attached documents are confidential and should not be shared with the University.

c) Restructure of Foresight 2020

Action: Andy Tompkins is working reducing six goals to three and should be an improvement on the performance agreements.

d) A Disruption Grows Up

Action: We have already discussed this to some extent but the studies show distance learning will become flat.

e) Time to Dump Seat-Time Based Credit Hour, Says Research Report

Action: This is the same concept as the previous item. There is a lot of research that have been done on credit-hour production.

f) Complete College Kansas

Action: Tabled.

3. Informational Items

Action: Fall enrollment as an informational item which shows the comparison data from last year to this year.

4. What Should We Need to Know Today?

1) The University does meet the minimum qualifications for the student authentication guidelines as provided by the U.S. Department of Education. The President is still concerned about student authentication and asked Dennis King to look for software that will improve the University's security. Dennis is looking at BioSig-Id as a possibility for the University. One of the internal procedures we are going to try is to have students take an honor code before logging on line to our system. Research has proven this deterrent does work for some students in preventing cheating. How it works is the student has to sign in and also add characters. This can be moved from one process to another one. One of the organizations that uses it is Edu-Kan. There is no fool proof way to stop cheating. This may not be a solution but it is a step in the right direction. It will likely be funded as an action plan so the deans should start thinking about ways to implement it. The price we are receiving should remain confidential as requested by the vendor.

2) The Delta Cost Project. Mike Barnett put together a report for the President that suggests we are doing ok with regard to marginal costs. It has a lot to do with area fees and overhead costs. This has implications for a decision that has to be made by December 31 as to what will happen to the Virtual College. We need 1,000 students a year, we are doing about 500. Part of the decision is going to be based on the Delta Cost System. The issue is whether the university has enough resources to fund a recruiting agency and to pay for commissions for recruiting. It is a national trend to improve revenue streams through distance education. Software, staff and create an agent model to complete applications and fill out applications. President Hammond has indicated he was going to roll together all of the action plans for internationalization into one fund. Another thing to discuss is adjunct faculty salary. The era of putting this on the back of full time faculty is over. The importance of training, orientation, retraining of adjuncts is important and should be university-wide. This is a strategy item that needs to be discussed in the near future.

3) Lorie Cook-Benjamin and Emily Breit attended the Provost's Council as part of the Faculty Senate website proposals university strategic marketing committee. Faculty Senate is seeking support for a motion from the Faculty Senate for the creation of a committee to oversee the University website. The motion is to create an oversight committee to review the website on a regular basis to evaluate and improve the quality of it. The Council suggested an appointment of a subcommittee that deals inclusively with the operational side and has the main committee address the strategic direction of the website. There needs to be a rationalization of the problems and more clear definition of how this committee will address the problems. The Committee will go back with these suggestions and rework the proposal.

4) Online Syllabi Discussion

Action: A group of faculty and faculty senators were working on a university wide syllabus. The Provost and Assistant Provost asked Faculty Senate to review the online syllabus form and make any changes. The Faculty Senate endorsed the idea but not the actual form. Faculty Senate is being asked to review it again but wants input from the Council. The Council agreed to have Jackie Ruder clean up the document and then set up a demonstration for Faculty Senate. The Provost established a two month deadline for a recommendation to him. His thoughts are not to mandate it but anyone that reworks a course, will receive an additional \$200 if the general syllabus is used for the course development.

5) Bruce Taggart is back home in Hays and on his way to recovery.

6) Mitch Weber's grandson is doing better but still needs a liver transplant.

7) The IQ software is going away in December and there will be a new pilot product in January. The new product will have the same data reports and have some capabilities to allow faculty to start an alert process which will interface with Blackboard.

8) Digital Measures is not updating their software so the University will be looking at new products.

9. One of the instructors teaching in China may have tuberculosis and the decision has not been made as to how to release the information.

B. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

- c: Dr. Edward Hammond
- Dr. Tisa Mason
- Mr. Larry Getty
- Dr. Joey Linn
- Dr. Emily Breit
- Mr. Kyle Calvin

Provost's Council Secretaries