

MINUTES
Provost's Council
September 26, 2012

The Provost's Council met on Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

Members present: 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

The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

1. Strategic Initiatives

a) Average Busters

Action: The Provost distributed the average busters document for the Academic Affairs Division to the Council. Any corrections need to be sent today to the Provost. He will be forwarding the document on to President Hammond on Wednesday morning. The Virtual College and Office of Strategic Partnerships will be forwarding average busters today for inclusion in the final document.

b) Red Balloon

Action: The Provost is completing the charge for the Committee and will be setting up a meeting soon.

c) Action Plans

Action: There will be a limit of five action plans per department/budget unit (including Red Balloon initiatives) and a minimum amount of \$1,000. Red Balloon action plans do not have to be submitted by October 2.

d) Formula for Retired Faculty

Action: Tabled.

2. Discussion Items

a) University Key System Policy

Action: Due to the number of keys that have not been returned, the University is implementing a new policy where a \$100 fine will be assessed on each key that has not been returned when a student leaves the University. The Council had no other issues to discuss with this item.

b) Is Online Learning the Antidote

Action: The Provost is not sure this is the answer but brand recognition is key to success. Why do we distinguish between virtual college and on campus courses on the students' transcript? Three students from Saudi Arabia met with the Provost requesting permission to have the virtual college designation removed from their Multiculturalism class in order

to keep their scholarships. This brings up the question as to whether we need to have a distinction on our transcripts. The Council was asked to think about it for discussion.

c) Analysis of FHSU Freshman and Senior Results for the 2002-2012 NSSE Benchmarks

Action: Dr. Crawford gave a report on the results. Performance on academic challenges has gone up a little bit for seniors but down for freshman. FHSU does have more added value than NSSE from freshman to senior. There is a large gap in the active and collaborative learning between NSSE and our scores; there is some value added improvement from freshman to senior but still a difference. Our scores are lower than NSSE with regards to faculty interaction for senior and freshman. We do improve from freshman to senior collaboration. In research and study abroad, we fall way behind the NSSE scores. Gap analysis shows we improve with the students. We always have lower scores for diversity in the classroom. FHSU is usually above the NSSE averages in most categories. In the supportive campus environment category there is significant dip but the rest of the scores are about the same. The question was raised as to how can we move the needle? One suggestion was the Red Balloon Project and course redesign and innovative ideas from members of the group.

d) Web Content Management

Action: The best way to maintain the quality of a website is to have it centralized. The University purchased a software program called Siteimprove for the website which will review the site for broken links, typos, key words and then send weekly reports to the appropriate department/budget web content managers. However, if we don't use the information and improve the site, it will not be worth the purchase. The question was raised on who was invited to the meeting about this initiative and who will receive the reports? Do the reports only go to the web content managers, or, do they go to the chairs/deans/supervisors as well? No one is sure. Dr. Crawford was going to check with Suzanne Klaus.

e) A Changing Global Context

Action: This item was a copy of the PowerPoint presentation on internationalization of higher education.

f) Summer Bridge Programs

Action: The University has discussed this in the past and how it was used as a retention tool in the past. The Council was asked for ideas on improving this program or another solution to the issue of international students not being able to pass the language test. There are a lot of things we can do during the summer. If we can bring students in through the "qualified admissions window" this would be a way to do it. This program is being run on a budget of \$5,600. The Provost is proposing we build in something like these proposals such as mandate disciplinary orientation courses. The four academic deans were asked to submit a list of departments that have an orientation course already. The orientation sections need to incorporate the points that are being used for the freshman orientation course. If it is in the discipline, the orientation course can be counted toward their degree. Deadline: October 1 to Cindy Cline.

g) Department Chair Institute

Action: The Provost asked if there are any chairs who would be interested in attending this conference. He will pay for half the cost of attendance with the other half being paid by the deans.

3. *Informational Items*

a) A First for Udacity: Transfer Credit at a U.S. University for One of the Courses

Action: Informational item

b) Finding Their Way to Completion

Action: There are some interesting points that fit into Brad Goebel's document on degree completion. The Council was asked to review the document.

c) An Election Year Means Politics As Unusual on Your Campus

Action: This is a cautionary note for state employees of what you can and cannot do during elections.

d) Comparison of Phone Book/Handbook and Academic Planner Materials

Action: The University is doing away with the phone directory. The question was raised about what to do with the student handbook section that is now in the directory. Should the student handbook be printed or moved to the academic planner. No one provided an opinion.

e) In Selecting Peers for Comparison's Sake, Colleges Look Upward

Action: The Governor has asked the Regents to put together peer groups based on the subject matter. This is a process so the Council will have an idea what the Regents are looking for when it comes to peer groups.

f) Online Classes. Low Prices. Every Day.

Action: Just an informational item.

g) Seven Questions to Ask Open Source Vendors

Action: Just an informational item.

h) Who Goes There?

Action: More best practices for review by the Council.

i) The Cult of Apple in China

Action: If you have not read this article, you should. It is very interesting about what is going on in China and what is happening to the U.S. because of China.

4. What Should We Know Today?

a) Governor's Economic Summit – The Provost updated the Council on the meeting he attended yesterday. It appears “school rankings’ are going to be important to the Regents agenda.

b) Distribution of the Eduventures document, “Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness Learning Collaboration.” The University belongs to this collaboration on Assessment. The handout shows the number of initiatives they are working on and request the members of the collaboration also work on these initiatives. The University has used Eduventures to provide feedback on the BBA and best class practices of assessment to help COBE with accreditation. This is available for anyone in academics (online, on campus and graduate school) and requests are to be sent through Chris Crawford.

c) Announcement of Jose Bowen coming to Campus
Jose Bowen will be coming to campus on November 1.

d) There will be 15 honor students from South Korea attending the University in spring 2013.

e) An upgrade of the FHSU apple app has been released.

f) Intersession is moving forward as planned. A roll out meeting is scheduled next week with support offices that will be dealing with it.

Adjournment

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

c: Dr. Edward Hammond
Dr. Tisa Mason
Mr. Larry Getty
Dr. Joey Linn
Dr. Emily Breit
Mr. Kyle Calvin
Provost's Council Administrative Assistants