

Minutes

Provost's Council
January 29, 2013

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at 8 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

Members present: Justin Evans for Mark Bannister, Jeff Briggs, Chris Crawford, Tim Crowley, Cindy Elliott, Paul Faber, Dennis King, Jenn Bonds-Raacke, John Ross, Robert Scott and Larry Gould

Guests: President Hammond and Greg Weisenborn

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

1. Discussion Items

a) Capacity Expansion of the Virtual College

Action: The President said it is time for the University to deal with the capacity issue and strategically plan for the future and the assessment of our programs. If we are going to implement a growth strategy, it needs to be in place within the next 60 days. President Hammond has allocated another \$150,000 for the Virtual College to offer more classes. The President is counting on adjunct training in the fall. Todd Powell, General Counsel has made a ruling that someone can teach 15 hours as an adjunct for the spring, fall and summer semesters and comply with the new health care laws. The President feels there are two ways to increase revenue at the University-increase SCH and raise tuition. The President needs a strategic plan to know which new programs to invest in and which existing programs need to be expanded.

a) Feedback on Freshman Experience Course

Action: The COBE will use the student affairs orientation course but have declined to provide instructors for the course. They will redevelop the orientation course this summer contingent on the process of the University orientation. COET indicated two departments have orientation courses and they are going to institute some changes into the orientation course and can teach them in house. The College of Health and Life Sciences have 10 to 12 faculty who are willing to teach sections of this course. Departmental orientation should be kept out of the mix within the college. The College of Arts and Sciences does not have enough feedback from the department chairs to make a recommendation to the President.

Either CAS is organizing the course or turn it over to Tisa Mason to find instructors and determine the logistics of the course. The content of the course has to be approved by Faculty Senate. The Academic Affairs Subcommittee of Faculty Senate will approve the course in concept but not the actual course. There should be two -

50 minute session per week. If we are getting money from the improved retention, the savings should go back to the departments based on their showed improvement. The President directed the deans to begin planning the logistics of these courses.

b) Freshman Foundations

Action: In the freshman block scheduling approach, various students would have to take designated courses. To be successful, it would be pre loading of students and not sure how to do that here. Capacity and pre-loading are two big issues. The decision was made by the Council to go with a soft mandate to educate advisors about enrolling students in these classes on the days of orientation. Dr. Crawford was asked to write up the directions on how to do this and bring forward to the Provost. Dr. Gould will then ask the President for resources.

c) Approval of Credit Hours Greater Than 18

Action: There is a lot of work in processing a request for a student to take credit hours greater than 18. The amount should be changed to 21 for undergraduate credit hours. The Council agreed to make the change.

d) Undergraduate and Graduate Student Grade Appeals

Action: The Provost asked each of the departments to update their undergraduate grade appeal process. The graduate school has their own policy so it does not need to be incorporated into the undergraduate grade appeals process. Updated copies should be sent to the Provost's Office by May 1, 2013.

e) Diverse Issue in Higher Education

Action: Covered in previous discussion.

f) Retention Documents

Action: Brett Brunner recomposed and refocused the retention committee. This is a good opportunity to build a bridge between Student and Academic Affairs. The first agenda item of the new committee is a retention plan for the University.

2. Informational Items

a) The Mammoth Income Tax Cut

Action: More explanation of what is happening in Topeka.

b) Schools, Take the Online Courses

Action: Only a reminder this generation of students is taking online courses and there is no way to stop it.

c) OEBb Online College Rankings Methodology

Action: These are the metrics for the ranking system in the article.

d) Application Fee Waiver

Action: Just a thought about a possible option for us in the future.

e) Monetizing the MOOC at Antioch

Action: There are three models out there and everyone is trying to figure out how to use them.

3. What Should We Know Today?

a) The Retention Conference is scheduled for February 27 in the Memorial Union. Dr. Andy Tompkins will be the luncheon speaker.

New Business

The PhD Terminal Degree Assistance program was on the ISM agenda. If there is money in the account, and they want to do something else with it, they need the permission of the Provost to do this.

Advertising of Job Searches in Diverse Issues – The Provost is mandating all searches be posted on Diverse Jobs.com this academic year. Instructions on how to post it to that site will be in the search packets distributed by the Equal Employment Officer.

Budget Projections for the State of Kansas - It does not look good for state agencies this year.

Retirement Learning Communities

The University has been approached by a KU representative about the possibility of a partnership with FHSU for a retirement learning community. The faculty member is responsible for four contact hours and gets paid by \$450. We were approached in the past and we turned it down. This is a new business model so it was brought forward to the Provost's Council for discussion. John Ross and Jeff Briggs are interested in this project. They will get together with Cindy Elliott and discuss the possibility of pursuing a partnership.

B. Adjournment

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 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