

MINUTES  
Provost's Council  
June 4, 2013

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at 8:45 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

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

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Provost.

**1. Strategy Item**

Priorities and People: Red Balloon Website Tabs

Action: Add a tab on "Initiatives." The purpose of the website is to educate and communicate to internal/external consumers, lend a hand to innovations we are doing and the impact this project is having at the University. It will be linked into the Provost's website at this time. There needs to be a tab on how to get involved or who to contact to learn more about the initiative. We need to have something that defines what Red Balloon initiatives are and how to participate in the program. Maybe break it up by categories (cluster) not by college/department. The Council was instructed if they have additional items to contact the Provost.

**2. Discussion Items**

a) Bona Fide Separation of Service Required

Action: This Kansas Board of Regents policy has not changed. The policy clearly states there must be separation from service to access KBOR retirement funds. The Personnel Office does not offer tax advice. They distribute the policy and tell the individual to take the information to their tax advisor. It appears that some financial officers are telling retired faculty they do not agree with the policy and as long as there are no benefits involved, there is no problem with the faculty member retiring and then immediately teaching part time for the University without affecting their retirement benefits. The Provost wants everyone to be aware of this policy if faculty come to them with this issue. He also indicated he will visit with KBOR general counsel and see if he can get a decision or clarification on this issue. Eileen Roberts was asked to write up some information to give to the Provost for his discussion.

b) Chinese Applications Fall at US Graduate Schools

Action: The data we have for the past five years shows that FHSU is up and down and there is no way to draw any real conclusions. The only addition is the English screening instrument which may affect our applications but this was discussed and the decision was to move forward with the screening. SNU will no longer be offering the Business degree so there will not be anyone in the program. SIAS numbers may also be declining because schools all over China are figuring out that this is a way to make money so there is more

competition. The Provost feels some of the problem is that China is struggling to define the middle class. It appears we have all of our eggs in one basket-- we are not diversified with other countries. There are also other strategies for recruitment that are available but we are only using one method of recruitment. Brazil has the most potential for recruiting students. The government is funding 100,000 students to study abroad and the US is the number one destination that Brazilian students want to study.

c) OER Tool

Action: This is a new resource that can be pushed into Blackboard. We have access to that technology (wants approval to use) and John is asking permission to add some links to Blackboard as a Virtual learning commons. This is an addition to what is offered online. The Provost questioned how will this be sent out to the University community about these new technologies? It was suggested that a presentation be made at the end of the year to Faculty Senate. Also, have them as CTELT workshops. No one on the Council has any objections to adding these links to Blackboard.

d) Scholarship Environment Committee

Action: This item was brought to the Provost by Gene Rice. This proposal talks about mentoring faculty in undergraduate research and using Reassigned Time Track II monies in the amount of 10 slots to allow junior faculty to devote time for research. The proposal has all of the pros and cons of any plan, which is limited by resources and availability. Drs. Heinrichs and Rice are going to come back in the fall and request a decision. The Provost and the deans agreed this is a complement to our current undergraduate research program and to move forward with this initiative. Dr. Crowley will let Drs. Heinrichs and Rice know of the Council's decisions.

e) Faculty Members Can Lead, but Will They?

Action: Dr. Crawford indicated he has some good nominees and is pleased with the maturity of some of the faculty.

f) Schedule to Transition PA Model from Calendar Year to Academic Year

Action: The Regents are really trying to hone this down to six indicators (high level that represent the University). They are: graduation rates, fall to fall retention rates, and stem rates (we need to talk about what that means at FHSU). There will be less data to collect but there is more push to get the data together from everyone. There will be a six month delay in reporting this information. We submit one in March 2014 and we don't have to report on the indicators until August 2014. One of the goals is ranking and quality which may be problematic for us. There is no direction from the Board staff to comprehensive schools on this issue.

g) Proposed Faculty for Teaching Concurrent Enrollment

Action: The Regents are concerned we are not doing evaluations on the faculty who teach these courses. Dr. Faber and departments who offer these courses may want to review the policy and may sure we are in compliance.

h) New Job Types in Some College Would Offer Adjuncts Health Care

Action: This was added because it is an ongoing issue on how we treat our adjuncts. Maybe we go ahead and provide health care for those adjuncts who are good teachers. The Provost doesn't know if this will work at FHSU but it is something we need to keep on our radar.

i) Promotion and Tenure Issues

Action: The Provost talked to the deans about several issues that came up this past year including several abstaining from voting and even number of members on the committees. These issues need to be addressed.

**3. Decision Items**

a) Promotion/Tenure Timelines for AY 2013-14

Action: Passed unanimously by consensus.

b) Administrative Calendar for FY 2014

Action: Passed unanimously by consensus.

c) Selection of Edmund Shearer Faculty Advisor Award Recipient

Action: The recipient was selected and will be announced at the Fall Convocation

d) Selection of Faculty Member of the Year Award Recipient

Action: The recipient was selected and will be announced at the Fall Convocation

**New Business**

a) The Provost passed out information on Signals and another learning tool that we may want to try out sometime and which has some applicability.

b) Knowing the big picture is a help for all chairs. As we think and rethink the chairs positions, big picture issues are becoming more and more important.

c) Distributed the article from The Chronicle on, "Faculty Salaries at more than 1,100 Institutions."

d) Distributed the article on, "Twelve Myths of MOOC's." It seems to make a lot of sense. Some of this stuff may be pertinent to the policy that Dennis King is working on for the President.

e) The Provost asked the Council to brainstorm on where we can put this information so that faculty are aware of this.

f) The NBC Learn contract has been signed and is ready for us to go forward. NBC Learn is available for training sessions at a cost of \$2,500. John asked if this was feasible? The Provost agreed to pay for it.

**5. What Should we Know Today?**

No additional responses.

B. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.

c: Dr. Edward Hammond

Dr. Tisa Mason

Mr. Larry Getty

Dr. Joey Linn

Dr. Emily Breit

Mr. Kyle Calvin

Provost's Council Administrative Assistants