

# Minutes

Provost's Council

August 21, 2007

The Provost's Council met on August 21, 2007 at 8:30 am in the President's Conference Room.

Members present: Jeff Briggs, Chris Crawford, Tim Crowley, Cindy Elliott, Paul Faber, Dennis King, Debbie Mercer, John Ross, Steve Williams and Larry Gould

## A. Call to Order

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

### **1. Strategy Item**

Eduventures On-line Retention and Completion Study

Discussion: Our retention rate is about 65 percent from freshman to sophomore status. The four-year graduation rate is about 23 percent and the six-year rate is 49 percent. We know less about our off-campus retention rates because data hasn't been collected. At some point, we will be asked by an outside entity (KBOR, AASCU, etc.) to provide our retention data and the provost wants to have that data available and improve the rates. The provost would like to increase those rates by implementing a first-year experience, improving the quality of our curriculum and using "good practices" for our course development. The Eduventures report is one of the first ones that systematically reported this information. The conclusion in the report is there really are no program retention plans done in academia. Right now, the emphasis is on course retention, not programs.

Action: The provost would like to create a committee with Dennis, Chris, Tim, Cindy and a couple other faculty to review the retention issue and determine what needs to be done to improve the rates.

### **2. Discussion/Deliberation Items**

a) Hutchinson Community College Partnership – Dennis King

Action: On August 31, Dennis will go to Hutchinson to determine if we want to begin the partnership by signing an agreement. The plan is to market directly to Hutchinson students who will then market to the high school students to recruit students to FHSU after they complete their Associate's Degree at Hutchinson. We will have a contact person (Kevin Splichal) on campus and revive the "Fast Track" initiative.

b) Public Colleges Release Plan to Measure Their Performance

Action: Discussed items that will be needed on the Volunteer Disclosure of Retention Rates by Institution.

c) Recruitment Numbers

Action: Discussed the increase in numbers from Colorado. It is still an opportunity for recruitment of students. A list was compiled with the names of the students from Colorado. Provost Gould asked Casey Rackaway to put together a five-page survey to send to all of the students on the list asking them why they chose FHSU. The Council also discussed the eastern Kansas student recruitment efforts.

d) Southwest United States Recruitment Plan

Action: A copy of the recruitment plan that President Hammond is asking the Admissions Counselors to implement was distributed. The President decided to pursue students in other parts of the United States. As an incentive, the President is discounting the tuition costs (scholarships) for those students recruited from this area. He is planning on taking \$20,000 from strategic planning monies to pay for the tuition scholarships. The idea is to rectify the declining number of students from Western Kansas attending FHSU.

e) AQIP Quality Checkup and Reaffirmation

Action: Tabled until next meeting

f) VC and MBA Budgets

Action: These are the goals that have been submitted to the President. We made close to \$1 million in tuition last year and propose \$1.3 million for this year.

g) Draft Mobile Teaching and Learning Committee Mission, Goals, and Membership Statements

Action: John Ross drafted a new mission statement and goals with the intent that the committee would become a University Standing Committee. He was asked to narrow the membership down. The Council was asked to review the document and provide feedback at the next meeting.

h) Regents Strategic Planning

Action: The Regents goals for strategic planning and the Governor's proposal were shared with the Council. The president is looking at number "3" on the Regent's list. The provost is concerned we will be spreading ourselves too thin if we participate in all of these initiatives. These two documents are the core of the discussion at the Regents/COPs Retreat.

i) Legislative Proposals

Action: This is a call for program enhancements by the Legislature. The proposal we submitted last year was from INT. This year, the provost would like to propose Professional Science Management. The deadline is October 1 to submit the proposal. Let the provost know if it will not be possible to complete the proposal by the deadline.

j) Atomic Learning

Action: The President approved \$6,000 to implement this initiative at the University. The funding will be used to subscribe to the resource. When it is available, the Library will send out a campus-wide email.

### **3. Informational Items**

#### a) Bridging the Knowledge Gap

Action: We have a chance to contribute to the next issue in some way such as advertising or submitting an article.

#### b) Regents Should Strengthen Oversight of State Universities

Action: Reviewed the document and discussed various points of the article

#### B. YOTD: Progress Report

Action: No report.

#### C. Strategic Planning and AQIP: An Update

Action: No report.

#### D. Announcements/New Business

1) There is a political agenda by University of Kansas to get rid of qualified admissions as we know it. The reason for this is to enhance their ranking in US News and World Report. As a result, the KBOR is tightening up qualified admissions in regard to transfer students. The current "window" is not big enough to handle all the students (including transfers) being admitted by state universities. Any changes to the policy should not affect FHSU that much but the provost wanted the Council to be aware of this since it will be discussed at the Council of Presidents Retreat. A draft copy of the admissions policy was distributed to the Council.

2) Course Development – Proposed improvements include: course must pass quality checkup before being offered, increase payment to \$3,000 and provide the faculty \$500 after offering the course.

3) Instructor Evaluation – Reviewed a draft instructor evaluation document. Feedback should be sent to Chris Crawford by September 1.

#### E. Adjournment

Action: The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

c: Dr. Edward Hammond  
Dr. Herb Songer  
Mr. Larry Getty  
Dr. Joey Linn  
Dr. Dan Kulmala  
Ms. Chelsey Gillogly  
Ms. Casey Rackaway  
Provost's Council Secretaries