

Minutes

Provost's Council
December 6, 2007

The Provost's Council met on Thursday, December 6 at 8:30 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

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

Guest: President Hammond

A. Call to Order

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

1. Strategy Item

Alternative Virtual Teaching Model

Action: The deans were asked to discuss the model with the chairs and bring back two or three proposed sites to the Provost's Council and maybe try a couple of pilot programs in some isolated areas and see if it works. The need is there and faculty are interested in teaching. The faculty would be teaching two sections of the same course with a dedicated GTA. That way if it is not working, we can go back to the adjunct model. It was also decided to have a subcommittee draw up another model with Tim Crowley as the chair, the four academic deans, Chris Crawford and John Ross based on the discussion today.

The president will not approve any more than teaching two classes, supervision would depend on the number of GTAs. There would have to be a University wide training program through CTELT, a regular GTA stipend, two course loads and some sort of supervisor arrangement.

The Graduate School Council was not in favor of it as a blanket model for the entire University because of the teaching load for GTAs and the number of undergraduate classes that are being taught by teachers that do not have a master's degree. Faculty were surveyed and most were not in favor of the model. The COET could not use it since most of their courses are graduate level. In CHLS, there are a couple of areas they could make it work. It will be a lot of work by the supervising faculty to train these students to recruit. The president doesn't see the model freeing up faculty time. It should be freshman/sophomore classes and the output per unit should be considered. There should be one or two graduate students per unit and no more than three. If we give faculty release time, then the model should be three classes.

What about the assignment of a GTA to a faculty member? You could have one faculty member who is released to supervise the GTAs in the department. It could be the chair that gets the release time of one class and be responsible for the GTAs. This would reinforce confidence in the program, if there is orientation to train these students before they teach the GTAs. The proposal is to increase the GTAs stipend's by \$2,000. The president is not sure that is affordable. He is not apposed to some form of model.

Faculty would be responsible for creating content and the GTAs would be responsible for grading and creating an ongoing atmosphere of academic discussion.

The goals are to provide quality but for less money, free up faculty for research and to recruit more graduate students to campus.

We do not have graduate programs in every department. Our standards for admission to the graduate school are not really high. We should have a stipulation that only students in their second or third year are eligible for these positions. First year students may not be able to teach the classes because they do not have the content background. Professional experiences are equally important as the teaching experiences. President Hammond indicated these would be an add-on to the graduate assistants; there would be no change to the current GTA distribution. This would be a complement to the GTA program and not be used as a competition. The president was thinking the earliest we could use this model would be fall 2009.

2. Discussion Items

a) Software Committee Request/Acquisition Process

Action: John Ross, Larry Gould, Dave Schmidt, Mike Barnett, and Mike Nease will meet to discuss this issue. Chairs should be made aware of this policy and provide the information to John Ross so he can bring it forward to the software purchasing committee. A software purchasing process was approved by President's Cabinet. Software requests should be submitted to the purchasing committee to determine the usage of the software University wide. If it is deemed appropriate, a University license would be purchased. If not, the departments would be responsible for purchasing the software.

b) Majors Fair

Action: The Council liked the idea but would appreciate some input on how the fair is organized and allow them to review the proposal before it is implemented.

c) Chinese Scholar Association at the University

Action: The Council did not see any problem with creating a Chinese Scholar Association at the University. Dr. Gould will let Hongbiao Zeng know the Council's decision.

d) Section Consistency

Action: The inconsistency of syllabi and sections is very inefficient and ineffective. The provost is asking departments to attempt to ensure consistency among sections of

courses. This notion of soft caps and then increasing the enrollment later to accommodate students is not working.

e) Graduate Survey of Student Engagement

Discussion: Kathy Dale was present to discuss the first draft of the graduate survey. The Department of Teacher Education needs this survey for accreditation purposes. There are no “canned” products to purchase, so a work team took on the task of developing a survey. Essentially, they used one from Wichita State University and adapted it. The committee is now ready to get feedback and suggestions for changes. President Hammond has looked at it and believes there are too many questions. It was suggested that the team focus on the purpose of the survey and then carve out related questions. It might be that the Graduate School needs to conduct a separate survey on customer satisfaction.

Action: The work team meets again in early February. Dr. Dale asked the Provost Council members to submit any suggestions to her before February 1. After that meeting, she will bring the next draft to Provost Council for review.

f) Colorado Student Survey

Action: The President has agreed to fund a Denver office after the first of July. The provost would like to have a brainstorming session with the deans about opportunities they foresee for the office. A copy of a survey was distributed to the Council. It was conducted by Casey Rackaway. Students from the state of Colorado were the subjects of the survey. The results of the survey showed the reasons for coming to FHSU were: cost of the tuition, quality of the institution and the availability of a major.

g) DyKnow Contract

Discussion: The DyKnow contract increases in scope each year. Our contract started with 1,000 users at a cost of \$18,000 per year. In the next year, the number of users will increase to 3,000 at a cost of \$54,000. The following year, it will increase to 5,000 students. There is a clause in our contract that allows us to renegotiate, so we can get a perpetual contract for 1,000 users for \$42,000.

Action: The members agreed that since the number of users historically has not exceeded 1,000, we should pursue the perpetual contract. John Ross will contact DyKnow.

h) Study Abroad Challenges

Action: The white paper is descriptive but also analytical. One of the points is duration. Most of the courses are short-term and this has increased the number of students studying abroad. Another point, race and ethnicity students at universities are not taking advantage of the study abroad because of their values. The US Government scholarship programs that are available to our students are on the internationalization website. Discipline specific type of opportunities (especially the sciences) and various approaches used by schools to allow students to take advantage of study abroad opportunities are available.

3. Informational Items

a) Mixed Picture on International Enrollment

Action: Informational Item

b) Legal Issues for Distance Education Administrators: A Two-Part Primer

Action: Informational Item

c) Number of Foreign Students Bounces Back to Near-Record High

Action: Informational Item

d) The Dollars and Cents of Study Abroad

Action: Informational Item

e) Offer to Develop a New International Student Program with Colby Community College

Action: Informational Item

f) Standard Information Service Reports from National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)

Action: Informational Item

B. Strategic Planning and AQIP: An Update

Action: No action taken.

C. Announcements/New Business

1) SIAS University Program

Action: Word needs to get out to chairs, faculty and students about this project as quickly as possible because other Regents universities will also be able to offer these scholarships to their students. We need a mechanism put in place on how to select the recipients. Dr. Crowley and Carol Solko-Olliff are working on this project. Deadline of the application should be March 1 or April 1. Dr. Lou Caplan will be asked to review the courses and let all the deans know which ones already articulate to FHSU. If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Crowley.

2) 1+2+1 Program

The agreement clarifies for Mr. Hu how we are discounting the out-of-state tuition by \$2000 per semester. If department chairs or others have inquiries, they should know about this agreement.

3) The Awards of Excellence name will change to something else. The \$900 will be the awards of excellence. The president has asked the Retention Committee to make a recommendation on the criteria for the awards.

4) On Tiger Day, the deans will play a role in speaking to students about their colleges.

5) The chairs from the CHLS are not happy with the ranking of the faculty lounge on the action plan priority list. The dean of COET also voiced her concern about the priority of this action plan. There are a number of higher priorities than this one.

D. Adjournment

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 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

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