

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Deans' Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Mindy Baumgartner, Julie Coon, Mike Cron, Steve Durst, Fritz Erickson, Don Flickinger, Don Green, Robin Hoisington, Michelle Johnston, Ron McKean, Leah Monger, David Nicol, Bill Potter, Karen Strasser, Robbie Teahen, Kim Wilber

Guests: Brian Craig, Director of the School of Built Environment and Debbie Dawson, Director of the School of Computers, Electrical, Energy, Mechanical and Surveying (CEEMS)

Michigan Energy Conference Information - Debbie Dawson and Brian Craig, College of Engineering Technology

Brian and Debbie discussed this year's Michigan Energy Conference scheduled on April 12, 2012, at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This one-day event will consist of keynote speakers, a panel discussion and a wide range of energy related technical breakout sessions. Student admission is free and they will have an opportunity to enter a poster competition and win a scholarship. There will be space for exhibits and colleges can exhibit as well.

Vacant Graphic Design Faculty Position Replacements - College of Business

Dave Nicol presented justification for two tenure-track Graphic Design faculty positions planned to be vacant by May 2012. After discussion concluded, the vote was unanimous for the College of business to begin the HAF process to replace these positions.

Creation of a Social Science Advisor Position - College of Arts and Sciences

Karen Strasser discussed the need to hire a 12-month, full-time temporary Social Science Advisor with funding being taken from current vacant positions. This advisor position would have a tremendous impact on enhancing advising and recruitment activities in CAS. Associate Provost Potter noted that hiring an advisor position for this program is in line with recommendations of the Academic Advising Taskforce.

College of Allied Health Proposed Name Change

Julie Coon discussed a request for a name change from the College of Allied Health to the College of Health Professions. She discussed the benefits of having the proper "branding," both internally and externally and shared how the current title of Allied Health affects perceptions of the College and its programmatic offerings. Deans' Council members agreed with the proposed name change and gave their perceptions of how programming in the College of Allied Health has evolved over the years. They agreed that the timing is right for a new college name. Julie will move forward on procedures to ultimately present this request to the Board of Trustees for approval.

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Commencement Program

Don Flickinger discussed the printed Commencement Program and noted that the names of adjunct faculty members were included in the Fall Semester 2011 Commencement Program. He asked for feedback regarding inclusion of any further staff member names that would be most appropriate to include in future commencement programs. The Commencement Program should be reviewed in the future and discussions should take place at future DC meetings.

Dismissal Letter Template Discussion

Don Flickinger discussed the need to include language in students' academic dismissal letters that would give the students and their families a better grasp on tuition refund procedures and refund timelines. Don will work with the Residential Life Office to create language for the colleges to insert into their own dismissal letter template to help make sure that these types of letters sent from the University are all stating equivalent information.

Timeline for Submitting College Organizational Changes to the Board of Trustees

Colleges need to compile their organizational changes in preparation of them being presented for Board of Trustees approval. Colleges also need to prepare for changes required after the organizational changes are approved by the Board of Trustees approves them, such as FOAP and other college and departmental changes. It is anticipated that approved organizational changes will become effective July 1, 2012.

These topics will be on the next DC agenda for further discussion.

Academic Excellence Recognition – Mindy Baumgartner

After discussion, clarification was reached concerning recognizing academic excellence for Ferris students. The Office of the Provost/VPAA will send out a congratulatory letter during the summer to students who achieved a 4.0 for the academic year (fall/spring semesters). The 4.0 achievement represents the recognition of a higher standard of academic excellence than in the past. The colleges will continue to recognize academic excellence by sending a congratulatory letter each semester to students who made the Academic Dean's List (GPA of 3.5 or higher). Some colleges presently host an awards banquet or another special event to recognize their students' academic achievements and will continue to do so. Don Green and Extended & International Operations will also determine how academic excellence is celebrated at Ferris satellite campuses. This discussion reiterated the importance that academic recognition take place on a consistent and regular basis throughout the Division of Academic Affairs.

General Education Taskforce

Don Flickinger shared a draft document of student learning outcomes which is planned to be presented to the Academic Senate. He asked the DC review the criteria and send their feedback to him.

FNTFO Negotiations

Don Flickinger gave a brief FNTFO negotiation update report.

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Dean Searches Update

Fritz Erickson discussed the FLITE dean search that has recently taken place, as well as the open dean searches in the Colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences and Engineering Technology. He anticipates that airport interviews will begin in early February for these open searches.

Student Debt Discussion

Fritz Erickson discussed the issue of student debt and discussed the fact that student debt can be incurred through costs over and above tuition and fees. It is important to review total cost structures. Contributing factors to these costs can include, for example, the length of the student's stay while in higher education, the debt incurred by a student prior to enrolling at FSU, the length of a degree offering, and/or the amount of discrete programming offered, costs of tools and/or supplies, etc. He raised the question of what could be done to help reduce costs while maintaining programmatic stability. We need to review issues in regards to programming and curricular structures. President Eisler will join a future Deans Council meeting to discuss this issue.

One-Time Equipment Lists

Kim Wilber will be discussing one-time equipment information with the Provost and Associate Provosts.

Faculty Request for Reduced Workload Procedures

Kim Wilber will distribute a checksheet to the colleges that will identify procedures required for a faculty to request a reduced work load.

Schedule Information

Kim Wilber will be on maternity leave during May and June. The Provost's Office is working on formulating a plan to have two administrative assistants assist with processing some paperwork in Kim's absence.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Hoisington