

Academic Assembly
November 26, 2012
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: David Arnesen, Brenda Broussard, Mason Bryan, Margaret Chon, Carol Wolfe Clay, Karen Cowgill, Isiaah Crawford, Tito Cruz, Lynn Deeken, Bill Ehmann, Terry Foster, Sonora Jha, Bill Kangas, Chuck Lawrence, Kristi Lee, Michael Matriotti, Sean McDowell, Erik Olsen, Roshanak Roshandel, Chris Stipe, Jeremy Stringer

Visiting: Alexander Mouton, Quinton Morris, Em Olson, Trung Pham, Josef Venker, SJ

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review of 11-5-12 Minutes
 - A. Correction: revise III, G, 4 to read: "AcA will be informed about the larger budget ramifications of this proposal in advance of a final decision"
 1. AcA is consulted about budgets, but does not formally vote to approve budget decisions
 2. The Budget Advisory Committee is arranging to meet regularly with the CFO and report back to AcA
 3. AcA can also request that the CFO be a guest to discuss the university budget
 - B. Add addendum to minutes: Pivot MBA is now Bridge MBA
 - C. Minutes approved with one abstention, with the two revisions noted
- II. Introduction of Bill Ehmann, Associate Provost for Research and Graduate Education (new position)
 - A. Background
 1. From Mercy College, located in the NY metropolitan area with 11,000 students
 2. Ph.D. in Biology from Utah State University
 3. History of successful grantsmanship
 - B. Priorities
 1. Advance research and scholarly enterprise
 - a. Oversee ORSSP and IRB
 - b. Coordinate across campus for a more streamlined research process
 2. Serve as a galvanizing force for graduate education
 - a. Interdisciplinary, strategic, collaborative, overarching university approach
 - b. Voice and champion for graduate students
 - c. Develop university conversations about graduate and professional education
 - d. Work with deans and faculty to engage cross-school/college strategic planning
- III. Strategic Planning Council Updates (*Bob Dullea, Jackie Helfgott, Chris Paul and Therese Cory*)
 - A. Preliminary report incorporates previous planning processes, Hardwick Day environmental scan, and comparison to peer institutions
 1. Proposed plan will go into effect February 2013
 2. The plan is for 5 years, but may change along the way, so a realistic timeframe is 3-5 years
 - B. Market Research
 1. Survey of potential consumers within commuting distance
 2. Assessment of program appeal at different price points

- 3. Demographics, labor market, online/hybrid education possibilities
- C. Technology
 - 1. Concern about technology budget and implementation
 - a. Need to ensure oversight of the prices and integrate software and hardware upgrades strategically
 - b. Should not have one size fits all technology solution because needs vary widely across campus
 - c. Instructors should be included in the technology design process
 - 2. Technology goal is deliberately vague in order to allow flexibility as the discussion develops
- D. MOOCs
 - 1. This is an area where we can match our strengths and distinctive elements with external needs
 - 2. Online, hybrid courses, certificates, badges, free and open education all need to be analyzed
- E. General Feedback
 - 1. The strategic goals read like questions that need to be answered instead of concrete goals that can be built upon
 - a. For example, “development of innovative and responsive educational offerings”
 - b. The goals are somewhat open-ended due to the expedited nature of this process
 - c. There may need to be a more in-depth planning process to build out the goals after this expedited process
 - 2. The report should include more emphasis on what we already do well: traditional, liberal arts, in-person education
 - a. These areas need to be supported so that we maintain our strengths and do not overextend people into new strategic areas
 - b. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that companies that hired MBAs were pleased with their business skills, but need graduates who also have humanities, ethics, writing, clear and persuasive speaking skills (i.e. our graduates)
 - 3. There needs to be a stronger statement of linkage between the ASAP and the SPC Preliminary Report
- IV. AcA Appointment to University Rank and Tenure Committee
 - A. Nominee Tayyab Mahmud, School of Law
 - 1. Ph.D. in Political Science and J.D.
 - 2. Outspoken and a good mission fit
 - B. Appointment approved with no abstentions
- V. Proposed 5% Budget Cut
 - A. Multiple Budget Challenges
 - 1. Stabilized undergraduate enrollment over the last several years, now the graduate enrollment has become challenging and volatile
 - a. This year we experienced a 9% drop in graduate enrollment/student credit hours, which equates to about \$1M in budget revenue
 - b. AY13-14 will probably have a similar drop
 - 2. Student housing revenues were about \$1M lower than expectations (budgeted for 1870 students, got 1680)
 - 3. There are other bills and commitments such as market equity (\$1.5M next year) and annual merit pool (\$3M)

4. Technology infrastructure needs such as wifi dead zones require equipment upgrades (\$1M in FY14)
 5. Student tuition and financial aid issues
 - a. Tuition increase was 5.5% for this year, aiming to less than 5% for next year
 - b. Need to increase financial aid available to continuing undergraduate and graduate students
 - c. Employers have reduced benefits to employees for professional education and development and we need to address these needs in a systematic way
- B. Moving Forward
1. Every area of the university was asked to bring forward a budget that shows a 5% reduction for FY14
 2. Within Academic Affairs, budget cuts will be made to support the aims of the ASAP as well as the strategic priorities within the schools/colleges
 3. Gearing up for capital campaign
 4. Encouraging colleges/schools to use their gift accounts to promote academic and research endeavors
- C. AcA Discussion
1. The university leadership has asked all divisions of the university to put forward a five percent reduction scenario; no area of the university is exempt from engaging in this process
 2. The guide for reduction decisions will be how to best promote our strategic endeavors, such as the ASAP
 3. The timing of the proposed reduction request was inconvenient, since it was after the departments had already submitted their normal budgets. This was due to the unanticipated expenses challenges and expenses that arose.
 4. The Graduate SEP needs to develop realistic goals for FY14, including a reasonable tuition increase
 5. Within schools/colleges, there may be a reduction of funds for part time and full time non-tenure track faculty to teach extra sections
 6. In a department that has most of their budget in tenure track lines with very little non-salary, the 5% cut may mean that a large amount of their non-salary funds disappear
- VI. Proposed Guidelines for Course Syllabi
- A. Incorporated AcA suggestions, now request AcA members to distribute to faculty in schools/colleges for feedback
 - B. NWCCU requires that all learning outcomes are clearly available to students