

Academic Assembly
June 2, 2014
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Jeffrey Anderson, David Arnesen, Brooke Coleman, Karen Cowgill, Isiaah Crawford, Tito Cruz, Bill Ehmann, Terry Foster, Jan Hartley, Chuck Lawrence, Sean McDowell, Erik Olsen, Katherine Raichle, Roshanak Roshandel, Rob Rutherford, Heath Spencer, John Strait, Toni Vezeau

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review of 5-19-14 Minutes
 - A. Approved with two abstentions
- II. Core Director Position
 - A. Two candidates: Kate Koppelman and Tom Taylor
 - B. Open forum for each candidate with a feedback survey
 - C. For those who cannot attend but wish to comment, email Erik Olsen
- III. Planning for Financial Excellence (*Connie Kanter*)
 - A. Context
 - 1. Financially stable with net assets growing and generation of operating surpluses, however, tuition-dependent with significant deferred maintenance and substantial long-term debt
 - 2. Looking ahead
 - a. Comprehensive financial management with year round calendar, actual results versus budget, current resource allocation, assessment and analysis
 - b. Aligning financial planning with strategic plan and capital campaign
 - B. FY14 highlights
 - 1. Continued communication of financial information across campus
 - 2. Additional financial reports to deans and VPs (5 year over/under reporting of actual versus budget and gift balances)
 - 3. Implemented new faculty codes for improved clarity
 - 4. Year-round financial calendar development including capital planning and mid-year financial forecasts
 - 5. Comprehensive Financial Model in development to identify revenues and expenses, taking into account space cost and overhead
 - 6. Strategic Facilities 10 year plan on how to finance new facilities with new debt, capital campaign, and capital reserves
 - C. FY15 budget
 - 1. Built on recent planning activities such as the Graduate Strategic Enrollment Plan, 160 over 90 branding, capital campaign planning, Academic and Career Advising Task Force, and facilities strategic plan
 - 2. Challenges include modest revenue growth in FY15, FY14 budget reductions, and opportunities for investment far exceeding resources available
 - 3. Prioritization and Resource Allocation
 - a. Identified priorities for investment (Cabinet and Budget Advisory Committee were very similar in priorities)
 - b. Determined funding for highest priorities in operating budget

- c. Allocated capital reserves for capital projects
 - 4. Enrollment
 - a. Large undergraduate class is graduating, bringing our undergraduate enrollment revenue down slightly overall for FY15
 - b. Graduate enrollments are all growing (except Law – national trend)
 - 5. Operating Expenses
 - a. Focused on initiatives that will generate revenue
 - b. Delayed funding for enterprise-wide ERP system and Center for Integrated Academic and Career Advising; did not increase capital reserves; only partially funded those requests that were funded
 - c. New funding allocated for physical infrastructure, visibility and marketing, technology, COPE/CNS, campaign, faculty and academic support, public safety
- D. Discussion
 - 1. New faculty codes were developed, Connie will follow up with explanation of those codes
 - 2. Public safety budget increases based upon an independent consulting firm that found major room for improvement
 - 3. Committees for financial excellence model does not include faculty membership because they do not involve resource allocation decisions
 - 4. No information on how much the university is spending on the union issue
 - 5. Request for faculty to be more involved in the budget decision-making process
 - a. AcA representatives on Budget Advisory Committee cannot provide reports to AcA due to confidentiality, so AcA often does not have enough financial information to make decisions on important issues
 - b. Opportunities for input throughout the year on the Budget Advisory committee
 - c. Connie will give more thought to the confidentiality issue and how to provide AcA with information needed to make decisions

IV. Ombudsperson Report (*McKenna Lang*)

- A. The Ombudsperson office charter
 - 1. Four key principles
 - a. Independence – rooted in principles of democracy, outside power structure
 - b. Neutrality – objective, impartial, no advocacy for faculty or administration
 - c. Informality – soft powers, no formal authority
 - d. Confidentiality – no fear of retaliation
 - 2. Edited and structured by Charles Howard, leading U.S. expert
 - 3. The office is a “safe harbor” for all visitors
- B. Discussion
 - 1. Office of notice
 - a. The current version of the charter does not recognize the ombudsperson office as the office of notice in a legal sense (conflicts with confidentiality principle)
 - b. Office of notice invokes federal legal obligations and timeline for institutional response
 - c. Majority of universities do not hold ombudsperson as office of notice
 - d. Request to consult with HR and university counsel to clarify and ensure full compliance with state and federal legislation
 - e. Some federal statutes for mandatory reporting apply regardless of office and these are cross-referenced in the charter
 - 2. Privilege language should be clarified

- 3. Annual report with number of cases heard, summary of outcomes, etc. will be distributed to AcA
 - C. Motion for AcA to support the idea that the office of the ombudsperson not become an office of notice
 - 1. Approved with one abstention
 - D. McKenna will return with a revised document in fall quarter after consulting with appropriate offices on campus to clarify language around office of notice and privilege
- V.** AcA Membership AY2014-15
 - A. On the Program Review Committee, it is problematic to have the chair be an AcA VP since the term is only one year and PRC needs more continuity of leadership
 - B. Defer voting until June 9, after nominees are notified
- VI.** Review AcA Annual Report Draft
 - A. A new draft with further edits will be sent to AcA via email
 - B. Suggested edits can be sent to AcA officers this week until Thursday at 5pm
 - C. Final version will be distributed June 6, for review at June 9 meeting
- VII.** University Sponsored Academic Programs
 - A. Review shifted to the first meeting in fall quarter
 - B. Email feedback on document to Chuck Lawrence
- VIII.** Additional Meeting Added June 9
 - A. Review Law School candidate to University Rank and Tenure Committee
 - B. Clarify course release issues for AcA officers
 - C. Ombudsperson charter
 - D. AcA Annual report