

Meeting Minutes of the April 12, 2011 Deans' Council

In attendance: Mike Cron, Steve Durst, Don Flickinger, Cheryl Cluchey for Don Green, Jule Coon, Reinhold Hill, Robin Hoisignton, Michelle Johnston, Ron McKean, Leah Monger, David Nicol, Bill Potter, Kim Wilber, Maude Bigford and Brian Craig

Guest Maude Bigford discussed the Honors Program and outlined her thoughts regarding what could be done for our Honors students to help give them a deeper, more interconnected academic experience that would challenge and inspire them. She encouraged open discussions among the deans and asked for input and support to allow growth and change of the Honors Program over the course of the next few years. She discussed ideas including the creation of a group of themed courses to help make it easier for students to absorb information; the addition of Honors courses to comprise 20-25% of the coursework; and the possibility of offering of more Honors-designated Gen Ed sections. The Deans' Council agreed that it is the appropriate time to discuss taking the Honors Program forward and Maude was thanked for her attendance and discussion.

Guest Brian Craig, co-chair of the Academic Organization Core Team, gave a brief update of the Core Team activities and acknowledged the great job done by the Team on its tight schedule. The Team has been meeting on a weekly schedule and has had two Saturday retreats. The goal is to have a proposal ready to go forward to the Academic Senate in May. Core Team members have presented an overview of their college to the Team so that everyone could examine as much information about the colleges as possible. The Team has also reviewed all input received from the campus community and has noted an emphasis being placed on a desire for creating collaborations across campus and ways to help make the system work better. Dave Nicol noted the importance of having an opportunity to discuss proposed changes that may affect an area. Brian will pass this information along to the Core Team.

Steve Durst presented a justification to fill vacant Pharmacy faculty position F21512. After discussion, Don Flickinger asked for a vote to support the posting and the vote was unanimous to support posting the position.

Kim Wilber discussed the planned implementation of process that would eliminate PAFs for some faculty summer instructional assignments and outlined the planned procedures.

Kim discussed the status of the faculty equity process and asked that names be submitted to her.

Don Flickinger stated that students will need to verify their address in Banner prior to receiving their letter grade. This is a check and balance process designed to help protect the students.

Don distributed Summer 2011 Registration numbers. He relayed information regarding the very positive enrollment report for the upcoming summer semester and expressed thanks to all for their work towards reaching this goal. He then discussed federal compliance requirements that include the need to post course textbooks on the Barnes and Noble site. The Provost's Office is working on a policy letter regarding this requirement.

Don Flickinger said that the Provost's Office is working toward putting the Student Complaint Policy on the Web and will send a link to the document when it is complete.

Don gave a brief update on the adjunct faculty bargaining process. He noted that an important issue arising from negotiations is the need for better communication with the adjunct faculty members.

Don distributed the Academic Affairs Policy Letter on Internet Course Listings dated April 1, 2011 (and effective July 1, 2011) and noted that that it has been approved by the Academic Senate. Students will enter all resources linked through FerrisConnect. All on-line courses will enter via the same portal.

Don distributed the current HLC planned event chart for next weeks' HLC team visit. Mo Milzarski will email the event chart to the deans.

Michelle Johnston discussed the recent power outage in Bishop Hall and said she would like to see a contingency plan be put in place in the event of any future problems such as this and asked for thoughts and feedback from the Deans' Council. The group discussed issues including who should be responsible for paying for lost supplies (Hospitality program food supplies, etc.) due to power outages and a contingency plan for classrooms since locating readily available rooms could be difficult due to the fact that not all classrooms may be identified in the Banner system. At the end of the discussion, the group concluded that the College of Education and Human Services is the only College with need for a contingency plan for freak power outages due to the situation with the transformer that serves it and its surrounding areas.

Mike Cron said that he and four students recently attended an American Optometric Association Congressional Advocacy Conference in Washington D.C.

Cheryl Cluchey said that there is now a waiting list for Fall semester on-line courses.

Michelle Johnston was happy to announce plans to present the first Thomas Johnston memorial scholarship to be awarded soon.

Bill Potter discussed the scholarship "Jeans for Joan" that that his staff organized where they donate money for the privilege of wearing jeans to the office on Fridays. This endeavor has allowed the scholarship to currently contain an amount of \$1,200. It was organized in honor of Joan Totten for her dedicated work at the University.

Leah Monger reminded the group of today's FLITE's 10th anniversary celebration and festivities.

Julie Coon was happy to discuss the reception scheduled Friday, April 29th for the Ellen Haneline Scholarship.

Ron McKean discussed the upcoming Michigan Energy Conference. He also was pleased to discussed the CET students in the Rube Goldberg project who were featured on a recent Food Network reality program that filmed an episode in Rockford, MI.

Dave Nicol was happy to announce that the COB's Marketing RSO was recognized for being among the top 20 within 300 marketing associations during a recent national conference.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Hoisington