April 7, 2014

University Planning Council

Minutes for Monday, April 7, 2014


Absent: B. Bagwell, R. Bowen, D. Diefenbach, F. Santos, S. Walters

Guests: E. Becker, L. Hylton, E. Katz, D. Miles, M. McGee

1. Follow-up on Diversity Presentation

Chancellor Ponder thanked the Diversity Action Council (DAC) members for returning to UPC to provide another opportunity for comments and questions. Bill Haggard chaired the DAC meeting in Provost Fernandes’ absence and they discussed the questions brought up at the previous UPC meeting. DAC members responded to questions regarding:

- The process for advising/forming a new LGBT club
- How to help a transgendered student who may need counseling services.
- How we identify faculty hires from underrepresented groups.
- Whether DAC has considered focusing on voter registration efforts to affect change regarding equitable benefits
- Enhanced efforts for those underrepresented students who apply and may fall just shy of the requirements.
- When the diversity and inclusion certificate program would be available.
- Spreading the word more broadly when announcing focus groups. There are lots of students who are not in them.
- Why Safe Zone is also not well known on campus.
- Diversity efforts involved in staff recruiting.
- A recommendation that we build in the diversity education 2-day workshop for new employees as they are hired.
- Whether the Diversity Coalition model been done elsewhere.
- A thank you to the CDE for the work in creating a more welcoming and diverse environment at OLLI.

Additional questions or suggestions from UPC Members for DAC:

Question: How much control do we have over doing business with minority-owned companies and or companies that value diversity? Response: It depends. We must follow the state procurement procedures. There are few places where we have more control; community work, sole source providers, etc. We will analyze this question and provide a follow-up as a matter of information.
Question: Is DAC working with the Faculty/Staff group who support first generation college students? Response: Yes, informally through AVID Higher Ed.

Question: What support systems are in place for international students? Response: Admissions is working hard on this topic and would like to partner with DAC.

Question: Is DAC working on the topic of the technology accessibility? Response: There is a separate committee working on that topic, but DAC is involved.

Suggestion: The faculty Minority Affairs Committee should meet with DAC.

2. Recognize outgoing UPC Members

Chancellor Ponder thanked outgoing UPC members Gregg Kormanik, Leigh Whittaker and Leisa Rundquist for their service to UPC.

3. Five-Year Enrollment Plan

Shannon Earle, Marquis McGee and Provost Fernandes made a presentation on the University’s Five-Year Enrollment Plan. The presentation highlighted strengthening and diversifying admissions, enhanced advising and an affordable growth model with a focus on improving retention.

Questions from the Five-Year Enrollment Plan Presentation:

Question: It’s good to learn about the focus on increasing the number of faculty positions. Will we still rely on the traditional way that faculty lines are allocated to us? Can we recover the 3.5 faculty lines that we lost during the recession? Response: Yes, we have rejoined that trajectory and should be where we need to be by fall. In the fall, UPC should review the enrollment report and get updated on recruitment and the budgetary impact.

Clarification: The Five-year enrollment plan goal is based on FTE. The goal is 3,500 full-time students.

Question: Is the retention goal focusing on first-year students. Response: Yes, the data trends correlate as the student advances.

Question: Do transfer students count as first-year students? Response: No, transfer students do not count as first-year students. Transfer students have a better retention rate. They tend to expedite on a path to graduation.

Question: Do we know how many of our current students attended our Super Saturday program as children? Response: If students fill out the UNC Asheville application, then yes, it includes that question (have you ever attended a UNC Asheville program). But, if the student filled out the common application, then no, it does not have that question. Annie Burton in Admissions is working on that issue to better track those numbers.

4. Chancellor update and closing remarks

Chancellor Ponder described the rescission information that the campus received. Our general good stewardship has helped us, but we were still surprised. Most of those dollars are already committed. This rescission works out to 1.25%. There should be no job losses as a result of this one-time budget cut. It will be invisible to students, and mostly invisible to the rest of campus. We are focusing efforts on making sure this rescission does become permanent.
As this was the Chancellor’s last meeting, she reminded the group that the University Planning Council revived itself soon after she started at UNC Asheville. The Chancellor said that UPC represents a philosophical discourse; an opportunity to speak your mind. UPC focuses on planning for the University and includes faculty, staff, students, administrators with an agenda that's planned by the IDC Chair and the Chancellor. The style has worked well, and Chancellor Ponder recommends that it continue after her retirement. She said that UPC members would know which topics should be brought to the table. She asked that UPC members make sure that everyone at the table gets their voices heard.

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