December 9, 2014

University Planning Council

Minutes for Tuesday, December 9, 2014


Absent: J. Dunsmore, M. McClure, K. Ray, D. Torres, G. Trautmann, J. Whalen

Guest: L. Spaight

The meeting convened at 4:34 p.m.

1. Chancellor’s Update

Chancellor Orr commended the group on their report and suggested it should be a living document – one that is used and active going forward, to be revisited and updated as needed. He will use the document in making remarks to the Board of Trustees at its December 2014 meeting and also when he meets with President Ross later this month.

He suggested that especially significant in the report is the celebration of the university’s unique mission and the sense of community. Both are critical to the ongoing success of the university. Regarding the section on challenges, the issues of growth and graduate programs are likely to be the most pressing and it will be important to have discussions on these issues, and not to ignore or back away from them.

He called on Melodie Galloway for additional comments.

Melodie Galloway asked Council members to continue to provide feedback, especially on the role of UPC. She challenged the group to consider the following questions:

- In considering the role of UPC, listed under item #6, “UPC is the interface between the executive level and the rest of campus:” What will this look like? How will it happen? What kind of communication exchange needs to be set up for this to be effective?
- In considering UPC as a Think Tank: The group could be a catalyst for new ideas and a way to challenge old assumptions. Chancellor Orr agreed and noted that the HUB Alliance plays this role for the community – a place for visioning, a facilitator, a connector – not a group that tries to change everything on its own.
- Campus Master Planning – Ms. Galloway asks if this group might do more than vetting/prioritizing. What if we originate ideas, identify needs, dream of what the next vision of campus might be?
- Help with listening tour for Chancellor Grant. UPC, with its diverse membership in the community, is a good group to provide information about the campus. She recommends that students be among the first people for meetings with the chancellor.
She wants to revise the UPC document before presenting it to Chancellor-elect Grant.

Other UPC members made additional comments on the role of UPC:

- Emphasis on the advisory role
- Better opportunities for members to build relationships – faculty with staff; perhaps incorporating work at a subcommittee level for percolating ideas.
- Campus Master Planning. The last plan was completed in 2005-06 and while it could be helpful to complete another plan, it would be very costly. In the recent past, we have looked at the most urgent needs. Growth and capacity are the big questions for the future – what capacity do we have to grow the enrollment? It could require additional classroom space, residence space, dining space, technology and also human capacity (faculty, facilities workers, etc.)

For its first meeting with Chancellor Grant, the group suggested the following as possible questions to be considered:

- Is there a similar group at MCLA? What types of advisory bodies does she work with there?
- What questions do you have about UNC Asheville?
- What would you like to know from us? How can we be most helpful?

Melodie Galloway expressed the group’s great appreciation to Doug Orr for his work.

Chancellor Orr affirmed the group’s role in identifying issues and representing the campus. He suggested that the group could be extremely helpful in maintaining the sense of community for the campus. As challenges and stresses arise, for the community to be authentic, things must get prickly at times. “Prickly” doesn't necessarily mean something is wrong.

Chancellor Orr shared the lyrics to Leonard Cohen's “Anthem:” “There is a crack in everything - that's how the light gets in.” He wished the group well in its future work with Chancellor Grant.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm

Return to UPC Minutes