February 17, 2014

University Planning Council

Minutes for February 17, 2014

Present: Buffy Bagwell, Rob Bowen, Jeff Brown, Lane Brown, Don Diefenbach, Shannon Earle, Catherine Frank, Bill Haggard, Gregg Kormanik, Nicole Norian, Ellen Pearson, John Pierce, Anne Ponder, Keith Ray, Christine Riley, Leisa Rundquist, Scott Walters, Leigh Whittaker

Absent: Melodie Galloway, Fred Santos, Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, Jane Fernandes, Jessica Dunsmore

Guests: Lynn Spaight, Rob Nelson, Sonia Marcus, Joy Flora, Jill Moffitt, two students from the Student Environmental Center

UPC met from 4:15 to 5:30 pm in HIG 104.

1. The Chancellor’s update:
   a. She asked for a moment of silence for student Claire Milner, who was killed in an auto accident earlier in the day.
   b. She also called on Christine Riley to provide a brief update on the Chancellor Search Process.
   c. Chancellor Ponder reported on the recent undergraduate research presentations by our students at Research Triangle Park (RTP). The event was put together by the CEO of RTP and our University Advancement Division as a way to demonstrate how our institution serves the state of North Carolina. The presenters and their research impressed the audience; the event helped to make UNC Asheville students and faculty more visible to new audiences and organizations in the Triangle area.

2. Sonia Marcus, new Director of Sustainability who started in fall 2013, reported on her analysis of UNC Asheville’s status in sustainability:
   a. There is not yet a complete inventory on what we are currently doing. The Strategic Plan has some metrics in place for some items but it does not include all aspects of sustainability. There are probably more things that can be measured and possibly better measurement tools.
      i. Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is one tool being considered. It is an industry standard that will help us compare ourselves to other campuses. We will participate in it for the first time to establish our baseline metrics.
      ii. Carbon Map is a measurement of Greenhouse Gas consumption, and something we may consider doing.
   b. Sustainable efforts are involved in almost every level of campus life but not in a cohesive, coordinated way. Many don’t know of others’ efforts. We can address that.
   c. Going forward, Ms. Marcus will work with the Student Environmental Center as they set some base line goals and strategies.
   d. In March she will launch a Sustainability Council, made up of faculty and staff who are involved
in all aspects of sustainability, to serve in an advisory capacity to the sustainability function. This group will help guide, prioritize, communicate and elevate sustainability efforts in the years ahead.

Ms. Marcus answered questions and received advice from committee members.

3. Rob Nelson gave an update on the Campus Master Planning process. He provided the background of the planning process since 2010. The focus on improving the sense of place and wayfinding is being addressed with the signage project. Phase I is completed and Phase II is in process. The need to streamline and coordinate sustainability efforts on campus is now being addressed through the efforts of Sonia Marcus and the Sustainability Council to coordinate and chart a path for the future.

One of the other uses of a Campus Master Plan [CMP] is to plan for new uses of land, especially when campus property is expanded. The campus has recently expanded with property along Broadway and Zilicoa. There is additional funding from the state that can only be used for the purchase of property; once we know what property we own, that would be a logical time for a full Master Plan to be considered. A fully comprehensive Campus Master Plan created by an outside consultant could cost as much as $500,000. It would be the decision of the next chancellor whether to undertake such a project. If an urgent need presents itself, the CMP group has developed Guiding Principles that can be used to assess the space in question and its suitability for the purpose proposed.

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