November 18, 2014

University Planning Council

Minutes for Tuesday, November 18, 2014


Absent: L. Brown, J. Dunsmore, F. Santos, J. Urgo

Guests: R. Straub, L. Spaight

1. Chancellor’s Update

Chancellor Orr asked members to review the notes from the October 21, 2014, UPC break-out groups. The discussions fell in two primary categories:

- To further define the role of UPC going forward
- To determine issues of highest priority in the transition to new leadership

Melodie Galloway noted that she hoped we could focus on two major themes:

- What do we celebrate?
  - Face-to-face teaching; not just in small classrooms, even in large classrooms
  - Committed faculty and staff who care about students, know their names, work one-on-one with them.
  - Sense of community (also a challenge for some academic departments)
- What are our challenges?
  - Student retention
  - Faculty workload
  - Staffing issues
  - Budget constraints

2. Review of October UPC Discussion Notes

Chancellor Orr asked for additional comments regarding last month’s discussion:

The Role of UPC

1. UPC should be a proactive rather than reactive resource for the chancellor
2. The interconnections with other campus groups should be explored. We should provide Chancellor Grant with a list of all campus groups.
3. Should be a forward looking, higher level council exploring priorities and not, for example, the
There should be broader understanding on campus of UPC’s purpose and role.
5. Use the group to coordinate campus-wide initiatives – like environmental sustainability and diversity – and make them a part of every aspect of campus.
6. It’s important to incorporate strategic thinking, to explore and develop campus preferences before getting boxed in by outside influences.
7. UPC is the interface between the executive level and the rest of campus; a way to have input when there is still time to make a difference; a way to learn administrative priorities and changes that are coming.
8. UPC could play a role in “Confronting the Brutal Facts,” a concept from the book, *Good to Great*. We could help Chancellor Grant understand the challenges of the political landscape, finances, enrollment challenges, graduate programs, etc.
9. We could help Chancellor Grant by outlining what UPC has accomplished over the last nine years.

**Student Retention**

1. Provide more opportunities for student employment for better affordability; helps students gain job experience also.
2. We are getting better at hosting multiple events; this gives more opportunities for community members to come to campus and helps keep our students more involved in campus life.

**Community Engagement**

1. Community engagement was a UNC Tomorrow strategy that could be a higher priority for UNC Asheville. Faculty are finding more ways to be more connected to Asheville and that is a benefit to all – students, faculty and the community. Community engagement could be a topic for a future UPC discussion.
2. Graduate programs are of interest to many in the community. The addition of new programs would have an impact on every aspect of the university.
3. This could be a time to strengthen our relationship with Western Carolina University.
4. Asheville is a growing city with lots of needs. How can we meet those needs, especially in a time of limited finances?
5. There are some opportunities for a downtown Asheville presence. How would that be important for UNC Asheville and what are the challenges?
6. A community listening tour could be a high priority for the new chancellor to hear community concerns and issues.

Chancellor Orr invited members to email additional thoughts on the topics and priorities so that a draft document can be prepared for the December UPC meeting. Professor Galloway will gather Faculty Senate reflections and perspectives.

**Additional meeting suggestions were made:**

- UPC is a large group and it is difficult for everyone to have a chance for input. Having at least one break-out group discussion per year would be energizing and give more chance for input.
- A room with more ambiance, such as Laurel Forum, might make for better discussions.
- Reserve the last few minutes at end to share what we are all doing. For example,
  - SGA is collaborating on It’s on Us, an initiative to end sexual assault by influencing bystander behavior.
  - The Humanities Program is hosting a program by Chancellor Orr on his new book *Wayfaring Strangers* this evening.
Tomorrow, 11/20, is employee recognition day with a faculty/staff breakfast 7-9 am, a recognition ceremony in the afternoon, and men’s basketball in the evening.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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