September 26, 2013

University Planning Council

Minutes for September 26, 2013

In attendance: Anne Ponder, Gregg Kormanik, Rob Bowen, Melodie Galloway, Keith Ray, Don Diefenbach, Scott Walters, Ellen Pearson, Shannon Earle, Jane Fernandes, John Pierce, Bill Haggard, Christine Riley, Jessica Dunsmore, Jeff Brown, Nicole Norian

Absent: Fred Santos, Catherine Frank, Ann Martin, Leigh Whittaker, Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, Buffy Bagwell

Staff: Elizabeth Becker

1. Chancellor Ponder welcomed new and returning members of UPC. She reviewed the structure of the group.

   a. UPC is the only group on campus that includes Faculty, Staff, Students, Chancellor and Vice Chancellors.

   b. Structure of the group is described in university policy and faculty governance, and is primarily advisory to the Chancellor on planning issues.

   c. UPC is centrally responsible for the implementation of the strategic plan. Five years in, we're updating the benchmarks, which we will discuss in the next meeting.

   d. Though the Chancellor is chair of the UPC and the ICD Chair serves as co-chair, they share responsibility for leading the meetings. The goal is to make room for all of the advice and all the voices across campus.

   e. IDC Chair, Gregg Kormanik, Christine Riley, Chief of Staff, and Chancellor Ponder jointly develop an agenda in advance of each meeting.

   f. Chancellor Ponder invited absent members to submit topics for the group's work in the coming academic year.

2. Gregg Kormanik welcomed the group. UPC is a great opportunity for us to hear perspectives and ideas from across campus. IDC links the Faculty Senate to UPC, this larger planning group. He offered anyone to contact him individually, that his door is always open.

3. Chancellor's Update:

   a. The budget for the University will be difficult and tight, but manageable. The UNC system received a 4.5 % cut; UNC Asheville's cut was 1.6 %. We, along with a few other special-mission
campsuses, were protected from the “management flexibility” cut. We expect that all State budgets will be less flexible than they are now, so if there are important hires or commitments/expenditures, the advice is to make them happen in the fall semester.

The Board of Governors has been reviewing school missions. Chancellor Ponder, after conferring with UPC and the Board of Trustees, confirmed with BOG that there was no update or change required to our mission.

UNC Asheville received a $2 million allocation specifically for use with a land acquisition. Since the allocation was announcement, adjacent land owners have offering us opportunities to acquire land. The land acquisition process includes approval from the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, Office of State Property, Council of State, and the Attorney General's Office. The University will work prudently but quickly to proceed with a purchase that is to our best, long-term advantage.

b. Faculty member, Chris Oakley, has had a recent public triumph with a Lincoln photo discovery. It has received great national and international press: ABC News, PBS, BBC, etc.

UNC Asheville successfully launched two new academic degrees this fall, Art History and Jazz and Contemporary Music.

c. The Food for Thought Cluster won the National 2013 William E. Bennett Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Citizen Science from the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement award.

d. OLLI celebrated their 25th anniversary, and celebrated 10 years in the Reuter center.

e. The Unified Campaign has started on campus. Chancellor Ponder encouraged UPC members who are able to contribute to scholarships.

f. Chancellor Ponder and Provost Fernandez are holding faculty listening tours this fall and next spring. There is no agenda; just an opportunity to hear from faculty members.

g. A new campus master calendar has been launched. The calendar will allow for easier scheduling and management of facilities. It can also guide heating and cooling, inform emergency management and public safety, etc.

h. UNC General Administration began looking at Internal Audit as an area that might be centralized. Thanks to Monique Taylor’s superb work, she and the auditors from Western Carolina University and Appalachian State University have developed a peer-to-peer review process. In addition, UNC schools are required to perform a Quality Assurance Review of the Internal Audit process. Unlike other UNC campuses that used outside experts, Monique Taylor recruited two members of her national peer group, ACUA, to complete this intensive review at a fraction of the cost. This review was highly successful, although in “audit speak” the highest rating is stated as "Generally Conforms."

Questions from the Chancellor’s update:

a. Do you foresee a hiring freeze in January? What about retiring faculty? What is your advice? Expedite the search? We cannot predict what will happen. We will move forward on a case by case basis until we have more definitive guidance. In the meantime, proceed with searches as normal.

b. Purchases by Foundation versus State can be faster and be more responsive. What is their involvement? Chancellor Ponder responded that we are engaging the Foundation in the process. But, they have limits to their capacity as well. There is a unified priority list and plan moving forward.
c. How do you see UPC's involvement with how money will be used in land development? UPC would be a constituent that would be consulted by the Campus Master Plan Working Group about what we might do with the land once we acquire it.

d. Is it prudent to acquire this property before we have developed a master plan? We are further along in the campus master planning process than we were previously. In the past 3-4 years, we developed a Campus Master Plan steering committee and a working group. The working group listened to hundreds of people from groups across campus. They developed guiding principles and identified key areas for improvement, some of which could be addressed in-house. The budget was such that we could not move forward with a full master plan. We started with wayfinding/signage improvements and sustainability planning. The start time for a comprehensive master plan is still approximately a year away. By then, we will know what land we have and can plan together what to do with it.

e. Are we far enough over the budget crises to begin to take a look at all of our land and potential land uses? A proposal for a campus master plan development would likely go to the Board of Trustees at their summer retreat and would begin possibly by Fall 2014.

4. Review of University Strategy for Resource Allocation 2013-15: In 2008 when we headed into the budget situation, we moved from needing a strategy for resource investment and funding priorities to one of priorities for strategic preservation. This document, as it is updated, is posted on the Strategic Planning webpages and the budget management webpages. This is the third reading of this draft by UPC. Chancellor Ponder asked for feedback. UPC discussed revisions and came to a consensus on changes. UPC voted to approve the document as revised.

5. Topics developed in planning the work for UPC in 2013-14:
   a. Review of updated Strategic Plan Benchmarks
   b. Understanding UNC Performance Measures
   c. Admissions: Five-Year Enrollment Plan
   d. Diversity Programs -- Understanding What We're Already Doing
   e. Sustainability : Ideas and Direction
   f. Do we have the right roster of topics to assure Academic Quality?

6. Chancellor Ponder thanked the group for the discussions. If members have additional topic ideas or other feedback, send them to Gregg Kormanik, Christine Riley or the Chancellor.

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