September 9, 2014

University Planning Council

Minutes for Tuesday, September 9, 2014


Absent: F. Santos

Guests: L. Spaight

1. Introductory remarks

Chancellor Orr welcomed everyone and asked UPC members to introduce themselves, as there are new members and continuing members in the group. He noted that he is in his second week as interim chancellor and he is honored to have been selected as the interim chancellor.

Chancellor Orr reported that was co-chair of the chancellor search committee and believes that Chancellor-elect Grant is a great choice for UNC Asheville; not only her credentials and experience but also her leadership style will make for a good fit for the campus. There will be changes and that can be a challenge. He hopes to use his experience and time here to help with a smooth transition.

He would like the members of UPC to share their insights and experience about chancellor transitions at the October UPC meeting, which will be focused on the transition. Dr. Galloway emphasized again the desire to have everyone’s voice heard regarding the challenges and positive aspects about the changes occurring on campus – not just the chancellor, there is also a new Provost and new leadership in the faculty senate.

The October UPC meeting to include break-out groups so that small groups can discuss the transition and their suggestions. After the discussions, a final plan can be drawn up for review. UPC members are invited to give some thought to what they might like to share with the group. This could include all the types of transitions occurring - campus, Asheville, North Carolina, societal, etc. Chancellor Orr will share some mega-trends in higher education that include new learning modalities and technologies. Dr. Galloway suggested that members could send her an email with suggestions on things to be considered at the meeting.

2. Budget update

On day two of his chancellorship, Chancellor Orr participated in the UNC Administrative Council meeting with all the UNC Chancellors and President Ross. Of special note in that meeting was the discussion about the budget and a request to submit proposals for 2015-16 budget cuts within a very tight timeframe. He called on John Pierce for additional information.
John Pierce reported that when the university first received the budget guidelines for the 2015-16 fiscal year, each campus was asked to submit a proposed budget showing a 2% budget cut by October 31. At today’s CFO meeting, finance officers were asked to prepare three different scenarios: a 2% cut, 3% cut and 4% cut and to submit that cut by September 26. Before submitting this new information, Chancellor Orr would like to ask UPC to review and offer guidance on the proposal.

In order to do this, he has asked for a special UPC meeting for **Tuesday, September 23 at 4:00 pm in HIG 104** for as many as can attend.

John Pierce responded to questions:

- Can tuition money be used to offset cuts? Don’t know yet.
- If our enrollment increases, can we use those funds to offset the cut? Don’t know yet.
- Will students be on the committee to review the proposal? Yes.
- Is there any wiggle room? Don’t know. In the past we have not had to participate in all the cuts imposed on other campuses because of our status as a smaller campus. That “hold harmless” clause expires on June 30, 2015, and we do not know if those provisions will be extended.

Chancellor Orr noted that UPC members will be kept informed as the plan goes forward. He appreciates the members of UPC being willing to help in the planning of this proposal.

### 3. University Strategy for Resource Allocation

Chancellor Orr shared the University Strategy for Resource Allocation guide that was developed by UPC to guide the administration in preparation for making budgetary decisions for the 2013-15 biennium. This guide recommends that student learning and the overall student experience take priority when determining where budget cuts will be made. He asked UPC members to review the document to see if the priorities are still right for us as we prepare for the September 23 special meeting.

In his closing remarks, Chancellor Orr noted that the budget cut decision is likely not the only hurdle to be overcome during this transition time. It is easy to get frustrated with decisions made downstate that we are not able to control. There are many positive things about this campus – our excellent students, great faculty, and the community of Asheville. During the chancellor search, there were 117 applications for the position, many from sitting presidents at other institutions. That is a hallmark of the reputation and attractiveness of UNC Asheville, and something to bear in mind.

[Return to UPC Minutes](#)