Tuesday, November 23, 2010 Dean's Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Mike Cron, Steve Durst, Fritz Erickson, Don Flickinger, Don Green, Julie Coon, Reinhold Hill, Michelle Johnston, Ron McKean, Leah Monger, Van Edgerton for Dave Nicol, Bill Potter, Robbie Teahen
Guests: Scott Thede, John Urbanick

IT Update

Scott Thede and John Urbanick reviewed the Executive Summary, "Combining the Technology Assistance Center and Computer Technology Services." They discussed how the reorganization or combining the TAC and CTS services was orchestrated. This included their organizational structure. They reviewed the functional focuses of their services, and the recommendations that were proposed as a result of the study they conducted. They talked about staffing changes. Their emphasis in this review was reduce, retain, invest and what they can recommend to the university a structure to provide needed services.

One dean asked how the support personnel will be trained to provide support for the specialized programs that are used in the different colleges and programs? John Urbanick said they have not yet discussed training technicians in specific areas. They are in the process of determining where people will best be used.

They were asked if they had looked at reviewing the software used to insure we are not duplicating and paying for licenses that are not needed. John stated they are looking at a couple of systems that might reduce costs, but they do not yet know how this will ultimately end up. They are looking at alternatives to Novell and also LotusNotes, but we need to review these carefully. They are also reviewing 24/7 service, but if this is provided, it will be done with student support.

The question was asked that if we move to a laptop campus, would this reduce the demand on their services, and if the colleges at the same time could reduce the number of computer labs on campus? There was discussion about the type of service they would need to support this, and just what would the University feel comfortable having on the "cloud." In reducing the number of computer labs on campus, we as a university could realize computer replacement costs of $1M. Information Technology is also looking at what other universities are doing with the types of software we use in our programs.

In FLITE there is a concern when they are asked to pick up the slack by loading some of the specialized software programs on their computers. It becomes a sustainability issue for the college – especially when students are using their own lap tops and reducing the use of the labs on campus. John Urbanick will plan to meet with the Deans' Council at the beginning of the Spring Semester to review their final plans for organizing the Technical Assistance Center and Computer Technology Services. He will plan to present a progress report of how the technical support services is working.

John then reported on the transition to the new version of Ferris Connect. The FAB Committee recommended running a pilot of the new version of Blackboard Spring Semester. They will prepare a letter for faculty who want to participate in this pilot with directions for them to give to their students regarding access. Faculty will be allowed to have one course with the new version during the pilot

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Blackboard will provide online training for this along with on-site training. This is planned for the first week in January, 2011. If this pilot is successful, they plan to move ahead with the new version of Blackboard.

Off-Campus Update
Don Green gave an overview of the College of Professional and Technological Studies to everyone present. He will send a copy of the powerpoint to everyone on the Deans' Council. This presentation showed the growth opportunities for CPTS. It also gave an overview of the Extended and International Operations, CPTS, off campus sites, online, Conferences and Professional Services that are all part of CPTS. He reviewed the current regional sites along with locations they see as an opportunity for future growth. He talked about the College of Allied Health Sciences advising model that was recently implemented where there is an advisor for the east side of the state, and another advisor for the west side of the state to work with students. They believe this is working very well. He talked about their recent innovations that include centralized admission, new advisors in the northern, southeastern, and southwestern regions. He also talked about expanded financial aid services for students.

Don talked about ways to enable off-campus growth by providing support services to students that are available to students on campus.

He also talked about the growth of online courses, and future online developments that include academic program development, technical advances, instructor load model that works, and the expansion of online. He said the 1st cohort for the Community College Leadership Doctorate has started with 28 students enrolled in this program.

Don then talked about the Center for International Education and the growth they have experienced in the enrollment of international students and the growth of the study away programs they have offered. He said they experience a problem in retention of our international students, due in part to prejudice, housing, cafeteria services.

Don said CPTS is an Academic Affairs collective enterprise and we need a mechanism to support and promote off campus enterprise. The challenge is how we allow them to grow while still supporting the colleges and their programs.

Advising Recommendation
Bill Potter reviewed the Academic Advising Team Report and Recommendations with everyone present. He stated three of the five recommendations are in effect. The pre-advising for students in Arts and Sciences has been positive for students. Utilizing this program has reduced the advising load for faculty in some areas. The Deans' Council agreed to accept the recommendations of this report and implement steps to put them in place.

Review of College of Pharmacy Justification for Replacement of 2 Faculty Positions: F21510 and F21560
Steve Durst reviewed the justification for replacing the two faculty positions for Pharmacy. Fritz Erickson asked for recommendation vote from everyone present. The vote was unanimous to replace both positions.