

## DEANS' COUNCIL

### MINUTES

January 27, 2009

**Present:** Dan Burcham, Cheryl Cluchey (for Don Green), Don Flickinger, Ellen Haneline, Michelle Johnston, Matt Klein, Ian Mathiosn, Leah Monger, David Nicol, Tom Oldfield, Nancy Peterson-Klein, Bill Potter, and Robbie Teahen.

**Guests:** Gretchen Spedowske, Mike Cairns, Mike Cooper and Dana Bissett.

#### **Faculty Awards**

Gretchen Spedowske indicated that a university-wide announcement had been distributed asking for nominations for faculty awards. She encouraged the Deans and their administrators to nominate faculty and/or staff for these awards by 5:00 p.m. on February 2 (flier distributed).

#### **HLC**

Mike Cairns, Mike Cooper (Co-Chairs of HLC) and Dana Bissett (student assistance for HLC) joined the Deans for a discussion on the Higher Learning Commission criteria for accreditation..

#### **Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching**

**Core Component A** – The organization's goals for student learning outcomes are clearly stated for each educational program and make effective assessment possible.

- Assessment Fairs – Recently, faculty identified outcomes and planned effective assessment and submitted data into Tracdat.
- Student learning outcomes includes students passing State boards/exams and placement in jobs.
- Accreditations are granted for various colleges and programs.

#### **Opportunities**

- More information is needed on such things as math sequence.
- Review of pre-requisites.
- Review of repeat courses.
- Review of placement data, i.e. what programs and/or students are being surveyed.

**Core Component B** – The organization values and supports effective teaching.

- Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning assist faculty in improving their teaching.
- Ferris Connect is utilized.

#### **Opportunities**

- Need to assess Ferris Connect.

**Core Component C** – The organization creates effective learning environments.

- Funds allocated for classroom improvements.

Opportunities

- Assess if funds allocated for classroom improvements are making a difference
- Access on-line and off-campus to determine if we are providing equal learning.

**Core Component D** – The organization's learning resources support student learning and effective teaching.

- College of Business capstone courses
- Criminal Justice regional competitions always at the top.

**Criterion Four: Acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge.**

**Core Component A** – The organization demonstrates, through the actions of its Board, administrators, students, faculty and staff, that it values a life of learning.

- Many students lead inquiries
- Support for faculty development both in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and also in the colleges. Many colleges require a presentation or paper upon their return to share with their colleagues.
- Political Engagement Program
- Competitions – program specific
- Advisory Boards at the program level and college level addressing curriculum enhancement.
- Ferris Foundation Merit Grants
- Ferris Research Grants

Opportunities

- Need to be more consistent in how we promote engagement in elements of continuous learning.
- Review of tuition waivers.

**Core Component B** – The organization demonstrates that acquisition of a breadth of knowledge and skills and the exercise of intellectual inquiry are integral to its educational programs.

- Skill level proficiency

**Core Component C** - the organization assesses the usefulness of its curricula to students who will live and work in a global, diverse, and technological society.

- All programs have curricular committees to assess and change.

- Academic Program Review

**Core Component D** – The organization provides support to ensure that faculty, students, and staff acquire, discover, and apply knowledge responsibility.

- Animal Care Use Committee
- Human Services Review Committee
- Sabbatical Review Process
- FLITE

### **Criterion Five: Engagement and Service**

**Core Component A** – The organization learns from the constituencies it serves and analyzes its capacity to serve their needs and expectations.

- Internships
- Political Engagement Project
- American Democracy Project
- Advisory Committees
- Registered Student Organizations who provide funds for mission trips relative to each college.
- We respond to our national, state and local organizations.
- Reading and Learning Program
- Outreach programs in Baldwin, Traverse City, and Jackson prison
- New courses in Grand Rapids with GVSU.
- ISD articulation including special education.
- Professional development and training with migrant workers.
- Articulation with community colleges
- Dual admissions
- Crossroads writing projects
- Teach teachers to be trainers.
- Honors students required service hours.
- Math Counts
- Spaghetti Bridge Building Competition
- Welding competition for high schools.
- DECA conference
- SKILLS USA
- Developing Discover posts for 19-21 year olds in Technology.
- TVP creates videos for community
- Women in Technology work with the Girl Scouts.
- Student Government Food Drive
- MIM provides outreach
- Pharmacy students visit elementary schools and discuss medicine cabinets.

Deans' Council  
Page 4  
January 27, 2009

- Criminal Justice has capstones in corrections.
- Library utilizes a national survey (LiveQual) to review the quality of services. Following the survey a focus group is convened to discuss the results and make changes. Webpage is used to inform patrons of changes

Opportunities:

- Senior citizens constituencies have parking issues on campus.

**Core Component B** – The organization has the capacity and the commitment to engage with its identified constituencies and communities.

See above

**Core Component C** – The organization demonstrates its responsiveness to those constituencies that depend on it for service.

See above

**Core Component D** – Internal and external constituencies value the services the organization provides.

See above

Opportunity:

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of data coming from the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning on employees using their services.

**Friends of Ferris**

Friends of Ferris tickets are now available from Dr. Burcham.

**Advisory Group**

The President has asked that an advisory group be created to advise and insure that faculty have input into decision-making by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Deans asked that this item be placed on the agenda for the next joint meeting with the President's Council and Deans' Council.

### **FFA Relationship Building**

Dr. Burcham distributed a draft working document as a result of the FFA relationship building meetings that have been taking place. The meetings were called to deal with "roadblock" issues but items were placed on the agenda that were never discussed previously. Dr. Burcham then went through all 20 items on the list with the Deans.

The next relationship meeting will be February 22, 2009, where the process for negotiations will begin.

### **Sabbatical Leaves**

Don Flickinger reported that the University's Sabbatical Leave Committee has completed the process and submitted the requests in priority order. Discussion followed on how to improve this process and make it more competitive. The Deans indicated that they felt they should be in the process earlier rather than just later and also have interaction with their College's Sabbatical Review Committee.

### **Phase 5 Classrooms**

Don Flickinger indicated that he would be meeting with some of the Deans regarding Phase 5 Classroom Renovation as the RFP is in the process.

### **Coruse Matrix**

Don Flickinger indicated that the Deans are empowered to make decisions on whether a course would follow a matrix. The Registrar's Office has indicated that a large number of courses are not in the matrix.

### **Academic Affairs Officers Meeting**

Don Flickinger distributed information from the Presidents' Council Academic Affairs Officers' meeting which included more deletion of programs than new programs. He indicated that a discussion on on-line courses ensued and Grand Valley indicated that they didn't have a problem as they have very few on-line courses.

He also indicated that the Presidents' Council awards nominations need to be submitted by January 30. He asked that the Deans please consider nominating someone.

### **Announcements**

Dean Haneline reported that interviews for the last candidate for the Provost position are taking place.

Dean Klein reported that Carol Bluhm, Animal Care person, has retired and that Richard Marble will take her place.

Deans' Council  
Page 6  
January 27, 2009

**Announcements (continued)**

Dean Johnston reported that a TVP graduate, Martin Etienne, is working in Haiti and using TV to assist with keeping kids off the streets in Haiti.

Dean Potter is working with the Academic Advising Implementation Team. They are asking for a purpose statement and will do Degree Works on February 10 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. He also indicated that Felice Kelly-Nelson has broken her leg and there has been a delay in programming. A substitute has been named and the program should begin in the next couple of weeks.

Dean Peterson-Klein indicated that she is working with the architects for the new building and the Project Manager is Neuman Smith. Meetings have been held but have not included staff from MCO.

Dean Monger reported that they now have a Mac Design Center in FLITE on the second floor.

Associate Vice President Teahen reported that the Ed.D. program is progressing and that the Academic Affairs newsletter will be completed by Friday and asked that the Deans send information to her.

Assistant Vice President Flickinger reminded the Deans that there is support for Veterans. He also noted that PCAFs will be done in the next couple of days.

A recruitment initiative has been launched in the College of Engineering Technology, as well as Arts & Sciences and Education and Human Services. Dr. Burcham encouraged the other Deans to launch their own recruitment initiative as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Telfer  
Executive Secretary to the  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs