

DEANS' COUNCIL

MINUTES

August 4, 2009

Present: Fritz Erickson, Don Flickinger, Don Green, Michelle Johnston, Matt Klein, Ian Mathison, Leah Monger, Dave Nicol, Tom Oldfield, Nancy Peterson Klein, Bill Potter, Gretchen Spedowske, and Robbie Teahen.

Ferris 125th Celebration

Gretchen Spedowske distributed copies of the tentative scheduled for the 125th celebration planned for April 22 – 23, 2010. The deans reviewed the scheduled. It was suggested they start the activities at 9:00 am rather than 8:00 am on both days. The deans were reminded to submit their college plans if they want to receive any funding support from Academic Affairs.

Faculty Recognition Celebration

A handout of different options for the faculty recognition was distributed to the deans by Gretchen Spedowske. The deans reviewed the different proposals. The deans will discuss the proposals with their colleges and get back to Gretchen by August 14th with their thoughts.

The deans also reviewed the current and proposed changes to the awards. The committee reviewed the awards offered at other universities, and found that ours are comparable. It was suggested we add an Academic Scholar Award in lieu of the Academic Excellence Award. They also want to utilize publicity more with these awards. It was suggested spending the dollars to post an ad in the Chronicle of Higher Education recognizing the faculty who is awarded the distinguished teacher award. This would demonstrate nationally how Ferris' recognizes their faculty. It could be used as a recruiting tool for new faculty. It was suggested we still have the recognition for awards at the end of the Spring Semester. The Promotion/Merit awards could be recognized during faculty week just prior to Fall Semester. This will be discussed further in a future Deans' Council Meeting.

Pandemic Flu

Don Flickinger thanked the deans for submitting their college plans to him. Don said we will continue to work with the Faculty Center to learn how many faculty are trained to teach courses online. Don talked with Bill Knapp. Bill will follow up to see if there is an Adobe product that can be used within Ferris Connect that could give faculty the ability of continuing to teach from home in the event of illness. As for absences, Don talked with Paul Sullivan what the Health Center can do to facilitate students getting the necessary absence forms in the event of their having the flu. Paul stated the Health Center may very well have to this type of triage by telephone – as will doctor's offices. The Health Center may maintain a log of students who telephone them regarding flu symptoms and what they need to do to treat it. How to inform new faculty of the need for online communication between students and faculty needs to be addressed.

Conflict Resolution Committee

Don Flickinger distributed a spreadsheet to everyone present listing different policies and the processes a student should follow. This was completed by one of our student employees to see if she was able to find out what a student needs to do to find various policies, i.e., academic withdrawal, medical withdrawal, grade appeal, etc. This was to demonstrate how difficult it can be for a student to locate how to resolve an issue ~~or~~ ~~ma~~.

Strategic Alignment Planning

Fritz Erickson asked the deans about the Academic Affairs Strategic Planning process. They explained this process starts in the colleges and departments, and is pulled together for the division in our office. The already prepared draft plan will be updated.

Branding Ferris Online

Roberta Teahen distributed two reports: Online Student Credit Hours and Online Revenue and Expenses Perspective – Summer 2009 to everyone present. She reviewed these two reports along with a proposal: Creating a Brand of FerrisOnline. This is a proposal from the E-MAT (E-Learning Management Advisory Team) to improve the website. They propose to have a link on the homepage for online offerings in order to have a more visible presence for current students and also for prospective students. Robbie will prepare a summary of this proposal for Fritz to bring to the President's Council.

Assistant/Associate Dean Group

Don Flickinger asked the deans if they believed this group should meet as they did years ago. The Deans' Council agreed this group should be activated again.

Library Dean Search

Fritz Erickson announced he has decided to cancel the search, and will resume it possibly in the spring. He said Leah Monger has agreed to serve another year as the Interim Dean for FLITE. Fritz hopes to wrap up the Optometry Dean Search this week.

Contract Discussion

Don Flickinger reported the Bargaining Team met on Wednesday of last week. This initial meeting was positive and included a discussion of contract items to consider.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.