FS/Executive Council Meeting 011911

Present: Chancellor Kristensen, Dawn Mollenkopf, Rick Miller, Joe Benz, Charlie Bicak, Joe Oravecz, Curt Carlson, Barbara Johnson, Tami Moore, Aaron Dimock (sec.)

Guest: Bill Wozniak - UNKEA President

I. Bill Wozniak

The UNKEA was thinking that it would be appropriate to let staff know how much faculty appreciate them. The Union would like to join with the faculty and administration to demonstrate our appreciation during staff appreciation week, April 25-29. Plans will be made to demonstrate support for staff. Vice-Chancellor Johnson agreed to serve on a coordinating committee. Wozniak will also serve on the committee.

II. Moving forward on the recommendations from the Joint GSC/FS Council on the General Studies Program.

Recommendation 1. (Re: Distribution Outcome 1) Can be handled by the Assessment office.
Recommendation 2. (Re: Course and Instructor Effectiveness) This has some higher urgency. Review should be of the course, addressing both the syllabus and the instructor. The GSC should develop a protocol.

   Discussion: The senate’s recommendation on this point is to keep the evaluation of instructor effectiveness at the lowest level - like college level education policy and academic affairs committees.

Recommendation 3. (Re: Online Courses) The online concerns focus mostly on the portal courses. At this time the GSC has no authority to address the course format. In course review, there should be at least some review of the online classes.

   Discussion: There is no comparability between evaluation instruments for online and in-class. This issue can be taken to the deans for discussion of how best to address the concerns.

Recommendation 4. (Re: Faculty Support) This kind of support can be managed through the VCAA’s office.

III. Policy for how to fund the development of online programs.

The Business and Finance office examined the historical allocation of funds and there is a specific allocation for new program development. Online Worldwide has grants for “startup” programs.

There are some problems with the use of differential funding. We are adding courses online, but not getting the funding needed to supplement on campus instruction.

Since this is the first year of the budget model, there will be a re-evaluation of the budget model.

IV. Future of WI

Senate and administration discussed the current WI model and the degree to which change should be considered. One of the main criticisms of those supporting change is the current model’s lack of flexibility. When WI started, it was designed to promote writing across the curriculum and if that is accomplished and writing is integrated, the WI has served its purpose.
The writing is assessed at the department level. Regents, and others, will need to have the nature of the shift away from a WI course model to a departmental assessment model explained.

V. Continuing Issues with Advertisements
There are ads that pop up from some words or on some pages. There needs to be further investigation of our options.

VI. Administration Reports

Chancellor:
There has been good progress in alumni with Lucas Dart, he is shifting his attention to the capital campaign. Pete Kotsiopulos is working with the foundation and alumni association to merge the functions of these offices. Clark Rosenlof is also being brought in as support and to work on donor identification.

Regarding the budget, when the President and Legislature say we’re flat, that only relates to funds, costs continue to increase.

VCBF: The President’s announcement on the funding from the legislature warns us to be cautious. In the last year’s tuition increase, 2% was held back for needs-based allocation. Built into the funding model is allocation for the salary pool, increases in utilities, and health care costs. Since we have been working on best, mid, and worst case scenarios, we will continue to be guided by central administration to use closer and closer figures in the model. In June, we will find out the final figures and make allocation decisions.

The news is that the budget won’t be as bad as it could have been, but we will have to make decisions as to how we use the money we have.

VCAA: The Deans still have the same guiding questions that concern what we build, sustain, minimize, and eliminate.

VCBF: Cross Efficiency Committees are still working to make recommendations to minimize costs across the campuses.

VCBF:
We published the RFP for the food service. Five companies have expressed interest. Sometime in March or April the contract will be established for the next 10 years.

The RFP for laundry services is in the third phase to determine what company will manage that service.

There is a well-defined process and protocol for determining when school is opened and closed. Two thirds of our students commute, as do a number of faculty and staff.

VCUR:
The legislative process is being monitored. At the state level, we are watching the Unicameral’s decisions on funding. At the national level, the loss of earmarks is changing the way national funding will work, at least in the foreseeable future. The national team will still be visiting the national legislators to discuss other ways they can support education here.

We have increased Facebook advertising targeted to prospective students and decreased traditional advertising on billboards, radio, and television. The direct mail program with a new "variable data" capability is now more tailored to specific audiences and even individuals. The prospective student website has been modified. The change in athletic conference to the MIAA will change some of our advertising strategies to focus more on Kansas and Missouri.

We are hiring a new web developer.

Dean of Student Affairs:

Working with a crisis management team to address individual concerns and work at identifying risks. LeAnn is the point person on that. Faculty members are, historically, the ones to first identify students in crisis.

A program review is being organized.

Gail Zeller is retiring and a search is being performed.

VCAA:

LB372 is being considered and that would give universities the right to offer certificates where the preponderance of courses are above the associate level.