Executive Council Meeting with Administration. 091510

Present: Aaron Dimock (Sec.) Tami Moore, Janet Trewin, Dawn Mollenkopf, Chancellor Kristensen, SVCAA Bicak, VCBF Johnson, VCUR Carlson, DSA Oravecz.

I. Retreat with Administration
   A. Date set for 09/29/10.

   B. Discussion: We need to make the meeting as productive as possible for both faculty and administration. The schedule should be changed to provide the greatest opportunity for faculty to participate on those items of greater interest to the academic community. This would help us address the attendance issues we had last year. Future planning could be made to shift the retreat to the week before school starts so that faculty members have greater opportunity to attend. Faculty should be included in the planning process.

   C. Discussion of Agenda:
      Start with working lunch –
      FS President Moore (Faculty Senate goals)
      Chancellor Kristensen (Administration)
      Dean Oravecz on Student Life and Retention
      Campus Tour –
      Men’s Hall (may check in at Randall and Stout)
      VCBF Johnson discuss the physical projects
      Online Worldwide
      Dean Taylor and Gloria Vavricka
      Budget
      We will Check the availability Chris Kabourek from Central Administration. If he is unavailable we can try to schedule him for a Senate meeting.
      Present in the afternoon and lead into a campus forum at about 4:00.

      Other presentations and issues may be scheduled for other times and venues:
      VCUR
      Admissions
      General Studies
      Arnold Bateman (Online Worldwide)
      VCBF Johnson is also setting up some time for presentations on the UNK annual budget. She will set it up for the retreat and can present to the Senate as well if desired. She will also present to Staff Senate and other venues on campus.
      VCAA Bicak is available at other times and venues

II. Book Store Policy
   A. Since there are many questions about the book store policy and the need or benefits of a campus bookstore, Senate would like more information on the contract.
      VCBF Johnson will have a FAQ page put together to address the concerns and questions of the faculty.

   B. Issues and concerns:
      1. Why doesn’t the Follett store provide all the books needed for a class?
VCBF Johnson: They look at historical records and order based on past sales. The success or failure of the store depends a lot on the relationship between the store and faculty.

2. Referral to other sources: According to the Higher Ed. Act, the requirement for ISBN numbers is to give students options.
   VCBF Johnson: Faculty can let students know that they can get books elsewhere, we ask you not to refer them specifically to the College store.

3. Blue and Gold: The College Store was at Blue and Gold.
   VCBF Johnson: As we plan for next year, we do have to look at exclusivity in our contractual agreements.

III. Reports:
   A. Chancellor:
      1. Much of the summer was spent looking at how to plan for the future. The Foundation and Capital Campaign have been working. The Budget is consuming much of our time and attention. The Legislature is asking for the university to tell them how we can plan for 5-10% budget reductions. There are cross-campus committees forming to look at potential budget reductions across the campuses. As an example, VCAA is working with the Deans of Fine Arts to have discussions across campuses. VCBF is also working with other campuses.

         Is there a discussion of program consolidation?
         This is not a budget reduction process, but a response to the Legislature’s demand for a model of what the NU system would look like with potential reductions.

         Is there talk about furloughs?
         There is no serious talk about furloughs. Those campuses with bargaining contracts make that unfeasible.
         VCBF – it was taken off the table in our discussions.

         Budget information will be put out next week. There has been strategic planning for this budget since December. We will be giving up some flexibility and losing priority funds.

      2. The change of UNK’s Conference to MIAA came up this summer. The change is supported by the BOR. It makes sense from the student’s perspective and saves travel costs. The MIAA has stronger schools and we are more similar to those schools. We are academically and geographically closer to the MIAA. The vote will be next week. We would need to give notice of withdraw by October 1. We won’t withdraw until we are in another conference.

      3. We are still working with the state on the construction and the traffic flow east of campus.

      4. There are many good things going on with gifts and work with the community.

      5. I’m open to more engagement with the faculty senate.
         Moore: Concerns about issues like Online Worldwide and the General Studies reform have made closer connection to the administration important.
B. VCAA:
   1. We are in Accreditation Season. The Communication Disorders reaccreditation went well. The COE is working on their NCATE accreditation.

   2. Presented to CTE September 9. Covered much of the Academic Priorities that would be discussed at the retreat, so that item may be removed from the agenda.

   3. In Faculty Senate the reassignment time document came up as an issue. The SPG’s that colleges developed are so that we have a clear plan for determining faculty load. Until recently, we were categorized in the NU system 100% teaching, and have now been categorized as 75% teaching and 25% research and the reporting is part of what made that possible. The reporting helps us define ourselves internally and externally.

       Miller: For those who were on 9 hour loads, there are some irrelevant questions. VCAA: If some questions don’t apply, then you don’t need to answer them.

   4. Budget Efficiencies Committees. The intent is to look intentionally at cost savings mechanisms across the system. The goal is to maintain quality, not to approach the issue as a search to cut costs. Highlighted is the perseveration of programs, people, and opportunities across the campuses.

C. VCBF:
   1. Cost efficiencies: The VCBF is participating in the cross-campus HR committee. We are using our own people (across the campus) to find efficiencies. Ideas like shared cost centers – like using one payroll center – are being discussed. How to process paperwork more efficiently by putting timecards online. The committee is meeting on a monthly basis to collaborate. Recommendations are going to be at a fairly high level – make general recommendations that then can be prioritized and then examined more closely.

   2. Budget presentations. Once the information is available, the B&F website will host information to improve access and give faculty and staff the ability to ask questions.

   3. Renovation of the eastern property. The roundabout is being discussed at the state level. If that is approved, the construction process will take about 8 months. Once the state approves a plan, then the process of renovation has to be planned out.

   4. The acquisition of the property via eminent domain and the value of the property has been taken to court and there will be a jury trial on September 27th and 28th. That may not be the end.

   5. Facilities on campus. We are continuing with the beautification process and planted approximately 75 trees. Stout was slated to be taken down, but there are people in the hall at this time. We will wait until Christmas break to have them move once there will be space in other areas. The plan calls for the removal of Stout and Conrad. If there would be a cost savings, we can remove rather than renovate and build a 4th building – which is in the plan.

   6. Repaving. Some plans did not get finished. Those repaving projects will be completed next summer.
7. Tuition and funding. The tuition increase was not allocated, so how those monies are allocated will be determined. We are submitting some requests for those funds to complete some projects on campus.

8. South Campus. Have met with the president of the system and foundation and others about the possibilities for renovation. Those meetings will continue. The design concept is 2 years old. As we consider development, we will need to review the plan and determine how that development would fit into the future of UNK. Faculty, Staff, and Students will be involved in the discussions.

9. Stimulus Monies. We are receiving funds to repair windows in the dorms. Meters will be on each building to better manage utility use. There is a sustainability committee and website where you can read about the projects. Randall and Mantor’s windows were in the worst shape.

10. SIS. As of 8/31 the new SIS is installed. All the hardware is working. It was not possible to complete all elements by that date. The governance structure for the management of the system is not set. Our people are no longer commuting to Lincoln 3 days a week. Implementation will be continuing to complete the system and get it up and running the way we want it to.

Miller: This might be a good topic to address briefly at the retreat. At least a list of what is working and what will be implemented.

D. DSA (Dean of Student Affairs):
   1. As we have gotten to the 4th week of classes, students (particularly freshman) are in need of feedback on how they are doing (this is important for retention).

   2. Numbers are up.

   3. Student Life is reinstituting a crisis intervention committee to help assess how to address student needs. Some of the “dealing with difficulties” issues are or have been addressed in new faculty orientations or at department levels.

E. VCUR:
   1. Successes. There is a great deal of irony about where we are as a university now. There are dark clouds of budget clouding the university, but on the other side we have had tremendous progress as a university and campus. We have put a great deal of focus and energy into student recruitment and retention and now we are seeing some important results.

      Residence hall occupation is up, and that is following a campaign to get students to stay in the halls.

      Meeting with the paper – they’re seeing the real growth and development of the campus – and that is why we’re getting good press.

   2. UR’s plans. UR is working on advertising plan with the enrollment management committee. UR is using more social media and hiring a multimedia videographer (change of position, not a new position). Much of the past advertising has been fairly
generic and institutional. Advertising is becoming more focused, so the first project is with the Music Department and targeting the ads. Displaying the qualities of outstanding achievements of one department can help build the reputation of the university. Targeting Music allowed us to build on the press from the recent grant.

3. Other items.

   UR has been involved in the service club luncheon – feedback from town was very supportive.

   UNK presence at the State Fair went well and we had great placement for the UNK trailer. Using a survey to find out more about impressions about UNK.

   Branding work. There is more signage and banners.

   *New Frontiers* – new issue is out. We are getting really positive reviews of the publication.

   Legislators will be visiting campus again this Fall – Tom Hanson will be here (September 27) from North Platt. Sen. Dennis Utter from Hastings will join him on the same day, and there will be others scheduled.