

ATTENDEES

Council Members Present: Mary-Rita Moore, Debbie Baness King, Chuck Bohleke, Maria Correa, Humberto Espino, Dayane Figueroa, Kay Frey, Mike Garrity, Audrey Jonas, Hilary Meyer, Tom Olson, Pamela Perry, Elise Rapala, Martyna Tabasso, Shelley Tiwari, Sam Tolia, Elizabeth Quan Kiu Vazquez.

Council Members Absent: Alexis Borrego, Michael Flaherty, Hector Zavala.

Also Attending: Debra Baker, Doug Olson, Kurian Tharakunnel.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Mary-Rita Moore, Chairperson of College Council, welcomed new, continuing, and exiting College Council members, as well as the Vice Presidents, to the College Council Retreat. She briefly discussed the fact that the State of Illinois finally has a budget, noting that as funds are released or further details are known, the college community will receive communication.

Introductions were made around the room.

HLC ASSURANCE ARGUMENT AND VISIT PREPARATIONS

Discussion about Criteria Team Recommendations and Leadership Responses: Ms. Perry described how this document was prepared as follows. Last fall, the College Council engaged the campus community in discussion about strengths and challenges at the college through “Coffee & Conversation,” visiting various committees and groups, etc. All comments received were gathered and grouped, criteria teams reviewed and made their recommendations on how to address challenges. College leadership, including the President’s Cabinet, reviewed that document and provided their recommendations on how to move forward. At this time, College Council is being asked to provide their thoughts and comments about whether the language is clear and how to best share this information out to the college community.

Comments included that a timetable for moving forward should be included in communication out. The intent is that a timetable be developed and that College Council can help do that. Some of the items can be imbedded into processes that already occur, i.e. the comparative budgeting process. Ms. Moore stressed the importance of clear communication so that people know their information was received and considered, and asked if the leadership responses reflects that. Council’s consensus was that the responses were thorough, transparent, and clear. It was suggested that any new ideas proposed by the teams be communicated to the college community. Ms. Moore replied that Cabinet will review and identify new ideas and bring that back to Council. Another suggestion was to make sure the fiscal year is made clear in a timetable.

Small groups were formed to discuss Criterion Chapters 1 and 3, then everyone came back together to summarize the discussions.

Criterion 1 comments included that there should be a shared mechanism to inform everyone about community outreach; there is a lot going on through different areas on campus, but the information is not centralized. It is felt that the mission is strong, and that it should be communicated that it will be reviewed again during the last eighteen months of the current strategic plan. Diversity was confirmed as a challenge as the workforce does not match the student population. Ms. Moore mentioned she plans to outline her thoughts on a diversity group in August, and will talk more with College Council about this.

Criterion 3 comments were about the faculty numbers and ratio of full- to part-time faculty. Adjunct faculty seem a bit disconnected and more could be done to make them feel part of the mission. The budget was also discussed as having many uncertain elements. Ms. Perry noted that as author of the assurance argument, she finds these discussions very helpful and encouraged Council members to send her their thoughts and comments going forward. She also asked that Council members let her know if they are interested in checking out sources so she can add them as a reader to the system.

HLC Visit Preparations: Ms. Perry discussed the importance of preparing the campus for the HLC visit in March, 2018 so there are no surprises. With a new process this year, it is especially important that the campus know the visit is shortened to 1 ½ days and that the visiting team will send the agenda of who they want to meet with about a month before the visit. Also, the visiting team will only hold one open meeting for all employee groups, including administration, rather than separate sessions for different groups. Since College Council is the Steering Committee for the visit, Ms. Perry hopes Council will take an active role in preparing the campus with institutional information prior to the visit, and perhaps make this one of their goals for FY 18.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Ms. Tiwari reported on the college's definition of student success: 1) Successful completion of courses; 2) Completion of developmental courses and progression to credit courses; 3) Persistence; and 4) Completion of degrees and transfer. She distributed and discussed Triton's institutional numbers for these four points, which are important to know as new initiatives are developed.

COLLEGE COUNCIL: THE YEAR AHEAD

ASSESSMENT OF FY 17: ANNUAL SURVEY RESEARCH REPORT

College Council's goals for 2016-2017 were 1) Shared Governance, 2) Communication, and 3) Assessment.

Under Shared Governance, the purpose statement was redone to include Student Success, Blackboard was used for Council communication, membership was reviewed, including how members come on Council, positions were merged, and membership cycles were revised. Evidence is reflected in meeting minutes, supporting documentation such as the website, and a Purpose & Membership document was created. Also time was added on the agenda for

members of the audience to bring comments. Council discussed that in general, it is satisfied that this goal was accomplished.

Under Communication, Blackboard was implemented, but only used as an internal tool, “Coffee & Conversation” sessions were held to engage the campus and were well-received. Council discussed that it did well in this goal, increasing institutional awareness about HLC. There was some discussion on Council’s use of Blackboard and whether that was useful. Consensus was that it was successful as a posting location, but not much conversation was accomplished. Ms. Perry commented that it might work well with sub-groups of Council.

The Assessment goal was not met, with 50 percent of Operational Assembly completing assessments and five out of eight Academic Senate committees completing. If this goal continues next year, thought needs to go into how to make this relevant to the different committees and whether it is truly valuable.

FY 18 GOALS

Discussion continued on what could be modified to be included in this year’s goals and what Council can reasonably accomplish. The following rough goals were discussed.

1. Preparation for HLC Visit: College Council is the Steering Committee for the Assurance Argument. Council will ensure that the document is communicated to the campus community, including students, and will work to prepare the campus with institutional information for the HLC visit.
2. Communication and Engagement: College Council will work to improve engagement with the college community through forums such as “Coffee & Conversation” and other outreach, and communicate the importance and benefits of committee assessment.
3. Strategic Planning and Student Success: College Council will evaluate information and data regarding strategic planning and student success, communicate with the college community, and support collaboration across different departments.

Ms. Perry will consolidate the conversation and prepare a draft of goals, sharing them in Blackboard for further discussion.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Moore thanked everyone for attending. The next College Council meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2017 at 2 p.m. in B-204/210.

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