

MINUTES

University Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2014, 3:00-5:00 PM
Cofrin Library 750

Present: Clifton Ganyard, Katrina Hrivnak, Vanya Koepke (Student Government Rep), Sylvia (Mimi) Kubsch, John Lyon, Steven Meyer (Chair), Christina Ortiz, and Kris Vespia

Guests: Chancellor Gary Miller, Kelly Franz

1. At some time during the meeting the minutes of September 3rd and September 10th were approved without corrections. The minute taker for this session of the UC informed those assembled that the minutes for this meeting would not be as detailed.

2. Chancellor Miller joined the meeting and started by stating that he was in favor of administer evaluations. We then began a discussion that touched on a very wide range of issues regarding the "Invent the Future" project and the development of a new "University Planning and Innovation Committee". Key issues were:

Faculty membership on the UPIC would be selected by the chancellor from a slate of nominees identified by the UC. He requested 4 candidates and two alternates. He requested that the candidates be tenured members of the faculty.

The committee would start this fall with the task of identifying issues of concern for the next budget cycle.

The balance between continuity of service and the faculty sabbatical program was discussed with the expectation that faculty on the UPIC would not be expected to serve their entire term on the committee if a faculty leave opportunity were to arise.

The size and the composition was discussed.

The transition between the current Budget Council and the new UPIC was discussed.

The question was raised as to if the UPIC needed to be codified. The Chancellor did not think it needed to be as it was not a governance committee but an advisory committee to the Chancellor's cabinet. The question as to what is the status of the current Budget Committee is and how it will be changed going forward was raised.

Discussion turned to the "Invent the Future" project and the role of the Steering Committee. The UC was informed that the work of the "Invent the Future" project would be done in the working groups and not in the steering committee. The chancellor stated that he felt that working groups should consist of 10 to 15 people and should meet for 3 to 4 sessions. He was expecting each working group to identify 3 to 4 points of direction to should be explored and that the working groups would present a narrative to the steering committee stating the importance of the issues that they identified. That the steering committee would act to help organize the working groups and then collect and convey information from the working groups to the chancellor and the university as a whole. Any overlapping issues that were identified by the working groups would be integrated in the summary document by the steering committee.

Finally, details were reviewed as to how to prepare the faculty senate for the chancellor's presentation of the two plans at the next senate meeting and the timeline for the sending of the names for potential members of the working groups to the steering committee was discussed.

The UC and the Chancellor next discussed the challenges being faced with enrollment. He presented a number of areas that he feels needs to be changed from how we market ourselves with respect to cost to how we don't market ourselves with respect to the quality of our degree. UC members shared a number of ideas that they felt could improve recruitment of new and transfer students and retention of students.

Now well into our second hour, our guest having departed, we identified a slate of candidates for the UPIC and the working groups for the Invent the Future project.

Now running into our 5 o'clock hour the question as to who would attend the WISCAPE conference at UWO on Oct. 16th was again discussed. With Kris trying to side step the opportunity as John tried to block her by backing out. They agreed to try to work it out.

The UC supported the recommendation to award faculty status to Rebecca Hovarter.

The change in code for the Committee on Workload and Compensation was reviewed and minor changes made. This would become an item for a first read at the next senate meeting under new business.

The UC discussed the creation of the Center for Students in Transition and generated some questions that they would like discussed before continuing the discussion.

Dr. Abbott, having been present for a while, joined our discussions and we worked with him to settle upon an agenda for the next senate meeting.

Having been reduced in numbers by the departure of sane colleagues, the UC adjourned for the night.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lyon