

Faculty Assembly Meeting  
December 9, 2008  
Revised

Present: Bruce Campbell, Mike DiPaola, Larry Evans, Alan Fuchs, Steve Kuehl, Katherine Kulick, Lisa Landino, John Lee, Rip McAdams, Alan Meese, Leisa Meyer, Todd Mooradian, Adam Potkay, Marc Sher, Carol Sheriff, Kate Slevin, Greg Smith, Barbette Spaeth, Gene Tracy, Tom White,

Absent: Carl Hershner and Laurie Wolf.

Others in Attendance: Provost Feiss, Sean Pieri, Neysa Rosario

Tom White called the meeting to order at 15:32

1. Motion – to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 18 was approved unanimously
2. President White distributed a comprehensive summary of the Faculty Survey Report of the recent survey on strategic planning. It will be posted on the Assembly website within the next few days.
3. The Provost reported that news of the next state budget comes from Richmond a week from tomorrow. He assured the assembly that the strategic planning process is proceeding according to the timeline.  
Discussions are underway with the Executive Committee on the subject of employee background checks. Issues around certifications of credentials, criminal background checks, etc. will be discussed.  
The selection of the first round of Plumeri Award winners for Faculty Excellence has been completed. The successful nominees will be notified prior to the winter break.  
The university is considering going to a new email system for students and faculty. Our current provider contract expires in March. Hopes are that by the beginning of the next academic year there will be a new provider.  
The provost's staff is working to analyze the data in order to respond to questions raised about the Professional Faculty Report submitted in November. The trend that some assembly members are most concerned about is the percentage of courses taught by tenured/tenured eligible faculty. Class size is another issue that has been raised.
4. VP of Development Sean Pieri spoke of an effort to change the culture of the development program by bringing in new team members from a diverse group of other universities.  
He reported some good news concerning fund-raising.
  - The Gateway Scholarship program has raised 10.7 million dollars.
  - B. McLeod made two gifts totaling 2.5 million dollars, one to the library, and the other to the business school.
  - The Sadler endowment raised 605,000. to date.
  - Class of 1983 was the first class to give one million unrestricted dollars to the university. Cohen family donated 6 million dollars for a new career center.
  - During the past year the annual cash-in giving is up about 13% (\$40 - \$42 million).

A question was raised about adjusting for inflation when comparing the data. It was argued that when controlling for inflation, the trend of giving is flat. Sean provided cash flow details for 2008 to illustrate how the funds are distributed. We are probably two years out of the next campaign. The strategic planning process is critical in establishing a vision for the future to market in the next campaign. About 22% of the alumni support the college in giving. We need to do better with that group by conducting a marketing campaign, comprised of three phases. The goal is to determine whether our message resonates with alumni, inspiring them to give. Sean outlined a survey that the development office commissioned to research messages that resonate with undergraduate alumni. Strong concerns were raised about excluding graduate students from the survey, since they are in fact also alumni of the university. Sean reported that limited resources forced excluding grad students from the process. Questions were raised about how the strategic planning process will shape the marketing program of the campaign. Concerns were raised about how the survey results will be used in the future to shape the university's priorities.

Sean reported that 36% of the gifts in the last campaign were deferred gifts – an unusually high number. A discussion about a potential billion dollar capital campaign ensued. Traditional breakdown is that 75% of donors in such a campaign give one million dollars or more. Strategies must change and more investment of resources will be required to meet the university's aspirations. Sean was asked how the Assembly could ensure that the faculty priorities are kept in focus during the next campaign. A suggestion was made to have faculty representation on the development committee that will transform into the next campaign committee. Sean welcomed participation of a faculty representative.

The faculty can also assist by sending updated data on alumni to the development office. Faculty can also identify alumni who are financially successful as prospects to the development office. The alumni office controls that database, the development office all other givers. There are other databases across campus that may have more updated data that can be shared. A concern was raised about the relationship between the alumni association and development. Sean assured the group that a good working relationship has been established.

5. The chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Assembly reported on the meeting concerning education abroad committees. Those assembled called for the administration to implement risk management procedures in relation to education abroad. The provost reported that risk management policies are in the process of development. A risk management officer is in place and procedures will be in place by the end of next semester. The provost assured that a risk management procedure would be forthcoming. A motion from the committee was made and seconded: "to charge the Executive Committee of the FA with assembling an ad hoc committee on Education Abroad, to consist of representatives from all interested programs and schools. This ad hoc committee will be charged with developing, by mid-March, a framework for a College-wide Education Abroad Committee." The motion passed unanimously.
6. Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved at 5:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mike DiPaola  
Secretary, Faculty Assembly