



SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 28, 2013

12:45 P.M. in SKH 369

Present: Richard Miller, David Neff, Wai Mok, Phillip Bitzer, Deborah Heikes, Ramon Cerro, Ina Warboys, Vistasp Karbhari

Absent: Timothy Newman, Mitch Berbrier

Guests: Robert Altenkirch, Brent Wren

- Dr. Richard Miller called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m. Dr. Miller noted that Dr. Timothy Newman and Dr. Mitchell Berbrier were both absent.
- **President Report:** Robert Altenkirch—focus on Advancement Division—we will get out a written summary soon. We filled the position of Associate VP for Development. The new VP is Brenda Walker from West Virginia. We also hired some staff writers. There is an RFP out for a web redesign. Responses are due next week or week after. This will be for a web redesign and a mobile site. There is a lot of interest from the web design community, California, New York, and Chicago are the big ones that have responded. There is a couple from Oregon. These are big hitter communications firms. One firm commented you realize this is a several hundred thousand dollar job to do this. We think it will be about \$400,000. There will be 3 major publications coming out of Advancement. One is the annual report. The fiscal books are closed September 30. Information becomes available in November and December and the report will be the highlights of the fiscal year. Some information may be annual. The Publications are done and being printed and will be mailed to 6-700 leaders and we will send a post card to alumni with the website address. There will be a Magazine in the spring and fall and these will make up the 3 major publications. The first will come out in the spring. We are linking up recruiting and alumni. We are picking places with a density of alumni and building a geographical alumni chapter and also recruiting. Dues are required and there is confusion between dues and the annual fund. The Institution will provide funds to run the program. An Institution of this size is too small to run on dues.
- We need to Plan for the long haul. We are finishing the Strategic plan –we got 38 proposals—the Deans have gone through them, the VPs have gone through them, and the Deans went through them again and grouped them. They have called out a group and they will be handed off to the Committee and they will focus on these and finish off the planning process. Thematic areas will be used for marketing and resource allocations. This comes together with VROP. The areas identified will go back to the colleges and the colleges will put together a hiring plan based on curricular needs and thematic areas. Dr. Richard Miller asked would it be possible to distribute the list and the contact

information of the areas—it might be useful for knowing strengths. It is posted on the web per Dr. Robert Altenkirch. There were a handful of proposals that were good but they do not fit the broad thematic areas and we will work with administrators in those areas to pursue those. One was a review of General Education Requirements—this is something we need to do but it is not a marketing tool. Dr. Richard Miller asked how do you see Senate Role and resources and realignment, etc. Dr. Robert Altenkirch responded that when we coalesce in the broad areas—all will have to get together and work with the Deans and Department Chairs on these. They are interconnected—we need a plan. In the large umbrella this is how it works. Dr. Ramon Cerro asked if anyone had looked outside to see where the money is going like the Department of Defense—where are they putting money. The strengths don't seem to match that point of where the money is going outside the institution. Dr. Altenkirch did not agree. There are concentrations here but not necessarily elsewhere. Renewable resources are one of those areas per Dr. Ramon Cerro. Dr. Altenkirch stated that we have to be careful and play off our strengths and not go too far off field. Biotech is one of those areas and we should leverage the presence of Hudson Alpha. The presence of Hudson Alpha is not leveraged that well—strategy—it gives fire power without having to go too far. We have to focus on strengths and what those outside are willing to pay for. Cyber Security is one of those that is married with ideas of big data. Using big databases for information but they need to be protected. UAB is an example—cyber security—forensics. This is an area that is different. Many companies support cyber security. What is realistic for us to do to be known for something? We have many Aerospace students that come from out of state—we are going to a degree from an option and we can use this to market and recruit.

- Dr. Richard Miller stated that Dr. Dean Smith is changing the Research infrastructure and there is a program he has implemented that involves a 50% cost share—this prevents or excludes many faculty from writing a proposal. Very few can come up with that much so it restricts it to faculty working with centers or centers themselves. Dr. Robert Altenkirch stated he will look at it. Many units have fund balances you may not be aware of. Dr. Robert Altenkirch stated he will do some background work that he can share with you.
- Dr. Richard Miller stated enrollment is down—what steps are we taking to manage the budget and the reduction in tuition? Are faculty searches on hold? Dr. Vistasp Karbhari answered there are no faculty searches on hold—searches are ongoing in most colleges. Dr. Robert Altenkirch stated we have gone through a top level budget balancing for the next fiscal year—some things we will defer—i.e. maintenance. The way the State budget is unfolding—there could be a \$2.3M increase over last year. This is fairly substantial taking into account the economy. The expectation is that this will hold. \$200K will go to the State climatologists and the other to the University general fund. We could spend up to \$1M on the Nursing project. One Million Dollars has no strings attached. There will be a deferral of some items. Right now there is no plan for stopping anything.
- Dr. Richard Miller stated the University has seen an expansion of administrative overhead over last few years—the administration has increased over 50% yet there is no money to replace GTAs or increase stipends to improve recruiting—it is thought that the administration of the university has gotten a bit easier while working in the trenches has gotten more challenging. Anything we can do going forward to assist faculty who face being squeezed, anything to make it easier. Dr. Robert Altenkirch stated that universities are being squeezed at every level. This is a pretty thin administration. Administering the university has not gotten easier. Everyone is feeling the pressure.

Restrictions and requirements are being piled on. It takes people and it takes effort. We are getting squeezed at every level—that is the new normal. It is not just faculty. We have to increase enrollment without increasing the cost. Otherwise we cannot dig out. State funding is not going up and research dollars are directed. The only revenue stream is tuition. Dr. Karbhari stated that Student Affairs is run on student fees so all the money to pay for administering Student Affairs comes from student fees. That money cannot be used for other things. The CIO position was crucial to all of us. GTAs funding is slightly below where we would like it to be. The total GTA funding has increased through the years—at least the dollar value. It is not increasing at the pace we would like. Positions are linked to allocation of dollars. Dr. Richard Miller asked how is a request made from a college—does it go from the department to the college? Dr. Vistasp Karbhari answered there is a formula in the budget and it is dependent on classes, etc. It is not where we want it but the college decides where to allocate. Some colleges use the money for other things. The budget allows the money to be moved. There are also tuition waivers.

- Dr. Robert Altenkirch stated that Compliance is one of those areas where there is piling on by regulatory bodies. There is a concern for the environment—child on campus—trustees concern—background check. The Compliance person was in the research office and we no longer have that person—we shifted that responsibility to John Cates. Reason—most compliance functions deal with animal care and use and human subjects—not high density of either so not enough activity to justify having a person full time. We bring together all involved in our campus and the System and this forms a Committee.
- Dr. Richard Miller is working on a list of experts for Jim Steele, one of the new writers, so that when the media calls there will be a faculty member who is an expert in the topical areas.
- **Provost Report:** Dr. Vistasp Karbhari reported we are preparing for the Board meeting in April. We are working with Charles Nash on programs. DBA—NISP will be sent forward at the April meeting, STS cognate—working with Dr. Mitch Berbrier on this—this will also go as an information item we hope. We are working on sending forward an emphasis in music, with emphasis in business music church music, and piano pedagogy, there is also a public history cognate in the works. It is likely one may not make in time but we hope to have the majority there. We are discussing with the System the formation of an Honors college. We will have to go through a proposal because this is the formation of a new unit. This would have to go through the Board and ACHE. We hope there are not too many objections—we are using a variation of what we have used to recruit students. Midterm Grading—Dr. Richard Miller sent suggestions back—encourage colleagues to do midterm grading for important reasons and only as good as faculty reporting. If it extends then the time to help students is shortened. As you think about it we would love to get your input so we can get better results and improve. Several part-time faculty say they have difficulty in getting into Banner. Dr Brent Wren stated we build this into the middle of the semester in the calendar so that faculty will build in some grades prior to that point so they can input a grade by that point—we are not dictating midterm exam. Hope by that point there would be something the students have gotten and the instructors could use it to say you are doing ok or not ok. Dr. Ramon Cerro stated that when you have two sophomore courses it is difficult to get everything in—could reporting be extended a week. Give students feedback so they can get help. The motivation is exactly what Dr. Richard Miller said. Hope students take heed and do something and gives SSC information to contact students. Takes time.

- Dr. Ramon Cerro asked if we provide input on programs. It was stated that it goes through the colleges and the curriculum committees.
- Dr. Vistasp Karbhari stated that we have been discussing the background check for a while. We have looked at on the System level and we have looked at various ways on campus and across the system. We have looked at who we do it on. It will be done on every new employee and for those going up for tenure and those in positions of authority. Someone who gets a promotion that might be in a risk area could be required to have a background check. Prior to the award of tenure. A significant change in employment status. We have checked and an outside company would do—criminal and financial. We will pass the policy document to Dr. Richard Miller that has all the information in it. There is already a mechanism to check when it comes back to make sure it is the right person. The ones we have looked at lists all the names and addresses the person has had. If there is an adverse finding the person is notified. The cost is about \$26-30K per year. We need feedback on the policy and then finalize the policy.
- Dr. Robert Altenkirch reported that they had finished the hockey schedule in the conference. There are 14 games in the conference +1 so there are 16. There are 38 total games—but we can exempt two and we can exempt out Alaska. Officially there are 34 with 16 at home. We tried to get 18 but Denver could not come and we did not get under 18. We had to give up the blocked out weekends. There was a concert, the Globetrotters, wrestling, and Commencement. We said we would play the 13th and 14th if we had to. We are moving Commencement to the 15th which is on Sunday.
- Dr. Brent Wren reported that Spring break for this year stays as is. The 3 school systems have their spring break in sync for next year so do we want to do that? It would put ours a week later and that leaves only 19 days in the semester after spring break. We want input from the faculty. We will hold everything until the Legislature finalizes things and we get feedback from the faculty.
- There were reports from Committee Chairs.
- There was discussion
- Senate Bill 372 was passed at first reading.