

NOTES SHARED GOVERNANCE FORUM

Monday, October 7, 2013 2:00-4:00 pm
Russell 300

Chris Moretti introduced himself and began the forum by thanking those in attendance for coming. He presented a slide listing some of the achievements that have come in whole or in part from previous forums: dependents' tuition waivers; revised format of the forum; increased travel funds; faculty lounge; regular meetings between the Administration and the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate; stipends/salary adjustment; revised Tenure & Promotion procedure.

Administration Presentation

President Larry Minks made some opening remarks excerpted from his address to be given on November 19. The budget is 60% devoted to academics and student support services; the administrative overhead for the university is at 6.99%, well below the RUSO allowance for that category; the reserve requirement of 8.33% has been achieved; \$40,000 dedicated to organized research; \$40,000 to professional development and travel. He said the same type of commitment used to restore the reserve over the past five years will be devoted to professional development and salaries. Enrollment is down 7% this fall over last fall; there are plans for increasing enrollment.

Vice President Sharon Robinson distributed an informational sheet regarding the number of students receiving services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In a reorganizational move in 2012, the office of Disability Services was separated from Student Support Services.

Dean of Enrollment Management, Liz McCraw, introduced Shelley Key who presented her "Recruitment/Admissions" Strategic Plan. Ms. Key has been recently hired and comes to SE with experience from TWU, UNT, and NCTC. Ms. Key says she has three points of approach: (1) to recruit a qualified student body; (2) to capture the market; and (3) retain the students. In terms of recruitment, she sees a need to address Carter County, Oklahoma especially with regard to NCTC feeding students to Carter Co. In capturing the market, Ms. Key referred to a tremendous growth in international students coming in as transfers from North Texas, introduction of an ESL program, and the gains made in the Early Childhood degree program at AHEC (Dr. Robin Plumb). With regard to retention, as of May 5, 2013, 831 students did not reenroll at SE. Due to intensive contact efforts during the summer, the number of eligible non-returning students was reduced to 476.

Dean Tim Boatman added that there is a Retention and Graduation Task Force with faculty representation. The retention rate between the first and third semesters is at 57%; that metric is a key indicator. He spoke of specific remediation activity in English, Mathematics, and Science courses and that it was important to make a smooth "hand-off" from the Advising Center to the

academic departments. RUSO is requiring SE to graduate 25 more students every year; it is easier to graduate students who come to us with an associate's degree in hand.

Additional observations

Registrar Kristie Luke spoke of improvements in automated tracking of students' progress. Vice President Doug McMillan indicated that groups (e.g. departments) can apply as a body for professional development funds.

Faculty Senate Presentation

Chris Moretti presented PowerPoint slides with numerical and statistical data representing a sample of significant ongoing faculty concerns drawn from the 2013 Faculty Senate survey results: (1) salary; (2) faculty morale; and (3) academic direction of the university.

Additional observations

Vice President Ross Walkup noted that his office uses CUPA data in faculty salary comparisons rather than AAUP data. VP Walkup also detailed how one-time stipends were "rolled into" faculty base salaries. The effect of the Affordable Care Act was touched on with regard to adjunct and student workers; the ACA will go into effect for SE on July 1, 2014.

The topic of an adjustment to faculty summer pay was broached by VP McMillan with the clarification that his vision of an adjustment would be to generally increase the base pay over 10 months. He indicated that this was not a clear plan or even one worth pursuing.

When asked directly about the academic direction of the university, President Minks said he would give his "elevator speech" which included references to SE as a "hub of southern Oklahoma" with regard to SE's relationship with business, two year institutions, and SE being part of a "total system." He also said that SE was entering a critical era with the HLC visit coming upon us. He noted that planning has traditionally been done in five year increments but that the planning horizon is increasingly in three year blocks.

VP McMillan noted that an annual academic plan is filed by SE with RUSO by Dr. Bryon Clark. President Minks and VP McMillan both indicated that they were not satisfied with the current approach to filing the academic plan and that a "true academic planning process" is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Althoff

Faculty Senate Recorder

