

March 21, 2008

TO: Provost's Council

FROM: Judith M. Bowman
Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Studies

SUBJ: Provost's Council Agenda for Tuesday, March 25, 2008

The Provost's Council will meet on Tuesday, March 25 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. The following agenda items will be discussed.

1. Approval of the March 11 minutes (see attachment, p. 1-3)
2. Evaluation of Deans
3. Update on Higher Education Centers
4. Update from Academic Deans on Faculty Recruitment
5. Retention Plans in University College and the Academic Colleges
6. Briefing on the Use of SAT/ACT Scores for Math Placements (see attachment, p. 4)

Charles Wilson

7. Information from the Research Office on Research Expenditures (see PowerPoint attachment)
8. Emergency Preparedness

PROVOST'S COUNCIL
March 25, 2008
Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, March 25 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Carol Simpson (Chair), Nancy Bagranoff, Andrew Balas, Oktay Baysal, Chandra de Silva, Bill Drewry, Bill Graves, Phil Langlais, Ginny O'Herron, Chris Platsoucas, and Charles Wilson. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The March 11 minutes were approved. Carol Simpson provided an update on the item from the minutes about institutional performance standards. Marty Sharpe found a calculation regarding our retention rate that had not been done by SCHEV. The recalculation put us in compliance on the performance standards for this year. However, our retention rate will be an issue next year.

2. Evaluation of Deans

A draft of the questions for the evaluation of deans will be distributed prior to the next meeting for discussion. Deans may add college-specific questions.

3. Update on Higher Education Centers

Carol Simpson announced that the higher education centers will be moved to Nancy Cooley for management and operational purposes. The undergraduate and graduate programs offered at the centers will continue to be under the purview of Charles Wilson and Phil Langlais.

4. Update from the Deans on Faculty Recruitment

Each of the deans and the university librarian provided an update on faculty recruitment and the status of faculty searches. They raised the following issues and concerns.

- The amount of money provided to the colleges is \$1,200 per search. This includes the cost of the advertisement and expenses to bring candidates to campus. Thus, colleges must subsidize searches.
- Candidates are asking for very high salaries, which leads to salary compression issues.
- Start-up funds are substantial for many new faculty.
- Occasionally issues arise regarding spousal hires.
- In some cases, physical plant issues, such as the size of faculty offices, lab space, and the allocation of space, make it difficult to attract candidates.

Several of the deans raised the issue of dual or joint appointments. While it is relatively easy to establish a joint appointment after a faculty member is

tenured, the process is not clear at the pre-tenure or initial hiring stage. Carol Simpson noted that we may need to change our promotion and tenure policies to address joint appointments.

The deans also raised concerns about the allocation of classroom space. They noted that there is not enough classroom space, particularly large classrooms, and that the amount of classroom space available barely meets the needs of current students. Carol Simpson noted that she is looking into the cost of research space, particularly in Research Building I.

5. Retention Plans in University College and the Academic Colleges

This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Briefing on the Use of SAT/ACT Scores for Math Placements

Charles Wilson informed Council members that freshman Previews will be held on one day rather than two and that placement testing will no longer be conducted at Preview. Placement into Math courses will be made based on SAT/ACT scores. While students who want to challenge their math placement or seek academic credit will be able to make individual appointments to take the COMPASS math test, we will not be able to accommodate students at their Preview session.

Several of the deans questioned the SAT/ACT ranges for placement into math courses and felt that the cut-off scores were too high. They also noted that the ACT score did not enable students to place higher than MATH 162M. Chris Platsoucas stated that the cut-off scores were determined by looking at past math placements and correlating these placements with the SAT math scores for entering students. He will talk to the Math Department about the deans' concerns.

7. Information from the Research Office on Research Expenditures

The information from the Research Office on research expenditures was included with the agenda for the deans' information.