

**Senior Staff Meeting**  
**August 13, 2012**  
**Meeting Notes**

Attending: John Carmichael, Art Costantino, Susan Harris, Steve Hunter, John Hurley, Les Purce, Todd Sprague, Steve Trotter, Jane Wall, Michael Zimmerman  
Absent: Julie Garver, Lee Hoemann, Sarah Pedersen, Laurel Uznanski

**Review of Minutes**

The August 6, 2012 minutes were approved with one change.

**Announcements**

Michael Z. asked if continuing students have been invited to convocation.

Decisions and Actions

- Art C. will check to see if continuing students have been invited to convocation (Art C.).

**Retention**

Michael Z. and Art C. gave an update on retention efforts. A copy of the “Student Retention at The Evergreen State College: An Integrated Program,” dated July 30, 2012, was emailed with the agenda.

It was identified that both the Peer Mentoring program and ongoing communications are areas that need continued work and discussion. Senior staff discussed the proposed Peer Mentoring program, the work that has been done, design questions, and the potential target groups. The group discussed issues that affect retention generally as well as issues that affect particular populations of students. Issues that affect retention include financial issues, social integration and academic quality. Many of Evergreen’s recent new initiatives have focused on academic quality: common read, lower division programs, smaller class sizes; and academic statement.

The group weighed the value of calling continuing students who have not yet registered for Fall. Michael Z. indicated that he personally has done this in the past and doubted the efficacy of the effort.

Decisions and Actions

- Art C. and Michael Z. will ask the Retention committee to consider any new retention initiatives and make recommendations through the VPs to Senior Staff (Art C., Michael Z.).
- The VPs will consider a cross-appointment to strengthen the connection between the Retention committee and the Strategic Enrollment Group (VPs).
- Art C. and Michael Z. will meet with the staff members who have been working on the Peer Mentoring proposal (Art C., Michael Z.).
- The VPs will discuss pricing/aid models and other retention-and enrollment-related topics with potential consultants (VPs).

**Update on Collective Bargaining**

John Hurley shared a status report on bargaining with the union representing classified staff.

**Four-year Forecast**

The Governor is now required to develop biennial budgets within a multi-biennial framework. Steve Trotter shared the four-year state budget outlook developed by the Office of Financial Management (OFM). The budget outlook will be the subject of some political positioning over the next several months. It is notable that budget outlook appears to assume 2-3% tuition increase.