

Senior Staff Meeting
March 29, 2010
Meeting Notes

Attending: John Carmichael, Art Costantino, Susan Harris, Lee Hoemann, Steve Hunter, John Hurley,
Les Purce, Todd Sprague, Julie Suchanek, Ken Tabbutt, Steve Trotter, Laurel Uznanski

Absent: Eddy Brown

Guests: Nancy Jacobski, Walter Niemiec

Review of minutes

The minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting were approved with one change.

Announcements

- John Hurley announced that Bruce Sutherland and the Emergency Group conducted an earthquake drill last week. The drill lasted 2-2.5 hours.
- Steve Hunter announced that Kitty Parker's retirement party is scheduled for 3:30 pm today. The event will begin with a rendition of Blue Moon being sung to Kitty in the stairwell. All are welcome to participate.
- Steve Hunter announced that the New Student Reception at Safeco Field will take place this Friday evening.
- Art Costantino announced that an email from the Bias Incident Response Team was sent out last week. The email addressed an incident involving a student's remarks about EF students made in an email on Tesctalk.

Designated Wellness Worksite

Nancy Jacobski distributed copies of The Washington State Health Care Authority's "Washington Wellness Worksite Application Feedback" and an overview of the Washington Wellness Worksite program. The Evergreen State College Wellness Committee advises that obtaining the Washington Wellness Designation would be beneficial to the college. The program includes a guide to measuring the success of wellness activities on campus. The options for the designation include a one year plan or an "in development" plan that extends over three years. Wellness Committee members are committed to the project and are willing to implement the process. Little additional financial support would be needed to pursue the designation. The committee recommended that the "in development" plan be applied for and submitted an initial application for program implementation. To move forward in the process, support from Senior Staff is necessary. An initial show of support from Senior Staff would include a signed letter supporting the program.

Benefits of this designation include the ability to use the title "Washington Wellness Worksite in development" in communications, increased data on staff and faculty health and wellness, grant opportunities, opportunity to improve the health and wellness of staff and faculty, and the potential of staff and faculty feeling more valued by the organization.

Decisions and Actions

- Laurel Uznanski to draft a copy of a letter supporting the Washington Wellness Worksite designation and present for signature (Laurel).

Union Management Committee

Laurel Uznanski reported that the classified Union Management Committee met last Thursday. Seven agenda items were discussed at the meeting. Three of the agenda items are of note for Senior Staff are as follows:

- 1) A request was made to change the union management meetings from once a month to once a quarter. An agreement was made to meet every other month.
- 2) The union expressed an interest in having classified staff representation on committees. A specific request was made that a classified staff member serve on the Provost Search Committee.
- 3) A request was made to post union meeting notes on the union management posting board. This request was agreed to with the stipulation that a disclaimer noting that management does not necessarily agree with the notes as written be posted with the document.

Legislative Update

The Washington state legislature is in the third week of a special session. If the session lasts the full 30 days, special session will end April 13, 2010. If no budget is agreed on, the Governor must balance the budget.

On the federal level, President Obama signed the financial aid bill. It was noted that the Pell grant program will probably not increase as much as some had hoped. Middle income families may continue to feel a "squeeze." The newly signed healthcare bill allows parents to continue medical coverage on their children until the age 26. Children do not need to be living at home or be enrolled students. This new law may affect independent student status and financial aid eligibility.

With the delay in a state budget package and the lack of clarity with the federal Pell dollars, it is difficult to prepare accurate financial aid packages for students. Steve Hunter feels it may be better to lowball the initial financial aid packages, rather than having to rescind a portion of the package if state and federal dollars do not come through.

Update on Summer Session Response

The questions posed by the Geoduck Student Union, Board of Trustees and public comments are being considered and reviewed. In looking at summer school enrollment, 85% of students are continuing degree seeking students. The majority of students seem to be taking summer classes to accelerate graduation and pick up required classes. Summer school is set up as coursework, rather than integrated programs. 18.6 percent of headcount are non- resident students and account for 38% of the revenue. Only 5% of new students starting in summer stay on through the next school year. 8% of students only come for summer coursework. Even with the low tuition, the summer program is not something that attracts new students to Evergreen.

In looking at what the revenue from summer school is/would be used for, several items can be identified. The following lists just a few mentioned: faculty and staff computers, instructional equipment replacement, student wages, and computer lab replacement.

A message that is being heard includes; don't raise tuition unless the quality of program is increased. It is not clear to some that an increase in tuition will assist in maintaining quality – a tuition increase offsets just a small portion of state cuts. It was noted that a 14% increase would help equalize the summer tuition with the fall - spring tuition.

Decisions and Actions

- Prepare a comparison of a 7% and 14% summer tuition increases (Walter N.).
- Prepare a communication with key messages regarding summer tuition for the GSU and the larger community (Les P, Ken T., Todd S., Steve H., Walter N., Steve T.).