

Senior Staff Meeting
January 30, 2012
Meeting Notes

Attending: John Carmichael, Art Costantino, Susan Harris, Lee Hoemann, Steve Hunter, John Hurley, Nancy Murray, Les Purce, Steve Trotter, Laurel Uznanski
Absent: Julie Garver, Todd Sprague, Michael Zimmerman
Guests: Laura Coghlan, Phyllis Lane, Scott Morgan, Bill Ransom

Review of Minutes

The January 23, 2012 minutes and December 12, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

Announcements

- Les P., Michael Z., and Nancy M. attended the AAC&U Conference. Les P. met with donors and encouraged them to join in the 40th Anniversary events. In addition Les attended the COPLAC Annual Meeting held during the conference. There was continued discussion regarding accountability. Nancy M.'s focus at the conference was on e-portfolios.
- Lee H. and Amanda W. were traveling in California meeting with parents, alums, prospective parents, etc. Their week ended at the Association of Governing Boards Meeting.
- John H. was in Houston last week attending a conference on private/public partnerships.
- A three-day Banner conference starts tomorrow, Tuesday, January 31, 2012. The conference is being held at Pacific Lutheran University.

Commute Trip Reduction Survey

Scott M. gave an overview of the upcoming state-mandated commute trip reduction survey. All state agencies are required to participate in the survey with permanent employee respondents. While employee participation with the survey is voluntary, agencies are mandated to have a 70% participation rate. If 70% is not achieved, missing responses will be counted as single car occupants every day. Scott M. indicated an interest in offering the survey at a later date for student participation. Last year's survey had less than a 50% response rate. Next week will be the monitoring week and the following week responses on the survey will be taken. The survey is for permanent employees on the Olympia campus only – Tacoma is not included in this survey.

Decisions and Actions

- Encourage permanent faculty and staff to fill out the commute trip reduction survey (all).

Student Retention

Bill R. provided an overview of topic affecting student retention, including student preparation, student choices and experience in the curriculum, financial obstacles, and social integration and health issues. There was discussion regarding remedial intervention currently offered, how remedial work could be offered. There were questions if students were utilizing community colleges for remedial classes and how this information could be attained. Low retention hurts recruitment. The trend of retention is clearly going down and must be addressed soon. The recent trend is toward most freshman seats being in all-level programs, but retention of freshmen in these programs is poor. Continuing juniors also show a low retention rate which may be attributed to financial aid issues.

<u>Decisions and Actions</u>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The re-charged retention group will report to Les and the Vice Presidents in the spring, identifying what areas merit immediate attention. |
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Storm de-briefing

Groups meeting to discuss the college's response to the storm identified several areas for possible future attention: communications to parents, the need for a cross-divisional meeting during the event, communication about the condition of the parking lots, coordinating announcements with the Tacoma program, and the functioning of the boiler alarm system. The Senior Staff discussed continued efforts to recognize and thank the staff who worked through the storm and continue to work on the clean-up.

Campus security issue

Art described an off-campus altercation that led to the college briefly to consider a lockdown. Thurston County Sherriff deputies were pursuing an armed and possibly dangerous man on foot in the area of the Cedrona development. Campus Police responded to assist and Ed Sorger monitored developments closely. The college prepared a lockdown announcement in case it was needed, but the situation resolved off-campus. The college plans to continue efforts to educate the campus community about how to respond in the event of a lockdown.