

College Council Minutes

Friday, February 23, 2018

RS 30

Council Member Attendees: Lindsey Hoogkamer Smith, Erin Barzen, Tam Mai, Angel Delker, Anton Amaratunge, Marianna Asaturova, Sol Mendez, Yilin Sun, Rosemary Darrough, Dan Johnson

Guests: Jeffrey Campbell, Libby Schoene, Rose Kolovrat, James Lewis, Rob'n Lewis, Pete Lortz

Secretary: Lily Allen (not in attendance)

Begin: 9:00am

End: 10:45am

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 8, 2017 – approved with one edit
- January 12, 2018 – approved with one edit

3. REGULAR BUSINESS

- Appointment of exempt position
 - Dan Johnson approved to join council in Exempt role
- College Council Elections
 - Lindsey and Anton will send campus email out soon
- Bylaw revision proposal
 - Added 1 full-time BTS faculty
 - Motion approved

Elections update:

- Lindsey: I want to bring a proposal to change Council bylaws to include more representation from faculty because current bylaws do not require a BTS program faculty position. So the proposal is to change the part-time at large faculty position to a part-time/full-time BTS faculty position and change the other faculty positions to have an option to be either part time or full time.
- Yilin: The faculty in the committee should be full-time because the part-time faculty might lack full commitment.
- Libby: Requiring either full-time or part-time faculty only might eliminate full representation from the college.
- Marianna: The part time faculty might struggle to find the time to fully participate.
- Yilin: I suggest just adding another full time BTS faculty position to the faculty representation in the council and amending the bylaws to reflect the change.

- Erin: Pointed out the importance of equal representation in the council and was personally in favor of the proposed change.
- Lindsey: Proposed a motion to revise the bylaws to add one full-time BTS faculty to the council. Motion to approve: Yilin, Second: Sol
No nays or abstentions
- Lindsey: Working with Anton to send out a college wide email to elect members to the council for next year.
- Update on Smoking on campus policy:
 - Angel: We talked to Peter Lortz to create a task force called the Clean Air Task Force which will include 10 representatives from the college to evaluate next steps in the process. Students, faculty, and staff are to be included in this task force and we are currently looking for volunteers. We also talked to Greg Dempsey about an all campus email survey about the smoking policy and the task force will determine how to conduct the survey and how to use the information.
 - Yilin: Really appreciate the work USA is doing in this issue.
 - Dan: Are you looking for 10 bodies or 10 representatives from different parts of the college?
 - Angel: It will make a better impact if we can get different representatives.
 - Jeff: We talked to NSC about the process because they have undergone the same procedure of conducting an all campus survey on smoking on campus. We are trying to get as diverse representation as possible for the task force.
 - Dan: Are smokers included in the task force?
 - Jeff: Yes current, former, and non-smokers will be included.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 9:30-10:45 am: Budget conversation with Peter Lortz, ~~Laura Hopkins~~, and Rob'n Lewis
 - Pete: Laura Hopkins would not be able to join us today so the instruction specific questions might be difficult to answer right away but I will forward them to Laura and get back to you. Pete asked how many people in the room are aware of the budget crisis to which majority raise their hand. Last year the college was 1.5 million dollars in debt and there were no funding in reserve to cover the debt. In the year 18/19, we were operating on assumptions for legislative funding and did not get the actual allocation numbers until October. Robn worked on putting the budgets together and found a problem at the district level which set us back another month. One of the Deans at our college also found out that there was a discrepancy in the budget and we had to do a mid-year correction as well. This required us to adjust the budget and cut more classes in Winter and Spring. We are aware that this allows fewer opportunities for students and faculty. Historically, colleges have run on deficits and tapped into their reserves to cover the deficits. However, we don't have any reserves left and that's why the budget crisis is the way it is this year. North and Central have increased their international student numbers to build up their reserve.
 - Yilin: So what happened to ours?

- Pete: We are continuously underfunded, so we had to tap into reserves to catch up in the past years. There is a board mandated 5.9% reserve which we still have but we can't use it unless it's an emergency. The flexible reserve is not there anymore.
- Libby: What is the board mandated reserve used for?
- Rob'n: It's normally reserved for last chance funding for emergencies and the current budget crisis does not qualify.
- Pete: What questions do you have?
- Erin: What are your suggestions on how to conduct the budget process as the College Council this year?
- Rob'n: The historical budget process of the college might not be the best in the current climate so the process will change this year. We want to make it more transparent by holding more campus wide meetings. As an institution, we all should be included in the budget decision makings. Even though rumors are a good way to spread the information, sometimes they could be very misleading. We should be more transparent in the budget process. We should change the focus to problem solving and better predictions.
- Angel: Will students be able to attend these meetings?
- Pete: Absolutely. Rob'n has brought change to the college budget process for the better which I really appreciate. I am sincerely happy people are paying more attention to the process now but it is sad it took this much for it to happen. At North, when I was working there, committees were set up to help faculty understand the budget process better. It helps everyone when they are included in the process and it is better for the college. I anticipate more people to be involved and attend meetings this year and we are taking a different approach. For example, we are going to a zero base budget approach so the deans have to rethink their strategies for the programs when they are building their budget rather than copy and paste from last year.
- Rob'n: The budget meetings are going to be held because people need more training and transparency so the questions about the budget will be formed with good knowledge. My door is always open to students to come talk to me and we are in full transparency mode.
- Pete: When I went through budgets in dean training the focus was solely on FTEs and the advice was to over spend and only worry about FTEs. We are now shifting from FTE first mode to a more balanced priority.
- Dan: I understand the urgency of the situation. What would be the next strategies to improve the current situation?
- Rob'n: Having a forecast and projection would be very important. Since we are shifting from FTE priority we would focus more on information sharing. FTE focus has narrowed our vision in the past. The focus should have shifted a while ago when our FTEs started to decline, currently we have no other choice but to shift focus.
- Pete: One of the things I realized is that we can't operate year to year. The decisions have to be based on a vision of three to five years ahead. I also believe we have to operate more as a district. We have to think about serving students in Seattle as a district. We can provide better instruction by working together and this is probably the closest we've been to working together. An additional challenge is that the international student population has also gone down around the country including

at South. Our running start student numbers are increasing which is good news for our budget. However, there are some key legislators in Olympia who are trying to take the running start funding away from us. Depending on this we might not get growth money for running start and that money might go to K-12. We have talked to the legislators about these legislations and they have admitted that they have not realized the impact this will have on colleges.

- Erin: We cannot legally recruit running start students to our college.
- Pete: We tend to follow the economy. When the economy is down we have high enrollment, however the funding sources are limited in that scenario. The programs that do well in enrollment in a good economy are apprenticeships. We currently have multiple requests from the industry for more apprenticeships but do not have funding for them. This year, Central is helping us with our apprenticeship programs. We have to look at our current program mix and evaluate them because it has not changed for a while and the demands have shifted in the area. The academic transfer student numbers have increased in the recent years. This means that we might have to close some programs but we owe it to our students to evaluate what we offer.
- 10:00am - Jeffrey – How were faculty benefits not identified? Should there be additional education? Why is this not a part of the basic process already? What happened? Who is responsible? Where is the accountability? If our student numbers are dropping, what about future enrollment? What is the 3-5 year forecast? What is the legislative approach, especially considering the Prosper Act and Educational Opportunity Act? Are we taking these into account? Who do we need to be talking to?
- Pete – This is a serious problem, not just a 1-3 year problem. This is a historical problem not just here, but across colleges in Washington
- Yilin/Jeffrey – What did the district know, what is their role?
- Rob'n – It was an allowable, common practice.
- Jeffrey – Accountability is ultimately the chancellor's responsibility
- Yilin – Is this a problem across the district or just South?
- Marianna/Pete – North experienced a multi-million deficit a few years ago
- Pete – We [South] are the canary in the coal mine. North requested to take 600K out of their International reserves. South does not have that option. FTEs first has been the mentality. A complicating factor is the majority of employees in the district are underpaid.
- Libby – With a zero-based budget model, a history of FTE focus, and instructional budgets consistently overspent, is the problem with instruction only? Are we looking at other areas? Will there be access to information about how money is spent in other areas?
- Pete – There are norms across the state and nation about the balance of money spent in the areas of Student Services, Instruction, Admin Services, and within Instruction the breakdown of administration, faculty, support roles. We are looking at these to find the balance for South.
- Libby – Will we have access to this information *before* decisions are made?
- Pete – Yes. The only thing that will be shared is position eliminations before having the chance to inform the person directly impacted first.
- Rob'n – This practice is done at other colleges.

- Libby – Is just Instruction the problem?
- Pete – Instruction overspent. Other areas decreased spending.
- Dan – Soft money has been used to support other areas, particularly Student Services
- Pete – There has been a necessity to rely on soft money.
- Yilin – We should look at the breakdown of administration, faculty, support roles within the Instructional budget.
- Pete – South has more administrative roles in Instruction compared to others.
- Jeffrey – What about unfunded mandates?
- Pete – The legislature approved a 2% COLA increase, but did not fully fund it. The legislature will likely approve a bill that allows unions to petition for local money [like levies that school districts use to fund what the state doesn't]
- Sol – Gratitude to Rob'n for the work she is doing. We are still building the framework. Gratitude to Pete for the open conversations. There is a disconnect – there is an equitable lens, but folks are still being left out, students in particular. Students are the last to know. The conversation is polarizing – Student Services vs. Instruction. The responsibility here is grand. Appreciates the district level change management training. The state commission of Multi-cultural Services Directors is discussing the Minority Enhancement Funds. Are we getting more or less of this funding? Can the money be used to support undocumented students who need more than what the WASFA provides?
- Rob'n – We do get that funding. It must be used to serve those students directly.
- Dan – The new name of the funds is Students of Color.
- Pete – We are hiring a new president. He did not apply himself. We need to ask the candidates hard questions about how to get us out of this situation. He encourages participation in the hiring process.
- Yilin/Erin/Angel are on the hiring committee, but have signed confidentiality agreements.
- Angel – She comes from a community activist perspective. We really need to rally students. The other two USA presidents and SCC and NSC need to know what's going on. District-wide students should be informed what is happening at South. All students are struggling. There is a lot of support at South for students. More transparency is needed here and across the district. Students need to stick together so that we can help one another.
- Yilin – Must keep students in mind. Must have the best quality instruction. FTE is still important.
- Pete/Rob'n – We still need to balance FTE focus with financial stability.
- Dan – Thanks to both of you again. Will this financial situation negatively impact the presidential candidate pool?
- Pete – No. He is hearing similar problems at other schools.
- Pete – There is an awakening in political activism. He's seen more of a groundswell. There were 1000 community college students in Olympia on their lobbying day. For comparison, 300K showed up for the K-12 day.
- Angel – Underserved students get their education here, not in K-12.
- Pete – UW gets 15K to spend per student; K-12 gets 12-15K; early learning 17K; community college is only 5K per student. Gives you perspective.

- Pete – Next Tuesday (2/27) afternoon Laura Hopkins is organizing a meeting to discuss how people can get in touch with their representatives regarding community college funding.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- Schedule April/May College Council meetings
 - Not discussed
- Future meetings:
 - Cindy Riche, Chief Information Officer, and Luv Sharma, Director of Web Development will join us for March meeting
 - Smoking on campus update (Angel, Jeffrey, Zoza) for March meeting
- Culinary update (possible April meeting)

NEXT MEETING:

Friday, March 23, 2018

9am-10:30am

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