Council of Deans
Unapproved Minutes
March 25, 2002

Members:

Sullivan
Buckley
Burgess
Dawe
Goode
Harrison
Neale (Absent)
Soelle
Young

Also present:

Tony Pokorny

1. Agenda Item 1 - Online Course Schedule

   a. Sullivan distributed a document giving the online course schedule which lays out the potential courses up to 2004. Asked the deans to check this to see if they are in agreement with it. There may be some adjustments if we are not able to hire people.

   b. Sullivan had a meeting recently with the Physical Science Department faculty and they have the most senior faculty, as a group, on campus. They have some legitimate concerns. One of these days we will walk to the edge of the table with Physical Sciences and literally drop off, particularly if all the faculty who are eligible decide to retire at once. The faculty are concerned about that too, not just about an incentive package but about the continuation of the program. They referred to this an a transition program rather than an incentive package. Sullivan, in thinking about that after the department faculty made a strong pitch that we should be looking at a transition program, not only in Physical Science but in other areas across campus, stated that one of the things he has been puzzled about is the fact that generally we do not seem to use our emeriti as much as other places he has been. He stated that perhaps one of the things we can do is get some of our senior faculty involved in developing online courses; then as they transition out they are able to continue teaching for the university using that venue. Sullivan asked the deans to think about that. He is not asking for any particular feedback. This is just an idea based on a legitimate faculty request to consider how we might do some transition with our senior faculty members. Short discussion followed.
2. Agenda Item 2 - Payment for Online Delivery

Sullivan stated that there was a problem that had to do with payment for online delivery of courses and he believes it has been solved. This is no longer an item for discussion. Buckley stated that it would be nice to have a list of who did what so that they can do the paper work. Sullivan stated that there is an Online Task Force meeting tomorrow and that issue should be brought up.

3. Sullivan asked the council members to look at their calendars to see if they would be available on April 12 from 10:30 - 1:00 for a meeting with Phyllis Hudechi who is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Business and Education Coalition, the science and mathematics group. What they are trying to do is increase the quality of science and math instruction at the high school level and Sullivan feels we could benefit from her visit. There are several things she is trying to get done and one of them has to do with a consolidated student data base for all high school students using our 5100. Apparently Sid Hudson has talked to her about that and she wants to come down and look at that. The other thing she is interested in doing is that there is some money available for retraining or training to a “quality” level of science and math teachers. That is something we would want to talk to her about, particularly the CAMSTEP program. Sullivan would like all the Council members to participate if they can. OBEC is a totally privately funded organization, funded by Kerr-McGee, Williams Company and companies like that who see a need for a better work force in the state. Sullivan will get more information on that.

4. Sullivan stated that it appears that one of the items for the Regents meeting on Wednesday will be to talk about the Presidential search - “In connection with Dr. Don Davis’ retirement as President, the Board will consider the process for the presidential search which may include, but is not limited to, composition of the search committee, the advertisement, the charge to the search committee, criteria for the selection of a president and a budget for the search.” There is nothing more specific than that. If there are some things that anyone here would like to get into that, let Sullivan know by sending him an e-mail and he will try to get them to the Secretary of the Board.

5. Agenda Item 3 - Spring Retreat Discussion

a. Sullivan stated that a suggestion has been made to him that perhaps we need to have a spring retreat for the Council of Deans members to talk about academic issues, advising issues, etc. Sullivan stated this is a good suggestion.

b. Sullivan asked if anyone has any thoughts about whether or not we should have a retreat; any times that would be good or bad to have one; wait until after graduation or whatever. Buckley stated that we need to wait until after finals week.

c. Soelle stated that during Council of Deans meetings we talk about the budget and things like that but there is not time to talk about academic issues or dealing with personnel issues, promotion and tenure requests, grade appeals, program changes, etc.
6. Question was asked if budget hearings will go forward if John Sterling is not back. Reply was that yes, Ninette Carter will sit in his place. Question was asked when the budget process ends. Reply was April. Sullivan stated that he does not have any guidance right now other than the budgets should be based on zero growth. Discussion followed.

COMMENTS

D. Goode - No comments. Sullivan stated that he had received a forwarded message from Sue Ellen saying that Blackboard is going to significantly increase their prices. Goode replied that yes, it would be up to 400%. Sullivan asked her to let him know as soon as possible how this will affect our online program.

Buckley - In a discussion in the Physical Sciences Department last week, Dr. Ann Nalley brought up that the Dryfus Foundation has some programs where you hire in faculty-in-training that would be predominantly funded by the Foundation. They have been looking at that. Buckley doesn't know if other disciplines have anything like that. Sullivan stated that sounds like a real feasible deal but the only thing he would caution about is that sometimes you have to make a commitment to hire the person that you bring in. Buckley stated that this one is a little different. This one is called a scholar-fellow program. You identify someone in the department that has an on-going research type thing and they get a fresh Ph.D. in to work with them for a two year period and there is no commitment that the university hires that person. It is just a training ground for that person. The first year they pay $35,000 and the second year, $25,000 and then there is some money for the scholar to work with in terms of research capabilities.

Young - No comments.

Dawe - No comments.

Harrison - No comments.

Soelle - No comments.

Burgess - No comments.

Neale - (Absent)

Pokorny -

a. Informed the group that we have received two OCAST intern grants; one to Dr. Ann Nalley and the good news is that we have a new professor, Dr. David Rokh who won $10,000 for an intern scholarship. Any time we get a new professor who hasn't received it before, that is a positive thing.
b. Stated that the University of Texas is coming to campus to discuss a project for the Army. They are being encouraged by the Government to explore the feasibility of bringing Cameron into this project because of our proximity to Fort Sill and our super-computer.

c. Tomorrow, Pokorny and two others will be going to Stillwater to receive instructions on a small business innovative research proposal software package. We are going to be established as one of five proposal writing centers throughout the state. This is at no cost to us; the state is paying for all of this. This is a big plus for small businesses in this area.

d. Tomorrow, Carl Vuono, the former Chief of Staff of the Army and now CEO of MPRI, will be here. His company, MPRI, just took over Coleman Research. Coleman Research is housed in our Technology Park in Shepler and now MPRI is going to take over the group from Coleman Research. They will be absorbed into the new company. He is coming by to see his new employees and meet with the President.

e. Tomorrow, the selection of the PLUS students for next year will be taking place. There is a wonderful group of candidates this year and the committee will give their recommendation to the President for his final decision on who the PLUS students for next year will be.

Adjourned 11:28 a.m.