Council of Deans
Unapproved Minutes
February 17, 2003

Members:

McKellips
Buckley
Burgess
Dawe
Goode
Neale
Soelle
Young

Also Present:
Tony Pokorny

1. McKellips asked what the final recommendation was on the December graduation issue. The President wants a definite recommendation - she doesn’t care if the deans are for it or against it, she just wants a clear recommendation. Soelle stated that the Public Exercises Committee will meet on March 12. She has a lot of reservations about having a December graduation because logistically it is difficult. Buckley stated that there were two suggestions from this group previously. One was to roll the December graduates into the May before; the other one was that there were scheduling problems in December and it was suggested it might could be moved out to November. One thing that concerns McKellips more than anything else is trying to schedule a commencement anytime prior to the week after finals. He is concerned with the week after finals because the faculty offices close and they would be very unhappy about that. Trying to schedule it during the week of finals certainly would be very disruptive. After some discussion, McKellips stated that he will inform the President that deans do not favor a December graduation because of the associated logistical problems and that the December graduates be given the opportunity to walk the May before. As a result of further discussion McKellips changed his statement to: “Without an accompanying logistical plan for a commencement exercise held during the first semester, the deans do not support having a December commencement.” Deans voiced their agreement with that statement.

2. McKellips stated that he had worked in his office over the weekend and in the process sent a large number of e-mails to the President. This morning she stated that if she does not acknowledge an e-mail, she has not read it. She is getting hundreds of e-mails a day and doesn’t have time to read them all. If she does read them she will acknowledge the e-mail and you will know she has read it; otherwise she hasn’t read it. Discussion about e-mails followed.

3. McKellips asked Soelle what students are allowed to wear on their official academic graduation regalia. Soelle stated this has come up a couple of times in their committee and since that committee is an ad-hoc committee and not a policy committee, they received some counsel from
Student Affairs. They have always allowed Phi Kappa Phi ribbons and/or cords but what the committee has agreed to in the past is that students can wear honor cords from any honors society on campus. If they have membership in a lot of societies, etc., they don’t care how many of those they wear. Occasionally students will come in and in addition to their honor cords they may have their pins from their honor society. The attitude has been that commencement is sort of a joyful occasion. McKellips stated this has come up again from somewhere and the President has given it to him to look into. Her comment is, “less is more.” After a lengthy discussion Soelle stated that the committee doesn’t feel comfortable legislating this too much. Most students are not offensive in what they wear with their regalia.

4. McKellips distributed a document, “Request for Proposals, President’s Partner Innovative Grant Program, Student Recruitment and Retention.” Asked the deans to take four or five copies of this handout. There is a letter going out tomorrow that will give a few details about the program and then it will say, “printed versions of this information are also available in the office of your dean”. People will be coming to the deans’ office to pick up these proposals. Discussion followed.

5. McKellips sent an e-mail yesterday, which he did not copy to the deans, about the PLUS and Laura Fields scholarships. The deans had sent him names of the faculty members to serve on that committee. He e-mailed the faculty members yesterday calling a meeting for Wednesday afternoon. He will get them organized Wednesday and proceed with that process. The President and McKellips discussed earlier that if PLUS will be the most prestigious scholarship on campus, it should have some minimum standards for things like GPA and ACT. In the past, leadership was folded in in such a way that there didn’t seem to be a minimum ACT and GPA. McKellips stated he had given the deans a copy of the new scholarship program at the last meeting but there have been some changes in that. He will make sure the deans get copies of the changes. Discussion followed.

6. McKellips stated the new recruiting team is undergoing training today and will probably have additional training before the week is out. They will be spending their time on the road from then on. If anyone wants to communicate with the recruiting team, communicate through Zoe DuRant who is the local coordinator. McKellips has told the recruiting team to, as a group, make an appointment with each of the deans so the deans can provide them with recruiting materials and any oral guidance as to what they would like them to be doing with respect to their departments. If deans want to make offers with regard to their students or faculty accompanying the recruiting team, feel free to do it at that time, however, just because deans may not be prepared to do it then does not mean they have lost that opportunity. That opportunity will exist on a continuing basis. Contact Zoe DuRant any time deans want to get involved in the schedule of the recruiting team and she will coordinate that. Discussion followed.

COMMENTS

Burgess - Met with a group of the faculty from Eisenhower that were on campus this morning. During the time of doing introductory remarks she asked if they had any questions and one of the questions that was asked, in different forms by each of the faculty was - does Cameron plan to do
anything more in terms of recruitment and retention. She told them that yes, there is a big push for that right now. One individual said Cameron has such an image of being a commuter institution and many of the students they deal with don’t want to come to Cameron because it caters just to commuters and older students and doesn’t provide the youthful student experience students are looking for. They said the CU logo, to them, is like the Nike emblem. When they see the CU logo they think of not Cameron University but Commuter University. That is what they think of and how they refer to it and that is what the students think of and apparently they talk about it amongst themselves. Burgess had not heard quite that term used before. They said it is almost like a trademark - they automatically think Cameron is for older students. McKellips stated that he had an opportunity this fall to tour Rogers University’s new housing facilities. Prior to getting those facilities Rogers was looked at the same way Cameron is as far as the kind of environment students perceive - it was definitely commuter. They now have the apartment style housing, very comfortable housing with some common rooms for games, etc. Each apartment has four bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and dining area and in each private bedroom there is a study area. They are built around big courtyards where there are swimming pools and cook-out facilities and that kind of thing. There is a laundry in the building. After lengthy discussion McKellips stated that one of President Ross’ high priorities is to do something about our housing. It may not be out of the realm of possibility that in the foreseeable we can address that issue.

Soelle - Reminded everyone of that Jared Diamond speaks Thursday at 7:00 in the Theatre.

Neale - No comments.

Pokorny - The Foundation Executive Committee has requested budgets be prepared for each of the endowed chairs. He distributed documents to the deans. His guidance is just to follow the successful formula that was used with the first budgets that were approved. It is a very simple outline but it is different from the unrestricted budgets that were prepared. This is going to be required in order for us to spend money out of these chairs. He would like the deans to bring those to a final product by March 3. If that is too soon, let him know. Object code numbers are being added so they can track somewhat with the university spending so that at least the expenditures will be grouped as the business office groups the university expenditures. If there is an item of expenditures that has no number that is on the list, call Richard McComas and he will furnish a number to cover a particular item that may not be identified in this model. This does not include Lectureships. It may some day but not now - right now they are starting with the six chairs. McKellips stated that when these budgets are being made, deans need to recall that salaries are not paid out of the Foundation. If deans need to pay a salary they will have to budget for a transfer to the university and let the university pay the salary. Pokorny stated that still needs to be in this budget. Discussion followed.

Dawe - No comments.

Young - No comments.

Buckley - No comments.
Goode - No comments.

Adjourned 11:58 p.m.