Long Range Planning Committee
Minutes
Oct 17, 2011

Call to Order: 4:06pm by Chair Mike Dunn

Members Present: Mike Dunn, Mike Estep, Elizabeth Hall (guest), James Heflin, Abbas Johari,

Introduction: Members briefly introduced themselves.

Minutes: Minutes taken at the previous committee meeting in the sp11 semester were considered. The old minutes were approved without dissent.

Old Business:
• A general discussion was held over sp11 agenda items with the PQIR process and WEAVE, as well as university budgets and faculty overloads. Also, John McArthur talked about previous committee topics and guest speakers during the sp11 semester.

New Business:
• Since the committee has several new members, Mike Dunn wanted to clarify what the mission of the Long Range Planning Committee was and how the mission would relate to Plan 2018.
• John McArthur has been a member of the committee for several years, and was able to provide clarification. The Long Range Planning Committee makes recommendation on strategic issues to the Faculty Senate. Past areas considered have been broad in scope, due to the differing interests and backgrounds of past committee members. Such areas have included: Changes in technology, undergraduate research, HR issues, benefits, salaries, and hiring practices.
• Abbas Johari asked about the possibility of inviting Chris Keller to a future committee meeting for an update on Plan 2018. Mike Dunn asked what would happen to ideas not completed in the five year plan. It was mentioned that Dr. Oty captures all data. Chris looks at the prior plan tp see what should roll forward. Mike Dunn said he would contact Chris Keller and invite him to the next Long Range Planning Committee meeting.
• John McArthur encouraged committee members to feel free to dream and think beyond normal functions. How can Cameron help southwest Oklahoma in the next 5-10 years?
• A discussion ensued concerning Cameron graduate degree programs serving 11 counties in southwest Oklahoma, demand, cost, and student population. Mike Dunn asked if the state
Regents would allow Cameron to have an Interdisciplinary Graduate degree. John McArthur mentioned precedents, such as the Master of Technology degree program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. A similar program at Cameron could possibly be of interest to members of the Captains Corps in the US Army. It was mentioned that the Cameron online MBA program is shrinking. Perhaps growth trends could be considered by department. In relation to academic programs, it was mentioned that a previous Computing and Technology merge (CIS, CS, MIS, TECH, etc.) came about as a result of recommendations made from the Long Range Planning Committee concerning economies of scale.

- Several general ideas for discussion were then considered. Ali Soylu suggested looking into Cameron's relationship with industry over the next five years, and what could be done to attract and recruit students. Abbas Johari asked what could be done to make industry relationships stronger. John McArthur mentioned looking at the top area 10 employers, and where students go next after graduation. He also said that having mixed groups on the committee helps to generate differing ideas and the state Regents have a variety of captured data on offerings from Oklahoma universities.

- John McArthur also mentioned university budget items, such as Cameron having a $40 million budget, and that resources and facilities affect the budget. For example having a football program may not be worth allocating 5% of an overall budget (in years past, the university previously retired a football program over such issues).

- Another topic of discussion brought up by Mike Estep was related to recommendations made by the HLC during the most recent regional accreditation review. President Ross sent out an email after the review and mentioned that the HLC recommended that Cameron faculty were being given too many overload courses, and that such overloads should be reduced even if it meant offering less classes and graduating less students. John McArthur clarified this further, saying the HLC thought Cameron may be offering too many courses for not enough students, along with a concern of wearing out faculty. Cameron may be trying to do things that larger universities do, without the same resources. It was also mentioned that these were recommended suggestions by the HLC, but would not be specific accreditation review items when the HLC returns during the next accreditation cycle. Abbas Johari mentioned that faculty generally understand student need for some low enrollment offerings in order for students to graduate in a timely manner. John McArthur mentioned a need to evaluate use of adjuncts vs. fulltime faculty, long-term issues, student demand, and determining whether more staff should be hired.

- Campus life for students was a topic of discussion. Mike Dunn mentioned that more students are living on campus and seemed to be enjoying the university life at Cameron. Out of approximately 6000 students, 554 live on campus. There have been over 500 students living on campus during the past four years in a row. There are also more club activities taking place on campus. John McArthur mentioned that the living quarter capacity
for students on campus is 654, but at current occupancy there is at least one student in each room.

**Next Meeting:** Proposed for Fri Nov 18, 1:00pm

**Adjourned:** At 4:43pm, Mike Estep made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by multiple members.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Estep Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Computing and Technology