Council of Deans
Unapproved Minutes
February 18, 2002

Members:

Sullivan  
Buckley  
Bhattacharya (Representing Burgess)  
Dawe  
Goode  
Harrison  
Neale  
Soelle  
Young

1. Agenda Item 1 - Onenet and Internet2

   a. Goode attended a meeting in Norman regarding Internet2. The handout she distributed gave information about Onenet and Internet2. She stated the handout will provide material the deans will be able to share with their schools. She will not read all the information but would like to address some of the items. She stated that the State Regents are really struggling, looking for participants and she would like for Cameron to step out and be one of the participants on Internet2.

   b. Goode stated that Internet2 is a new network that was established in 2000 and right now there are a little over 190 universities participating in it. The Oklahoma sponsors are OU, OSU and the University of Tulsa. The primary goals of Internet2 are to develop a leading edge network capability for the national research community; enable revolutionary Internet applications; and ensure rapid transfer of new network services and applications to the broader Internet community.

   c. Goode made comments on the various topics shown on the handout and elaborated on many of them. Some highlights of her comments follow.

      (1) NSF Middleware Initiative is a layer of software that will be residing on Internet2. Right now when we run applications on the Internet2, all of our software is typically on our local machines, then it travels across and goes to another PC. The middleware is the glue that is sitting out on Internet2 and it allows these applications to interface to it and it does all the hard part of deciding the compatibility issues that right now our software has to decide on our PC’s. The man from the Regents said that there is supposed to be 160 million dollars in grant money sitting out there for people who are wanting to pursue the middleware initiative. That would be like our Computer Science department. There is a lot of money there for people who are willing to spend a lot of time working on getting it.
(2) New network capabilities being developed will enable commercial Internet providers to provide reliable performance required for advanced applications. Ford Motor Company is the latest industry to join the i2 initiative. In looking at the Internet2 activities Abilene is mentioned. The diagram in the handout shows all the points that make up the Abilene backbone network which is an advanced backbone network that connects regional network aggregation points, called gigaPoPs, to support the work of i2 universities as they develop advanced Internet applications. Some more pieces of Internet2 are vBNS+, Internet2 GigaPoP's, Internet2 Universities, Arena and Internet2 International Partnships.

(3) Engineering (computer science) is one that may be advanced by Internet infrastructure.

(4) OneNet is really promotion of the K20 initiative. That is kindergarten through higher education. One of the initiatives they are looking at is one transcript that follows you from kindergarten through college. It would be extremely helpful with our eArmyU project. There is a disconnect in the public schools. Records are not readily available anywhere except at the public school district. This would take a lot of work in the state but it is something that our NCR 5100 could be used for to warehouse all that data for the state. That was mentioned and discussed at length at the meeting Goode attended.

(5) SEGP is another pet project of OneNet at State Regents. James Deaton, Chief Technology Officer for OneNet, sits on the SEGP Board. He talked a lot about their projects at the meeting and Goode mentioned some at Cameron under the multistate projects. He said the projects that are getting the most funding are the multistate and multiuniversity projects. If Cameron came up with a project it would definitely receive some funding but not as much as if we were working with another university in another state and other universities within our state.

(6) SURA (Southeastern Universities Research Association) is another branch of universities working together. OU is the only member in Oklahoma. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities and other organizations may cooperate with one another in acquiring, developing and using laboratories and other research facilities in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge.

(7) As everyone can see all through this, there are just all kinds of groups being formed all over the United States trying to get consortiums going. There are all kinds of things to open up and explore.

(8) The State Regents built Internet2 through OneNet and thought that people would come and nobody is coming. They talked about visiting with OU, OSU, and University of Tulsa for more projects but they said they really felt they would receive better favor from the legislators if they would look at some smaller universities. Of course Cameron came to their mind because of what we have here to offer - our teradata system and other projects that we have done that have been so successful. They visited Cameron first. They are trying to get people to join in and get involved in Internet2. They have this huge pipeline and nobody is using it. We need to help them make use of
it. James Deaton said one thing the SEGP Board wants to do is look at network shaping and what is going to crash the next Internet2. For planning purposes they want to figure out what projects are using up the bandwidth. Right now they are using sequential data and manually going through it and the key to that is data mining it, so they talked at length about some issues that Cameron might be able to offer for data mining and also Deaton talked to them about the access grid where you have super computers sitting around that have cell blocks of time for doing computing. He suggested that Cameron might join with other universities who have received NCR’s and offer that as a mini-grid. When we have idle time then we could advertise that and the computer time could be utilized by researchers and scientists anywhere in the world. That might be something that Cameron could do immediately. Greg is making some contacts and Richard Braley as well, to see about whether the other universities would be willing to join in. South Carolina is the only university that really has their NCR 5100 cranking now. They are doing the research with the Black Hawk helicopters. They are storing all that data on their computer and all the preventive maintenance information. Their computer is really being utilized in a good way. A couple of others have said they are ready to unplug theirs; they weren’t finding any use for it and release time was not being given to faculty.

(9) Sullivan asked what the State Regents attribute to the fact that not many people are into this. Goode replied that it is probably just the lack of knowledge. People just don’t know about it and ideas are not coming forth from the universities. The State Regents will be very willing to help us. Discussion followed regarding possible uses of the NCR by various organizations.

2. Agenda Item 2 - Online Enrollment and Income

Sullivan handed out the document, Online Enrollment and Income. This is an update on where we stand with our online program. Discussion followed regarding getting faculty paid who develop and teach online courses, account from which payment comes, receiving notification when courses have been certified, errors in the figures on the document, etc.

3. Agenda Item 3 - Continue Budget Discussion

Sullivan distributed an e-mail from Bryce Fair and stated that this item is a continuation of the State budget discussion.

(1) Part of this has to do with what might happen to us for the rest of this year. There is really nothing we can do about the rest of this year. If we get hit, the only place to take it from will be the reserves. The shortfall is the result of a drop in oil and gas prices and a downturn in general taxes. Sullivan doesn’t feel there will be a problem for the remainder of this year for Cameron University, but we are anticipating that we will have no better than a flat budget next year. Also, next year, there is a potential for some fairly serious cuts. Discussion followed.

(2) Soelle stated that an issue is that we cannot continue to offer the same level of programs with a cuts in positions. If we reduce the academic areas by three and four positions, we cannot ask those remaining to offer the same level of academic programs that they have offered in the past. There are several options. You can ask the remaining faculty to up the number of students
in their classes and you can ask them to teach a 15 hour load. If you do that then you have to rewrite the faculty handbook because you cannot ask faculty to conduct research and publish. We are promoting research so hard but you cannot get research out of faculty who teach a 15 hour load and have 50 students in their classes. Another thing they will not be able to do is teach students to write. When you have 50-80 students in a class you don’t ask faculty members to promote writing, so you graduate students that can’t write. Sullivan stated that this is not just Cameron. This is the State of Oklahoma saying we do not have the money. Sullivan stated that he would like to see this budget picture get a little clearer before we start saying we are going to cut positions and programs, etc. Further discussion followed.

(3) Bhattacharya asked if there are any thoughts on the traveling professor concept where you hire people for very low salaries like for the Marine contract? Sullivan replied that people have talked to him about that but he has never seen a firm proposal. He would like to see a firm proposal on what Bhattacharya has in mind because we are spending important assets by sending people overseas and we are under even more pressure now with this Marine contract. Bhattacharya stated that he has some people who are interested in this and they would be willing to become Cameron faculty at less than half the pay if their teaching load is just teaching and they don’t have any other responsibilities.

(4) Soelle asked how Sullivan was going to approach submission of the budget requests. Sullivan replied that before he gives the deans the guidance, he hopes he has a better idea of what the budget figures are going to be but it is going to be close. He does not want to give any guidance out right now.

COMMENTS

D. Goode - No comments.

Buckley - Asked if the evaluations for reappointment at the Assistant Professor, tenure track level are due to the Provost by March 20 but if he does not plan to keep a faculty member then they have to be notified of non-reappointment by March 1. Sullivan replied that is correct.

Soelle asked what happened to the calendar in the new Faculty Handbook. She stated that she has been using the one from the old faculty handbook. Sullivan replied that there is no calendar in the new handbook and to just follow the old calendar.

Dawe - Stated that there are two events Friday related to the Research Celebration. We have our Research Awards Banquet and he would like to encourage as many faculty and staff to register and participate in that. There will be six distinguished awards that will be presented to people throughout Southwest Oklahoma. Two of them are faculty here at Cameron - T.K. Bhattacharya and Marjorie Kingsley. Also, Pokorny wanted all the members of the Council of Deans to come to the SWORD Research Roundtable meeting which is at 9:30-11:30 on Friday. Those in attendance will go from there to the luncheon. Sullivan asked how the attendance was at some of the workshops last week. Dawe replied that some had only had two or three people and others were really great. The
most successful was the Business one. They always have a good turnout. Dawe counted 75 in attendance at that one. Short discussion followed.

Neale - No comments.

Harrison - Two things.

a. One is online - he would like to discourage any of the people here from giving students anybody’s telephone number for help, except the one listed on the sheets which is X-2280. He will be discouraging Brook from helping anybody. The reason why is that we have enough people around to help students right now but if we actually break out and go global, the students can’t just walk in. We need to have finished testing our relationship with Eduprise and Blackboard. Harrison is trying to get Brook not to do the work for them when they come in but say, let’s sit down and go to Eduprise and let’s figure out the problem that way. Short discussion followed.

b. Harrison stated that everyone here is aware that we have talked to the Viet Nam University about cooperative programs. He has taken some of the programs that are on the list to go to Viet Nam and reformatted the plans of study into a common format. He has also double checked these with the department chairs to make sure they are accurate. He distributed copies of some of the degree plans that he had reformatted into a common format. He asked the deans to take a look at these and if the deans are interested in having all their departments degree plans formatted in this common format, he will do it for them over the course of the next month or so. He feels it would be a good idea if every plan of study on the campus had the same format and same look to it. Further discussion followed.

c. Question was asked the status of Viet Nam effort. Sullivan stated that the agreement has been signed between our State Regents and the Viet Nam University and Cameron has been asked to identify the programs that we would be interested in providing to them. Based on the guidance we received from the State Regents, Harrison has formatted these in a way that when it gets to Viet Nam it will all look the same. Discussion followed.

Young - No comments.

Soelle - No comments

Bhattacharya - No comments.

Adjourned 11:56 a.m.