Provost’s Report for Faculty Senate

September 21, 2014

Submitted by Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Provost

* Recent hires in Academic Affairs
  + Dr. Kevan Frazier, Executive Director, Biltmore Park Instructional Site
* Recent good news
  + Pat Morse is the Principal Investigator on a 3 year $1,167,354.00 HRSA grant. This is an exciting opportunity for the WCU Social Work Program, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Center for Native Health, and area providers to make a difference for the people in our region.
* Summer School Forum: Blue Ridge room filled with faculty and staff from all areas of campus including housing, facilities, financial aid and dining services. Community members were also present. Areas discussed were:
  + Community members are interested in seeing increasing students on campus for the summer to support local businesses in the area – help economic development in the area.
  + Trina Orr, director of Financial Aid, was able to clarify financial aid possibilities for students – students who are interested in summer school can spread their financial aid over three semesters (fall, spring, and summer).
  + Students need to know about course offerings by the end of the fall semester, so that they can plan their financial aid distribution.
  + Deans have been asking students about interest in summer school. Many students interested if the right courses are offered – want to know early what is being offered and in what format.
  + There are 12 month rentals that students may want to sublease for a summer session – not all students want to stay in residence halls.
  + Food Services is interested in opening more facilities if there are students on campus to use them.
  + Changes to the APR 19 have been recommended by the Deans, the summer school committee and will go to APRC for input and discussion.
  + Discussion about compensation proposal from the summer school committee – under new model, most faculty will receive a higher pay for a course and concerns were raised that a few faculty, those in the higher salary brackets, will receive a lower pay per course.
  + Keith Corzine shared the decreasing number of students residing in campus housing over the last four summers.
  + Courses offered in the summer should add value and not take SCHs from fall and spring.
  + Misperception that Provost wants a large increase in residential students this coming summer – not the case. This will be a slow growth over a few years.
  + College and School Deans indicated that they have been talking with their Department Heads and faculty about possible offerings for the future.
  + The number of online courses offered should not change. UNC Online is a factor for discussion.
* Provost Fellows Update: Campus wide announcement for the three positions was sent out. Several applicants for each position. Currently undergoing the interviews for final selection of the Provost Fellows candidate.
* COACHE (Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education) Survey – administered every three years. Most recent administration in 2011. Seeking a team of people to be involved in the development of additional questions to add to the existing UNC system questions as well as work with the data that will result. Slight shift in timeframe for the survey. Going out January – April with report provided in early summer.
* Merging program prioritization, annual assessment, and the program review processes. Implementation of the program level data step for units undergoing program review this academic year has occurred. The Office of Assessment has uploaded data sets to the unit shared drive per our earlier directive. Also, while many programs don't go through a program review process since they go through accreditation reviews, we and they still want them to have the same key indicators for their review as the departments that go through program review. Each year, all departments will receive their data sets for that year. See sample data sets for upcoming reviews on the Shared Drive/Mercury >UnitReviews>Data Reports>FTP (Film and Television Production; GSNR\_ES (Geosciences, Natural Resources and Environmental Science); HS (Human Resources); MATH; and MHS (Master of Health Sciences).