Staff Council Executive Meeting with Provost Butler  
Thursday, January 15, 2015  
111 Jessup Hall

Attending:  Provost Butler; Sue Buckley, Vice President for Human Resources; Erin Brothers, Laurie Hafner Dahms, Hans Hoerschelman, Shannon Lizakowski, Randy Nessler, Joshua Smith, Chuck Wieland, and Marsha Adolph.

Absent:  John Downing & Kimberly Keister.

Meeting called to order

Updates:  
Brent Gage, the new Associate Vice President for Enrollment, attended the meeting to introduce himself and meet the Staff Council Executive Committee. He comes to the University of Iowa from the University of Alabama Birmingham. Currently, applications for the incoming class are up 8%. There will be a push to do more segmentation of the population for the fall to interact with prospects better. Better projections will lead to better investment of resources, as well as providing the right classes for students. This in turn will lead to more sustained and well-managed growth on campus. There will be more internal campaigning for UI to recruit collectively, since every interaction matters – both on and off campus.

Typically, the University of Iowa is seen as a “Best Buy” on college rankings. Joe Brennan is looking into why UI fell in the Kiplinger Rankings. The cost for tuition didn’t change relative to other schools in state, and the quality of education is up. The MBA program dropped in ranking from #25 to #58, but the reason why has not, yet, been discovered. The association of Governing Boards rated the University of Iowa as the only university in Iowa to receive a “B” (most schools in Iowa were given a “C” or below). The university does try to stay on top of the rankings. The impact rankings have on recruitment is unknown, but likely has a small magnitude on student decisions.

Diversity has been a focus on campus. Additional resources are being put into increasing the diversity on campus.

The Performance Based Funding model looks positive relative to where it could be, but a lot can happen between now and the end of the legislative session. There has been a 1.75% increase of base operating costs proposed for Regent institutions. No special new projects or building projects will be funded in this budget. $4 million will be dedicated to the Performance Based Funding model, but there is no indication of how that money will be split between the Regents’ institutions at this time.

The academic sub-contractor left the TIER project, so that part of the efficiency review is behind the rest of the study. The other portions of the study are moving forward, with selection of consulting firms to assist with the implementation of approved plans. Updates can be found on the UI Efficiency and Transformation website: http://efficiency.uiowa.edu/article/board-regents-announces-implementation-consultants

President Mason has announced her retirement. The Board of Regents will meet to plan the search for her replacement next week.

Meeting adjourned