

FINAL

Staff Council Executive Committee Meeting with Provost Loh

Nov 5, 2008

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Present: Martha Greer, Diane Hauser, George Hospodarsky, Glenn Kell, Amber Seaton,
Sarah Tallman, Kevin Ward, Sue Buckley, Marsha Adolph
Absent: Kathy Klein, Mary Lee Neuberger, Laura Prince

1) The Strategic Initiatives

Provost Loh asked for comments on the updated version of the proposed Strategic Initiatives for 2009-2014

Some of the Task Forces and their purposes/goals of the have already been improved due to suggestions from the University community. Three of the bigger changes are the addition of a “Technology to Put Knowledge into Practice” Task Force, the merging of the “Recruitment and Retention” into the Strategic Initiatives Committee, and addition detail on the issue of resources and budgeting in the predicted tight financial times.

It is planned that Staff representatives will be on all Task Forces and committees

Discussion of various parts of the proposed Strategic Initiatives:

“A culture of safety and health” Task Force

The Provost office is already working on some of the issues this task force will focus on. Provost Loh has been meeting with Iowa City officials and the Iowa City Council Members. He also attended the last Iowa City Council Meeting. Professor Tom Rocklin has agreed to chair the Campus Task Force committee. Will be asked to come up with specific action items and also a proposed budget. Sarah Hansen is heading group that is working on the student binge drinking issue. One thing they are looking at is the budget for capital improvement (for example a bowling alley or a movie theater (with late hour showings)). What can the University provide for alternative activities.

These committees and Task Force will have benchmarks.

Plan to work with Iowa City on reducing the alcohol supply. Iowa City Manager, Michael Lombardo will head a city commission (including community leaders) that will work on outreach, public relation issues, and hold series of public hearings to examine this issue.

The moving of the Task Force on Recruitment and Retention to the Strategic Initiatives Committee

Since the function of recruitment and hiring is usually done at the department level, and because these activities depend on the funding and financial issues, it was decided that it fit better under the Strategic Initiatives Committee

Discussed some of the possible ways to fund the proposed “100 new faculty”

Health Care Campus

Discussed the importance of Health Campus and Hospital in regards to the Strategic Initiatives. Suggestion was made to include patient care and other forms of public service to the Strategic Initiatives Mission statement

“Technology to Put Knowledge into Practice” Task Force

Consensus that the addition of this Task Force to the Initiatives was a good idea. The University needs to continually examine the new methods and technologies that link the University to the world.

2) Chief Diversity Officer position

Discussed the Chief Diversity Officer position.

Everyone agreed that name/title should more accurately reflect the role of the position and office “Office of Ethics and Compliance” was suggested. Provost Loh welcomes ideas and suggestions.

Stolar Report stated that Student/student complaints and investigations should be moved out of the EOD office. Discussion about what should be done with staff/staff, faculty/faculty, staff/student/, faculty/staff, etc. complaints and investigations. May depend on what the Regents decide for the student/student situations. Some possibilities are 1)stay in EOD, 2)Move to HR 3)Hire an outside firm, 4)Hire an internal position that only deals with the investigations.

Martha Greer pointed out a possible concern with a possible conflict of interest if it is transferred to HR. Example was: supervisor asked for advice from HR on a problem with an employee, acts on advice from HR, employee files complaint that HR now has to investigate.

Provost Loh welcomes suggestions on these issues

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.