

UPBC Dr. Miller Meeting 110813

In attendance: President Jack Miller, Susan Pease, Kathy Martin-Troy, Yvonne Kirby, Connor Fallanca, Guy Crundwell, Carlos Liard-Muriente, Lisa Bigelow, Charlene Casamento, Hayou Wang, Chad Valk, Thom Delventhal

10:08 AM

Dr. Miller stated that a primary focus for UPBC is still to listen in the budget planning process. 80-90% of time Dr. Miller follows UPBC recommendations. Sometime he does not do exactly what is suggested.

Surprised that UPBC did not drill down into the details of the budgets further. Ask more questions as he does at his level. Be careful about getting bogged down on too many details. An example of what he may ask when he meets with his leadership: Why did you ask for X for three years and now you are asking for Y? Be careful about time management of the committee.

Kathy: part time budget includes summer and winter faculty which might be wrong, because they can be construed as for profit positions.

Dr. Miller: discussed positions with the Provost yesterday and discussed this issue. Asked Provost to come back with data that showed when we spend more money we generate more credits then it would be unwise to reduce that budget. And not impacting the spring/fall semesters.

Guy: Can Carl use existing data to determine this information looking backwards.

Dr. Miller: go back 5 years and review data before looking forward.
Agree with Guy and Kathy as a point, but need to have the data before making determination.

Guy: can we de-convolute the 2 budgets for tracking?
Dr. Miller: Sure.

Charlene: Expenditures all linked into the same line item. Going to try to create a sub code to break down the expenditures even further.

Dr. Miller: Enrollment. We can turn this around. We just have never tried to do this before. We have gone up steadily in enrollment because we improved retention.

Chad presented UPBC concerns with three planning committees: UPBC, Facilities Planning and Master Planning.

Guy: Articulation of functions or responsibilities are not present for these other committees. Minutes and agendas posted.

Dr. Miller: Good point. Will sit down with those groups and write up roles and purposes defined.

Dr. Miller open to Dr. Gray visiting.

Guy: Dr. Gray seems to be on an accelerated time scale. How can UPBC be a clearinghouse for ideas to get feedback into ConnSCU? Allowing for people to have input into the process. Parse data for the ConnSCU open forum (forum date TBD).

Dr. Miller: Shared thoughts from the forum with Dr. Gray that he was present at. The reason why the systemic process isn't clear to people is because it isn't clear to people. Picking winners and losers is not a good way to plan. Most of the regional public institutions are doing the same thing; all have Arts & Sciences, English, Business, Education departments, etc.

Guy: Recently accredited business school could be a favorable other option to push in our plan. No one else in CSU has it. Are you pushing STEM because it is hot right now?

Dr. Miller: The plan largely given to us, little to no input initially.

Kathy: Is the philosophy that going after STEM is a follow up to UCONN getting this funded?

Dr. Miller: Not necessarily. Transportation was not included for example. A good selling point to the Governor is the busway and mass transit initiatives.

Guy: How do you see our role to making this a world class institution?

Dr. Miller: Two things. One, how do we as a system/four institutions look at items that pertain to all. Two, how do we (CCSU) show what we do as leaders in certain areas. (Used CIE as an example) We need to get people talking about this stuff.

Chad: Resources for ITBD and Hartford how will we be able to support those?

Dr. Miller: ITBD moves have been resource neutral at this point. Hartford approach has gone slower in partnering with Capital.

Guy: Is there savings in merging a CCC into CSU?

Dr. Miller: BOR seemed to want to do just that at one point. I think President Gray was very definitive that he is not planning to do this.

Dr. Miller: BOR is listening. Blackboard Learn move off premises to the Cloud and the Residence Hall wireless projects are both moving forward. Previously these were stagnant. Dr. Gray is listening to the campuses.

(Thom takes over minutes)

Carlos: We're competing with other institutions for limited resources--UCONN is expanding their programs into satellite campuses, student population is shrinking...

Dr. Miller: Get used to it. If you can't compete...

Carlos: But is there a plan? Yes, economics are intensifying competition, that's what we teach. But are we going to be able to support the pieces that are not as "hot an item" but are nonetheless needed?

Dr. Miller: My assumption is that because we receive resources for one thing, it doesn't mean another will be taken away. We've had some ups and downs, but our allocation hasn't really changed a lot over the last several years. We've just received a 3% increase and new positions. That's the reality of higher education.

Guy: When you came to CCSU we developed a Strategic Plan and tied budget to it. Do you foresee this happening on a broader scale with Dr. Gray?

Dr. Miller: I don't know. We just don't know. We can infer some things maybe. I got a letter saying we were going to create new evaluations of the presidents of BOR institutions and if we had anything to add we could talk about it. Nothing in the letter was quantitative. I'm not sure how you attach resources to that. I don't know what will emerge. We have to continue to read the signs and be ready. So far, so good. When they doled out resources we got twice as much as anyone else.

Kathy: There are always a lot of rumors. Can we share information more? For example, the latest is that FYE is going away.

Dr. Miller: I don't know what the rumors are, but we have only received the significant data on FYE within the month. It is clear that something needs to change. There are not significant differences between students that have taken FYE and students that haven't. So some collective thought is required.

Look at the JFK space program. Little kids want to climb over a fence to get a lost ball in the neighbor's yard--they throw the cat over the fence. Now they have to climb the fence. When JFK announced the space program, he didn't say, "We're trying to orbit the earth." He said, "We're going to the moon."

I'd like to see 100% satisfaction, but it's not going to happen. Still, it doesn't mean we stop listening, striving. For example, Fox News reported on our handling of the recent lockdown. I'm really pleased with our entire response: notification systems all worked within reason. Everyone did well. Is there room for improvement? Of course.

adjourned: 11:18 AM