

University Planning and Budget Committee
Meeting of March 20, 2013
The Blue and White Room, Student Center

In attendance: Kris Larsen, Haoyu Wang, Charlene Casamento, Thom Delventhal, Carl Lovitt, Yvonne Kirby, Celeste Roche, Kevin Oliva, Carlos Liard-Muriente, Guy Crundwell, Kathy Martin-Troy, Chris Galligan

Meeting called to order at 1:43:

(Kris): First I'd like to thank Kevin for running the last meeting in my absence. I understand he did a fabulous job. And Thom, for updating the website.

1. Minutes:

Feb 20: Motion to approve (Guy, Kathy second)
Minutes approved

March 6: Motion to approve (Thom, Guy second)
Minutes approved with amendments

2. Announcements:

(Kris): Charlene will be here shortly. Academic affairs?

(Carl): We will support the Mayor's Plan to End Homelessness in two important ways:

A fund-raiser at Trinity-On-Main called *Empty Bowls*: Two hundred bowls will be provided by the Art Department. These bowls will be decorated and bid on by guests. This will happen on April 4, from 6-8pm. There will be a swing band.

And on April 18th the bi-annual *Night At The Museum* will take place at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Hannah Hurwitz is organizing this year's event and the theme is *A Home Of One's Own*.

Guy: In the past there was a "Town and Gown" party at (former) President Judd's home to which the New Britain Superintendent of Schools and other New Britain officials were invited. Can we rebuild that idea and bring it on campus?

Kris: The Community Engagement Advisement Council has been continuing that tradition. There are regular events with invitations sent to New Britain's movers and shakers.

Guy: There will be three buses leaving here tomorrow (Thursday, March 21) at 9am to go to ESCU to protest the tuition hikes. The students are being very proactive about making sure that the Board of Regents hears their voice.

4. New Business:

Kris: What are people's thoughts re: the two reports received from the President's ad hoc committees?

Kathy: I thought the report from the Downtown New Britain Working Group had lots of cool stuff. I really like "Anvil Place." Is there any evidence that the Art

Department doesn't mind moving downtown?

Celeste: Everyone in the Art Department that I've spoken to is confident that they *are* moving, if that's any indication.

Guy: The STEM report seems to indicate that cost is a deal-breaker, but I don't see that that's true from my reading.

Yvonne: I see a potential fly in the ointment re: the Art Department's move: If we are offering classes that constitute more than 50% of a program it has to be approved by NEASC.

Carl: Currently there are only 5 classes slated for downtown. Those include; Two ECON classes, a STAT and a marketing class. These are courses that have already proven their popularity among part-time students, and we believe that this will continue to be true in the new location.

Guy: In fact, the STEM initiative is definitely not cost-prohibitive. There must be administrative or faculty resistance.

Kris: Not necessarily. It's about doing it right. The feeling on the committee is that some of the STEM subjects aren't being served. We want to have quality services in a fully supported way.

Guy: Nothing is fully supported; that's just the way public education is. Saying you want it fully supported postpones the initiative indefinitely. We can still put components in place. We're never going to have the ideal. Let's put them together and create the opportunity to see where they might grow.

Kris: But we don't want to just "slide around the tiles."

Guy: Right, don't move it just to move it. But I think we need to move things. We have communication issues. We have no champion when we keep Engineering and Science separate. We've got to get them in the same building. On the UPBC, we have seen that initiative routinely fail or stay stagnant when there is no champion. Making a STEM school makes the Dean THE STEM champion.

Kris: The committee wants to put in for better resources.

Carlos: Who are the stakeholders?

Kathy: The departments

Carlos: Five departments?

Kris: All the people in Copernicus, plus Math and Computer Science.

Guy: But there's more. If these schools leave Arts and Sciences, the remaining departments will benefit from more attention from the Dean. I would hate for this reorganization to go forward with communication only to and among the schools that might move. It should go through Senate.

Kris: It is being publically discussed with the whole community. These reports have been posted and there will be forums.

How do people feel it would be most productive to give our constructive feedback on these two reports?

Guy is massively in favor of a STEM reorganization

It's not cost-prohibitive

It's a good idea

It would benefit all the departments in Arts and Sciences as well as enhance the University's fundability

Kathy: Would it be fair to say that the Governor asked for STEM ideas, we took too long and he gave it to UCONN?

Carl: I believe UCONN worked on their STEM with great earnest for a long time. It was in the works before the Governor ever made his request.

We have a proposal for a STEM Ed. Master's that is going forward. But there are many questions still to be answered: why are we doing this? What do we hope to accomplish? What are the synergies we want to develop? and more.

Guy: But we can't explore those synergies now because there is no STEM champion. (Guy Note: The use of 'champion' reflects back to a report done years ago in the UPBC where we tracked over a decade what issues in the current and past strategic plans were accomplished. A champion was a point person who was in charge of resources and in charge of planning for a particular initiative.)

Charlene: Vehicles are already in place for feedback on these reports. I don't see that it serves the UPBC to make separate commentary.

Carlos: But not commenting would be taken as a big question mark on the committee. What if we invited the President to visit us, then we could give him our feedback directly?

Kris: I think that's a good idea.

Carl: But maybe we need to be raising specific questions—helping to identify them. It's not a question of yes or no, but what are some of the planning implications.

Kris: Alright. Everyone please send me a list of questions based on what benefits you see from these two reports and an analysis of cost. I will cobble them together for our next meeting.

5. Updates

Budget (Charlene):

In a March 15th email the BOR reported that the out of state tuition will not increase. In-state tuition will go up 3%. Tomorrow is the BOR meeting at Eastern. I will send an update following that meeting. I have no reason to believe that there will be any changes from what I've previously reported.

We've made a change to the "hold" policy. Previously there has been a "hold" placed on registration, transcripts and grades for any amount outstanding of \$1 or more. We've changed it to \$100 for registration, although it remains \$1 for transcripts and grades. We believe this will make registration for transfer students in January run much more smoothly. Associate Deans had voiced concern that some transfer students registering in January want to take 5 classes but wouldn't pay the full bill for fear they couldn't get 5 classes they wanted. So for the first two weekends in January "holds" will be removed to allow those students to see if they can get 5 classes.

Kathy: These are small changes but they will have a big impact.

Yvonne: Yes, this is great.

Institutional Advancement(Chris):

The university received about a half million for the scholarship fund from a local donor. We're having a good year. Currently, we're at about 3 million total.

The new Director of Continuing Ed has started with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. New classes are opening.

OIRA (Yvonne):

We're in the middle of administering NESS. Participation right now is fairly low. I think there may be some survey fatigue.

Adjournment: 3:02