Regional Deans Meeting
11-19-13

Attendance: Willan, Anderson, Abraham, Evans, Fonseca, Smith, Howard, Tuck

Morning Discussion Items

IUC Meeting Report- Bill, Jim (Smith) and Jim (Fonseca) attended the latest IUC meeting on 11/8. Nothing significant to report. There was a discussion of capital funds to be distributed to the campuses. Bill reported the situation looks positive with regards to the campuses receiving capital funds. The future of College Credit Plus is still in discussion at the state level.

Foundation Meeting update- Marty, Paul and Dan attended the Foundation Board Meeting on 11/8. It was announced that the Promise Lives campaign has received pledges totaling $438 million making it highly probable the $450 million campaign goal will be met. The university endowment stands at $450-460 million. The Reehan Platform, a new database to track potential donors was demonstrated at the meeting. The Ohio University Army ROTC program was highlighted at the lunch presentation.

The deans also discussed the end of the year alumni giving letter. There is concern that this letter, again this year, may not be mailed to potential donors until after the first of the 2014 calendar year.

Dean Search Update- The Zanesville Dean search is about to enter the on-campus interview phase. Five candidates have been selected for on campus interviews. The Southern Dean search committee has selected candidates for Skype interviews.

Math Placement using Compass Test- The deans continued the discussion of the Math-Algebra Compass cutoff score in order for students to enroll in tier I math classes and avoid being required to complete developmental math classes. The cutoff score remains inconsistent with the various campuses. Some campuses are continuing to follow the state suggested cutoff of 52. There is concern from the Student Services Directors that lowering the cutoff from the state guidelines would result in more students failing tier I math. Concern was also expressed that MATH D005 does not have the rigor to prepare students for Math 1300 or other tier I math courses. There was also discussion of the best way to schedule math courses for “at risk” student success. The deans will gather data comparing tier I math course passing rates with the Compass scores the students’ received.

Cambridge Center Update- The approval request to open and operate the Cambridge Center has been sent to the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) for approval and the proposal now rests with Jane Fullerton of OBR. Abraham reported spring semester course registrations are coming in slowly for the center. The deans discussed the possibility of sending a letter out to prospective students in the Cambridge region announcing classes will be held at the center beginning spring semester.

Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Sports Management (BSRSS)- UCC approval of the BSRSS program to be offered on the regional campuses has encountered a setback. The faculty from the Recreation and Sport Pedagogy department on the Athens campus have issues with the arrangement in which the
program will be offered, and have asked that it be tabled until these issues can be addressed. Jim Fonseca and Kathy Normansell will meet with the department faculty in an attempt to work out the issues.

**New Overload Teaching Rates**: Jim Fonseca expressed concern that the new overload teaching rates for the university are likely to be very costly to the regional campuses. Paying faculty at these new rates could be more costly than hiring additional faculty. The deans discussed how the increased elevated overload rates and issues surrounding the Affordable Health Care Act may limit the adjunct faculty pool and make it difficult for the regional campuses to adequately staff classes.

**Contract Processing Delays**: Delays in contract processing involving approvals by The Office of Risk Management and Legal Affairs is continuing to cost certain campuses additional funds because discounted rates agreed to in the contracts are being lost due to the contracts not being processed in a timely manner. The latest incident is with a phone contract from the Zanesville campus.

**Design and Production Costs**: Tuck reported that the OUC foot bridge project for the Shoemaker Center has been delayed because the Facilities Office has decided the project must go to the OU Board of Trustees (BOT) for approval. Facilities is also requiring that addition studies be performed on the site with an estimate cost of several thousand dollars before it can be submitted to the BOT for approval. OUC has the money for the project and has been waiting several months for facilities to complete the design and secure contractors for the project. Rosanna Howard will look into the issue as to why the project now has to be approved by the BOT.

**Scheduling Summit**: The RHE scheduling summit has been scheduled for Dec 11th. RHE Deans and Associate Deans should plan to attend the summit. The deans discussed how the agenda for the summit should be focused in order to make the event more productive. The deans should send Bill Willan items to include for the agenda.

**Associate Dean Tasks**: The deans asked about progress the RHE Associate Dean group is making on their assigned tasks for the academic year. The Deans felt scheduling coordination and the common facilities usage policy were the most important issues that should be addressed.

**On Line Course Offering**: Rosanna Howard shared data related to on line course sections offered and enrollment numbers per campus for the 2012-13 academic year and fall semester 2013. The deans discussed the data and the sharing of on line course revenue between the campuses.

**Faculty Global e-mail List**: At the request of certain RHE faculty, the RHE Central Office is creating a global e-mail list of RHE group I and II faculty. The list will be used for faculty to send messages to other faculty. Bill Willan will send out an e-mail to the faculty announcing the list and provide web links to university policies which outline regulations on its use. Faculty can ask to be removed from the list. Willan shared a copy of the e-mail with the deans.
Lunch Discussion

Dean Tuck led a stimulating discussion of Chapters 1-3 from the “Higher Education in America” book by Derek Bok. The other deans praised Tuck for his excellent moderation skills and would have discussed the book well into the afternoon if time permitted, but unfortunately (or fortunately) it did not.

Affordable Health Care Act Discussion

The deans met with Mary Alexander-Conte, OU Payroll manager, and Jason Winchell from the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to discuss hiring ramifications related to the institution of the Affordable Health Care Act (AHCA). Highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- OU must be compliant with the AHCA by 2015.
- The university plans a one year measurement period to determine group III faculty who are working over 30 hours per week. This would include teaching on all Ohio University campuses. If group III faculty are working over 30 hours (11 semester credits) per week they will need to be converted to group II faculty and offered benefits. However, we also need to monitor the Faculty Senate Group II policy that allows Group II faculty to teach an average of only 7.5 credit hours per semester over any two year period. The university is developing a monitoring system to track group III faculty workload. The tracking/measurement period will be from April 2014-May 2015.
- It was announced that under the AHCA, Group III administrators can work full time for up to 6 months without the requirement of benefits being offered.
- Tracking working hours and fte for group III faculty and administrators are issues that are very critical in the compliance of the AHCA.
- The deans discussed with Alexander-Conte a number of special cases of group III administrators, such as regional campus athletic coaches, which need to be addressed.

Academic Probation Update- Deans reviewed the academic probation process and probation data (number of students from each campus placed on probation) from last academic year. There was a “spike” in the number of students placed on probation after fall semester 2012. This increase appears to be largely due to students who stopped attending classes during the semester. This was a problem each campus encountered. Academic Probation Letters will go out to students January 2nd or 3rd. Probation data from each campus can be assessed from the OBIEE database.

Course Substitution Guidelines- Prepared by Carissa Anderson and Bill Willan, the guidelines were recently reviewed by the Regional Campus Curriculum Committee (RCCC). Anderson will use the suggestions from the RCCC in the revision of the document before they are distributed to the campuses.

Campus Updates- In the past, campus updates have been included in the Deans meeting notes. The Deans discussed alternative mechanisms to communicate campus updates. Since many of the campuses maintain an electronic Newsblog it was suggested that a link to the various campus’ Newsblogs be provided on the RHE website for individuals to assess news from each campus.
**RHE Website**- Rosanna Howard demonstrated a number of updates/improvements/changes to the RHE front (web) page. The deans made suggestions for additional changes to the site. The newly designed site is now live. The deans should review the site and send additional suggestions to Rosanna.

**Centers and Admissions Applications**- Jim Smith informed the deans that Centers (Pickerington and Proctorville) are not coded separately in the admissions process. Students attending classes at the centers are identified as part of either the Lancaster or Southern campus. Coding in this manner makes it difficult to recruit students specifically to the centers. Smith asked if there could be a discussion with the Registrar’s Office or Craig Cornell about coding students who apply for admission to the centers specifically to that center and not to the parent campus. Willan will discuss this request with Craig Cornell and report back to the deans.

**Promotion and Tenure (P&T) Committee Structure**- The Deans discussed the number of faculty members required to make up division P&T committees, and do these same guidelines hold true for group II faculty promotion committees. The Faculty Handbook recommends the minimum number of members be five.

**Campus Budget Reports**- Campus budget reports were sent earlier by Rosanna. Deans should review these reports and send any questions/comments to Rosanna.

**Class Climate**- The College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) is adopting “Class Climate” as the course evaluation tool to be used for course evaluations taught in the A&S College. The A&S College has asked if RHE was interested in adopting the tool as well. The Lancaster campus piloted the system and there were a number issues. The deans suggested having the campus Associate Deans to discuss the use of Class Climate and report back to the deans.

**OULN**- The deans reviewed the cost projections of the Polycom and Cisco systems currently being considered as replacements for OULN. The cost estimates were significant for both systems and the deans discussed whether it would be cost effective to even consider replacing the system. Rosanna will work with Jessica Makosky to get some past enrollment figures for OULN offered classes to determine if the revenue generated by the classes would make it cost effective to consider replacing OULN. It was also discussed whether the OULN courses currently being offered could be offered on line to serve students at a distance.

**Clearances Committee**- A university committee is being formed to address issues related to RHE instructors being cleared by the Athens campus to teach face to face and blended/on line classes. There have been issues with qualified instructors who have had a previous clearance to teach a particular course having their clearance revoked. There is a concern that the increase in on line and blended course offerings and the institution of Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) may add to these issues because of the perception of competition between the Athens campus and RHE.

**New Course Fees**- Rosanna reminded the deans that new course fee requests must be submitted to her by December 6th.