Regional Deans Meeting
8-26-14

Attendance: Willan, Abraham, Pennington, Cushman, Smith, Howard, Anderson, Tuck

Guests: Provost Benoit, Sam Venable, Dan Evans, Scott Howard and Bill LaFayette

Discussion Items:

Upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting: Deans discussed the program and agenda items for the upcoming Ohio University Board of Trustees meeting.

Offering the Law Enforcement Technology (LET) program on the Athens Campus: Willan reported his contact at the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) has encouraged him to bring a proposal forward to the OBR to offer the LET program on the main (Athens) campus. Tuck mentioned such a proposal will also need to be vetted and approved through the campus/RHE (RCCC)/university (UCC) curriculum approval process. Willan, Tuck and University College Dean Elizabeth Sayers will have a conference call in the near future to discuss the next steps in the approval process.

Dual Enrollment/College Credit Plus: Anderson reported discussions are continuing with the College of Arts and Sciences faculty and staff about dual enrollment offerings now referred to as “College Credit Plus”. The Admissions Policies for entering the program are currently being reviewed. Anderson feels there needs to be a more standard/“global” approach to College Credit Plus particularly with regards to the admissions process. The new College Credit Plus program provides no distinction between Dual Enrollment (college courses offered in the high school by high school faculty) and Postsecondary Enrollment (PSEOP, high school students taking courses on the college campuses) curriculum offerings. Both Dual enrollment and PSEOP have been rolled into a single program called College Credit Plus. All courses completed in the program by high school students’ count towards high school and college credit. Anderson felt there is a strong need for standardization in admission requirements and processes between the regional campuses. She will be looking into methods the Registrar’s Office could use to identify college credit plus courses on the schedule for reporting purposes. Willan commented that the requirement that all institutions of higher learning within the state participate in the program may result in a large increase in students wanting to participate by attending regional campuses; and may result in a financial burden for the participating campuses. The deans also discussed credential requirements for the high school teachers to offer college credit plus classes in the high school. Willan reported, The Provost is considering creating a Task Force to discuss many of these issues.

Provost Benoit’s visit to the meeting: The deans met with Provost Benoit and discussed a number of issues effecting the regional campuses and also discussed the Provost future visits to the five regional campuses. The Provost spoke about the university’s 1804 grant program and asked the deans to encourage RHE faculty to apply for these funds. She mentioned 1804 grants may fund proposals to obtain equipment items as well as proposals focused on educational/instructional needs.
The deans also reported and discussed with the Provost their campus’ goals for the coming academic year. Provost Benoit asked the Deans to report on the major challenges and opportunities each campus faces for the coming year. She also announced her office staff is working on a standard format for colleges/campuses to request (faculty/staff) personnel positions.

She applauded the efforts of the regional campus faculty to complete revisions of the RHE Promotion and Tenure (P&T) guidelines and she emphasized she wanted this work to continue throughout the colleges/campuses in order to “tighten up” and be more specific regarding the criteria language which currently exists in P&T documents.

Enrollment Report- Howard distributed fall enrollment updates/summaries for each campuses including Full Time Equivalent (FTE) data and the number of course sections offered. She emphasized the numbers remain “fluid” at this point in time but it looks as though the RHE system as a whole will be down in enrollment (headcount) and FTE when the fall term begins.

Regional Campus Human Resources (HR) Liaison- Howard reported the HR proposal to establish liaisons between the regional campuses and the HR division on the main campus will be finalized soon. The liaisons will be working with each campus to identify HR issues and strategies to address these issues. Howard reported that Adam Pergram will likely be the HR liaison for all of the regional campuses.

Ohio University Learning Network (OULN)- The deans discussed the proposal which has been submitted to replace the current OULN System. As the system is likely to be replaced, the discussion focused on the number of rooms on each campus which need to be equipped with OULN equipment. The deans will be discussing with their campus Associate Deans the number of rooms which should be equipped for each campus and report back at a future meeting.

Sam Venable from University Advancement- Sam met with the deans to provide a demonstration of the Reeher Platform software system. The Reeher Platform is currently being used by the Office of Advancement and the various university development officers to track development activities. The software reporting system tracks various activities including gifts received, asks, pledges, contacting activities/visits, contacts made, etc.

Office Technology (OTEC) Program name change- Tuck introduced a draft proposal prepared by OTEC System Coordinator Allison White to change the name of the OTEC program to “Office Administration Technology” (OAT). The justification for the name change is that the proposed name better reflects the fact that graduates who complete the program typically secure administration positions which require leadership and supervisory roles. The current OTEC name carries a stigma that the program only trains individuals who work in offices as secretaries and/or receptionists.

A name change for OTEC has been proposed before but met with resistance from the Southern campus, which in addition to the Chillicothe campus, offers the OTEC program. Tuck asked Dean Pennington to work with the OTEC faculty on the Southern campus to get their views/concerns on the proposal and report back to him. There is a strong desire to submit the proposal through the curriculum approval
process as soon as possible and it is important that before this happens the regional OTEC faculty have an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

**Compensation for Faculty who teach on the OULN System**- The deans discussed compensation for regional campus faculty who teach point-to-point courses on the OULN system. Anderson expressed a concern that faculty are being compensated differently depending on the campus. Some faculty are paid an additional stipend to teach point-to-point classes. Deans should investigate how the faculty on their campus are compensated for this type of instruction and report back at a later deans meeting.

**Workforce Development/Jobs Forecasting Study**- The deans met with Dan Evans, Scott Howard of the Ohio Strategic Training Center and Bill LaFayette of Regionomics to discuss workforce development opportunities and the Jobs Forecasting Study which is being performed for each of the regional campuses. It is a goal of the regional campuses to increase workforce development opportunities and completing the Jobs Forecasting study will be an important component in achieving this goal. The deans reported to S. Howard and LaFayette the progress their campuses have made in identifying the economic drivers for their service region. Once the drivers have been identified the next step will be to create focus groups for each campus made up of industry representatives which align with each of the selected drivers.

Dan Evans has also been working for the regional campuses to promote workforce development opportunities. Dan has met with John McGill of the OBR to discuss opportunities and the steps the regional campuses are taking to increase workforce development opportunities. Evans reported McGill was excited about the steps that are being taken by the campuses. Evans reported OBR feels strongly that higher education institutions should get input from the businesses around the state regarding these opportunities, which is what the Jobs Forecasting Study is designed to do. McGill feels there needs to be public/private partnerships developed around the state. OBR is willing to help anyway possible to promote the creation of these partnerships and help identify the workforce needs. Evans asked that he be kept informed as the jobs forecasting work moves forward on each campus, particularly when the focus groups are scheduled as McGill and/or his staff have a desire to attend these meetings when possible.

The next steps in the process is for the campuses to finish the identification of their economic drivers in order to move forward in the creation and scheduling of the campus focus groups.