**RHE Deans Meeting**

**March 7, 2017 | 9:30am – 3:30pm | Baker 226**

Attendees: Willan, Anderson, Abraham, Pennington, Davis, Smith, Howard (Zoom)

Zanesville Dean Search Feedback

The deans discussed the three Zanesville dean candidates. Willan reported that campus constituents and the search committee have provided feedback: no clear, single preference identified in the feedback. Willan will convey feedback to the Provost and let the deans know when a decision is available.

College Study Group

Willan shared that faculty names for participation were submitted, along with a justification statement, to the Provost. He will be following up with the Provost to review the project. Smith suggested including an administrative component to the conversation. Assuming the project goes forward, a shared folder will be created that will include information from previous studies/reviews.

Social Work Summer Internship Compensation

Willan shared that Athens campus provides compensation to faculty for summer social work internship placements. Willan suggested creating a similar approach for RHE faculty: 1 cr/hr for every 8 students, prorated for numbers fewer than 8. The deans agreed with this approach. It will be implemented for summer 2017.

RHE Scholarship Releases

The deans discussed the RHE Scholarship Release program and proposed changes to funding releases. Following discussion, the deans agreed that the program will be updated to reflect the following:

* Eligibility: category 1
* Restriction: faculty on scholarship release are not eligible for overload during the term of their release, as determined by the associate dean

The updated RHE Scholarship Release program will be effective fall 2017. Willan will send a message to the campuses with this information.

RHE Program Coordination

The deans discussed the RHE program coordination stipends. All RHE program coordination stipends will be reduced by 50%, effective 2017-2018. This includes campus and system-wide program coordination. Program coordinators working through 7-year program review, during the year of their self-study, or programs that require on-going documentation and evaluation per external accreditation requirements will continue to receive a stipend of the current (2016-2017) level. Willan will send a message to the campuses with this information.

*10:30 –11:10 – VPAA Benoit*

The deans reviewed budget reduction scenarios with the Provost. The Provost shared administrative updates with the deans, including the need for all units to prepare budget-planning scenarios that include significant reductions. At the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting, OIT will provide an update on cost-savings that have been implemented this year, which will positively impact the support provided to OIT from the various academic units. The Provost shared state-level updates; the Governor has been reaching out to Board of Trustee members to discuss statewide initiatives. The state legislature continues to discuss and debate the proposed biennial budget and potential legislative changes that could result from the budget items. The proposal for CC+ textbooks to be provided by IHE’s is expected to continue in the state budget. Regarding CC+, the deans and Provost discussed the contra-revenue impact of CC+ enrollments. The Provost shared information for a new state House Bill that, if approved, would require a minimum number of credit hours taught at the undergraduate level for all faculty members. The deans and the Provost discussed recent public information requests.

*11:30 –12:00 – Jennifer Simon, Executive Director for Regional Innovation*

Jennifer provided the deans with a review of her position at the university, including her previous work with the Innovation Center on the Athens campus. She currently oversees the LIGHTS program: Leveraging Innovation Gateways & Hubs Toward Sustainability. The program helps provide business assistance for product development and commercialization. The Appalachian Regional Commission, through a $2million, 3-year grant, funds the program. Jennifer reviewed “maker-spaces” and how they are being used within different communities. A goal of the regional innovation effort is to help ideas turn into products, to help products turn into businesses, and to help businesses create new jobs. The 6-year program goals include developing 1,100 new jobs through 125 new businesses.

Psychology Degree

Pennington asked if there’s an update on the progress of the conversation with the psychology department about officially offering the degree on the regional campuses. Willan indicated he will follow-up and provide an update to the deans.

HSA & IHS

Pennington asked about the ability to offer more opportunities through the regional campuses for these Health Sciences & Professions degrees. Willan indicated that initial interest had focused on delivering programs on the Dublin campus. The Integrated Healthcare Studies program seems more streamlined and accommodating for regional students. Willan will follow-up with Leite.

ADC Selection

The deans discussed the processes for identifying and selecting regional campus division coordinators. Willan shared information from the College of Arts & Sciences; the chair is selected by the dean with the advice and approval of the faculty.

*1:00 –2:00 – Gwyn Scott and Kent Scott, Auxiliaries*

Kent shared campus-specific auxiliary comparisons with the deans. The year-to-year comparison shows losses to-date in 2016-2017 closely mirror those from 2015-2016. Current estimates suggest that the 2016-2017 year will end with losses similar to those experienced in 2015-2016. Although auxiliary staff on the campuses are doing a good job overall, the increases in online book purchases continue to negatively impact bookstore operations. Abraham inquired about the CC+ sales for each campus; Kent will forward the information. Gwyn shared that she has talked with Jason Pina about overall Auxiliaries functions; Willan will be reviewing the regional campus efforts with him this week. Current trends in bookstore purchasing are expected to continue, with more students going elsewhere to purchase texts. Smith shared that the Lancaster campus bookstore has recently experienced modest success in making changes to apparel inventory and pricing. Auxiliaries continues to be open to new ideas and opportunities for how to provide services and reduce losses.

*2:00 –3:00 – Adam Pergram, HR Liaison for RHE*

The deans asked Pergram about the ability for campuses to identify alternative load distributions for faculty, particularly when the ability for faculty to make load is unevenly distributed across terms. Pergram will follow-up on this question and report back to Willan.

Pergram reviewed with the deans the university policies and processes regarding reorganizations and revisions to job descriptions.

Budget

Updated spring enrollment and budget information is available for the deans to review. Enrollments are down but in line with projections. Howard is currently reviewing the budget information submitted by the campuses; initial reviews show the campuses projected FY17 direct expenditures are higher than their FY17 targets. The FY18 projections indicate a nearly $6million budget deficit. The budget office is requesting a tiered planning approach for addressing the anticipated gap.

Senate Bill-Regional Campus Delegates

Willan asked the deans if there was agreement among which Student Senate Bill proposal, regarding regional campus representation on Student Senate, was preferred. The campuses want one representative per campus to serve on Student Senate. The Lancaster campus would like to recommend a slight modification to the proposed language; Smith will forward the idea to Anderson.

Strategic Enrollment Management Plan 2

Willan will forward information to the deans for review.

Other

Given the budget situation, Willan shared that, until further notice, a hiring freeze will be instituted across the regional system.

Abraham asked about an updated CC+ agreement for 2017-2018. Anderson will follow-up when the document is available.

Pennington shared that she will be participating in an OCTA-related forum with the mayor of Ironton.

Anderson shared that were sufficient nominees for both the RHE Outstanding Professor and RHE Outstanding Lecturer awards.

*3:30 – Adjourn*

*Upcoming Events:*

March 16-17 Board of Trustees Meeting

March 21 RHE Deans Meeting

April 4 Athens & RHE Academic Leadership Meeting

April 14 RHE Deans Meeting

April 19-22 NABCA

May 2 Athens & RHE Academic Leadership

May 25 IUC Regional Deans Meeting

June 11-14 RBCA