

Cabinet Minutes for the April 21, 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 9:05:55 AM | noreply@blogger.com (IU Kokomo)

Cabinet Minutes

April 21, 2009

Present: Stuart Green, Paul Nowak, Steve Sarratore, Tim Sehr, Gerry Stroman, Jack Tharp, Beth Van Gordon

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Update on Enrollment

VC Tharp reported numbers were up for advanced registration for Fall by as much as 24%. All units are continuing to work very hard on retention and preparing for the new student orientation coming up.

IC Green questioned if the units were doing things in a systematic way to get the best possible enrollment results. He feels a week by week plan should be devised to run until August 1 to be proactive in getting the highest possible numbers for Fall. He suggested having faculty inform advisors of any students that may need special attention in order to retain them.

The problem with the fee payment schedule was discussed. It appears that many students wait to enroll as long as possible to allow their fees to be due at the latest possible date. A structural change may be needed and is being discussed. IC Green noted that late enrollment was not the central issue rather retaining students whenever they enrolled was key.

There has also been a significant increase for Summer I & II. Nursing is way up in the PODS program. The nursing budget may be short due to the fact that the 2008-09 budget will be used for Summer II, not the 2009-10 budget. (Note: this will need to be correct next summer). A large number of nursing students will be graduating this year, but there appear to be plenty of new students in the pipeline to replace them.

Options regarding students that don't qualify for the nursing program were discussed. Though many students planning to go into nursing they do not qualify academically, creating other options for those students through career services might help retain some of them. It was noted that although nursing students are admitted to the program in their sophomore year a native student can be admitted to the nursing program with a 2.7 GPA; whereas a transfer student would need a 3.2 or higher depending on the pool of applicants. This might be a good point to make when recruiting high school students.

Though building the Health & Wellness Center can result in adding additional healthcare programs and thus options for student's denied admissions to nursing is in our future, this may take some time to come to fruition. We need to take a look at the programs already in place and decide if they have career value to the students. Many of the degrees that can be completed on this campus prepare students to continue their education in several lucrative fields to lead to other careers such as law or physical therapy. We need students to recognize that it takes time and often continuing study beyond the undergraduate level to prepare for a rewarding and fulfilling career.

2009-10 Budget Priorities

VC Sehr discussed increases for mandatory fees. Mandatory fees include credit hour, technology and student activity fees if allowed a 5% increase would be for resident mandatory fees. This would result in an increase of around \$140 for a full-time undergraduate.

Parking on campus has caused some issues for visitors that come to campus. In fact, some organizations choose not to have an event here because of parking. A mandatory parking fee would eliminate these issues. IC Green suggested we consider a parking area for faculty and staff by a permit and all other parking areas be for students and visitors. Permits would not be needed since all students would have to pay the parking fee. This fee would be rolled into mandatory fees. VC Tharp felt it was not the best time to implement this since a student activity fee increase is needed to be implemented in order to take a portion of that fee for sustaining the Health and Wellness Center when completed.

It should be noted that fixing the parking situation is a long-term goal. Community engagement is a serious issue and a short-term solution will need to be found in the interim. Parking will be revisited by the Parking Committee with recommendations to be implemented in the fall.

We remain committed to raising faculty and professional staff salaries 85% of the minimum and the lower market value respectively. The data is there so a significant portion of any fee increase will go to address these inequities in salaries. A proposal was presented on staff salaries. The document looks at individual positions and advancing targeted positions to the lower market value. A suggestion was made to take 1% of the 2% anticipated salary increases for professional staff and use it to increase these positions. This would close the gap by 25-30%. The resulting increase would be small for some position, but substantial for others. The remaining 1% would be increases based on merit. A satisfactory performance rating would be required to receive an increase. If we have the funds and the BOT approves salary increases, VC Sehr has been authorized to make these adjustments.

The two-year stimulus package has helped IU in the states budgeting process. It is however, only for two years which means we will need to become more fiscally efficient, focused and better able to do core work with less money. (Note: the budget was not passed and it will be an entirely new process in the special session.)

Information Technology needs were discussed. If we enact all recommendations from the budget meeting CIO Van Gordon felt that all IT needs could be met without raising the IT fee for the fiscal year.

VC Sehr was asked by Stephen Keucher in the University Budget Office about our request for graduate and program fees. These fee increases could be in excess of undergraduate fee increases, and a reasonable basis for the increase must be provided. The group felt that graduate fees increases should be in line with undergraduate fee increases except for the MPM cohort which should move closer to the MBA fee range. An MPM cohort will be starting in the Fall which runs for three semesters and a summer. An increase in fees is needed to sustain the program, but the number of recruits may be affected if the fee raise is too great. IC Green supports raising the MPM cohort fee and asked VC Sarratore and VC Sehr to arrive at a number to present to the BOT.

Budget Items

IC Green announced a few additional budget items. He would like to move forward on altering Cheryl Currens position in External Relations. He would like to see the budget numbers to make that happen.

Funding will need to be found to support the new web position. Our commitment to Fuseworks will run about three years and funds will be needed to make sure content is continually updated and the site will be managed correctly.

Several faculty positions will remain visiting position. The accounting position has been cut and the current MIS faculty member will be transitional to instructional need in cover accounting.

We will try to use the budget in the current year to address our IT issues. CIO Van Gordon and VC Sehr will work together to identify specific costs for upgrades and how to recapture some costs through savings on continuing costs.

The campus will have significant construction costs for a simulation lab in the School of Nursing. All available dollars will need to be looked at to meet this critical need including SON dollars that are available. The dollars to hire an additional doctoral nursing professor will be identified in the new anticipated nursing program fee.

The main building has an aging infrastructure and funds need to be available for repairs if needed.

The IT budget will be discussed at the Administrative Council so the campus will be aware of our urgent needs in this area.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

