

COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2014

The meeting of the College Council was called to order at 11:20 a.m.; Dean Fabritius presided. The minutes of the October 24, 2013, College Council meeting were approved as distributed.

REPORTS

Below are highlights from a series of administrative and committee reports. Brief updates were also given by Megan Noltemeyer for the Convocations Committee, Lee Jefferson for the Honors and Prizes Committee, Sharon Duncan for Staff Congress and Cody Cook for the Student Government Association.

Vice President and Dean of the College

Dean Fabritius referenced the 2015-2016 academic calendar, recently adopted by Senior Staff and distributed with the agenda for this meeting. She also mentioned several important dates related to our SACS reaccreditation process:

1. This fall, the SACS Commission on Colleges Vice President will visit campus.
2. Our compliance report is due March 15, 2015.
3. Our site visit will be November 10-12, 2015, and eight weeks prior we must submit a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

She encouraged faculty and staff to complete the survey on possible QEP topics. Topics must focus on something that improves student learning.

Student Life Office

Kendrick Durham reported that Greek recruitment has concluded; currently, just under 54% of the student body is affiliated with a fraternity or sorority. The Beta Theta Pi fraternity has been fully reinstated on campus and will occupy the Breeze House next fall following renovations over the summer. There has been some preliminary discussion of adding another sorority on campus.

Human Resources Committee

Megan Milby announced a change in our Flexible Spending Account policies: up to \$500 of unspent funds may now be carried over from one year to the next. The Committee also agreed to update our smoking policy to include electronic cigarettes.

Diversity and Community Committee

J.H. Atkins extended an invitation for suggestions for next year's Martin Luther King convocation speaker, and he noted recent efforts to organize a Centre black alumni club. He also reported that the Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) adopted a diversity plan which the committee will consider for adoption at Centre.

Instructional and Technology Resources Committee

Forrest Stonedahl reported that the committee has been working in three subcommittees:

1. The committee reviewing Keith Fowlkes' "State of the IT" report unanimously approved the report and highlighted the following points:
 - a. technology issues with the admissions software system,
 - b. some continuing confusion among faculty and students regarding roles of the CTL vs. ITS which would be good to further clarify, and
 - c. an endorsement of increasing ITS staffing, given that we rank 18 out of 19 in IT staffing among our aspirant schools.
2. The committee reflecting on current technology practices is continuing to work on creating a report summarizing our faculty's use of technology.

3. The committee discussing emerging technologies has been considering ways to reduce the amount of printing on campus (for both cost and environmental benefits), and reviewed a number of apps for digital annotation and note-taking, for both tablets and computers.

Planning and Priorities Committee

Clarence Wyatt said that the committee will conduct more campus-wide conversations this spring to inform the completion of a draft of a refocused strategic plan.

Student Life Committee

Laura Pritchard reported that committee discussions have included the following topics: vandalism on campus, trends in student mental health, sacred space on campus, and the growth in our international student population (including how to better meet their needs).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean Fabritius announce that renovations are underway on the second floor of the Combs Center to provide meeting space for various student groups, including the Brown, Bonner, John C. Young, and Posse scholars. Next year, the Brown/Bonner House will convert to student residence hall space.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Dan Kirchner asked for an update on the launch of our new website. It was noted that “points of contact” in the Communications Office have been assigned to various offices and pages within the site. WordPress training is ongoing.

Elizabeth Graves asked if the college has considered going completely smoke-free. Dean Fabritius noted that this comes up periodically and, to date, the prevailing sense is that doing so would result in the undesirable consequence of moving smoking to “someone else’s front lawn.” It was agreed that we should compare our current policies with those of our peers.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.
Tim Culhan, Secretary

Present:

J.H. Atkins
Rebecca Barefield
Thomas Becker
Jay Bloom
Kathryn Bowles
Cody Cook
Sarah Cornett
Willie Costley
Lenny Demoranville
Kay Drake
Sharon Duncan
Kendrick Durham
Sarah Egge

Stephanie Fabritius
Lauren Fall
Annie Garrison
Jen Goetz
Elizabeth Graves
Rasitha Jayasekare
Lee Jefferson
Bruce Johnson
Joel Kilty
Daniel Kirchner
Ben Knoll
Megan Milby
Yvonne Morley

Megan Noltemeyer
Patrick Noltemeyer
Marie Nydam
Kerry Paumi
Laura Pritchard
Jacob Raderer
Jacky Seaver
Forrest Stonedahl
Ellen Swanson
Beau Weston
Amy Wise
Clarence Wyatt