Deans' Group Minutes 4/27/05


Minutes of 4/20/05 were approved.

Enrollment Update
Bill Fritz reported that a memo will be sent to students, faculty, and staff outlining changes in dispersing financial aid checks to students. The Financial Aid Office will now release the checks two weeks after classes begin. The changes are being made to reduce dispersing funds to students who make changes in their course registration and then must return money back to the Financial Aid Office. Bill Fritz added that it has been difficult to get the money back. The question was raised on how the students will be able to purchase their textbooks. Bill responded that the students will be given a line of credit at the University Bookstore for $500 and $750 for law students so that they can purchase textbooks. The financial aid checks will be dispersed to students by August 29. Bill Fritz mentioned that students may have to pay out-of-pocket for the instructor course packets that are sold at off-campus bookstores.

Bill Fritz addressed the handout on Enrollment and Average Load by Level Summer 2000-2005. Bill mentioned it will be good to have the summer enrollment up so we do not have to rely so much on fall enrollment credit hours. The target enrollment for the freshmen class is 2,400. Transfer student applications are arriving now in the Admissions Office. The marketing campaign goal will be to try and recruit the best applicants for this fall semester. The GPA's between 2.3-2.5 have been placed on the waiting list and decisions on how far to go down on that list will be determined soon. Lauren Adamson inquired if the wait list is coded by area of study of the applicant. Bill Fritz responded that most students have not declared a major yet so that would be difficult to track.

Steve Kaminshine asked if the university targets transient/guest students who are home for the summer. Ron Henry mentioned that there are between 900-1,000 transient students in the summer. Bill added that there has been some decline in those numbers. Lauren Adamson asked about the freshmen/sophomore retention rates. Bill responded that the retention rates have gone up and tracking of the retention rates are done in mid-summer.

Graduate credit hours
The deans discussed consideration of increasing the number of hours graduate students carry who are awarded an assistantship. There should be a correlation on the number of hours registered and the workload of the assistantship. Bill Fritz mentioned that there has been discussion on continuing enrollment for doctoral students of 12 hours per fiscal year.

The deans discussed their procedures on graduate student hours in their college. Bill Fritz mentioned that the discussions on graduate credit hours have included the Graduate Directors in each college. The deans expressed concern that the discussions should also include the Associate Deans in the colleges. Ron Henry agreed and added that policies need to be developed for consideration by the Deans' Group.

Graduate Admissions
Ron Henry mentioned that a single application for graduate study is under consideration to be used by all the colleges. At the request of the university, three members from the Council of Graduate Schools will visit the university for discussions and review of graduate admissions.

Bill Fritz addressed the draft handout on the Application for Graduate Study. The goal of having a common application would be to eliminate the need for applicants to send in multiple applications when applying to several colleges.
colleges within the university. The applications would arrive at a central office and then be scanned by the Imaging Center. The applications would be readily available for the college graduate admissions staff to review. The deans expressed concern on the reliability of the equipment used in the Imaging Center. Bill Fritz commented that the Imaging Center has encountered problems scanning the undergraduate applications and those problems are being resolved.

Ron Colarusso commented that the common application process is a good idea and would cut down the busy work of the graduate admissions office personnel.

Ron Henry asked the deans the downside of having a common graduate application. Ron Colarusso expressed concern on resources if the colleges would have to cover for the process to be implemented. Lauren Adamson commented that the college web sites will need to be consistent in the departments. Fenwick Huss expressed concern on being able to quickly access an applicant with high GRE scores and other qualifications so that their application can be given high priority. Bill Fritz mentioned that there should be no delay in the graduate office staff gaining access to the applications for their college.

The deans discussed and commented further on the common application process. Ron Henry concluded that a technology will definitely be needed in order for the process to succeed. Ron Colarusso volunteered his college for a pilot project.

Use of professorial rank
Ron Henry discussed using a mixture of faculty in teaching and clinical services. The Board of Regents may not agree on proposing changes to faculty ranks. Roy Bahl mentioned that a move in this direction is a move toward quality. Ron Henry commented that continued discussion and exploring teaching models will be needed before any significant changes are made.

Any other business
Lauren Adamson inquired about the percentage of compression/inversion funds that can be used on salary increases for positions that are funded jointly by the state and a sponsored project. Ron Henry responded that the adjustments have to be the same percentage on all sources.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.
Next meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2005, 9:30-11:30 am, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center.

Submitted by Cynthia Fox-Giddens