

Agenda

UClub, DeVos

April 3, 2009

Noon – 1:30pm

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes
3. Announcements
4. Lunch and discussion with Provost Davis
5. Questions for discussion:
   1. When or under what circumstances would you consider letting some of the clearly declining programs go, by not offering replacement hires or more aggressive actions?
   2. Once a new program or new major or minor is approved by faculty governance, what happens in your office? Have you ever not agreed with faculty governance? If you agree, what steps are taken to ensure that we can afford this new program?
   3. Do you have any comments/concerns about the 1-1.5% enrollment projection as relates to new majors/minors and how to track the shifting of students from existing to these new programs--is this kind of cannibalizing, as opposed to increased growth a healthy/viable model for the long term?
   4. What can FSBC and/or faculty in general do to help make the University more efficient/cost effective since, on May 5, 2009, all 300 level and above courses in some departments/programs (College of Business, Public Administration, Art & Design, Music, School of Engineering, School of Computing, Nursing, Occupational Safety and Health, Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant, Radiation, and Education Specialist Degree in Leadership) will be charged an additional per credit fee ($12, $17, or $20) “to offset higher costs in those particular areas?” In addition:
      1. What is the definition of a “high cost” program? And how does this differ from the language in the Administrative Manual that says, “A per credit hour surcharge will be assessed to those students taking classes that require special equipment, consumable supplies, or extraordinary overhead?” Are salaries now considered overhead?
      2. In Chapter 6, part D number 5 says fees and charges, other than those set by the BOT, are to be initiated by the unit. Did the BOT set and/or approve these fees? If not who did? And where in the administrative manual does the Administration (President, Provost, VP of Finance and Administration or otherwise) have the authority to initiate such fees?
   5. How open with the faculty do you want your deans to be when it comes to budgetary matters, such as the basic budget for the college?
   6. Do you have any sense of the probability of actually considering the use of a full AY deferment of faculty salaries?
   7. Thunder clouds have been gathering over GVSU in terms of our future enrollment outlook for some time. For more than ten years we have known about the high school graduation drop off in the next few years due to lower birth rates in earlier years. Also, over the past five to ten years other Michigan institutions have opened programs here and their billboards are plastering the various expressways into town. WMU has been getting its act together over the past five years, and it's likely that their contribution to our enrollment numbers will disappear and could even reverse. Since last year, we have become accustomed to reading about people leaving Michigan because they have lost their job and can't find suitable replacement, taking with them their kids - our prospective students. Now this week the VanAndel Place hosts the West Michigan National College Fair where almost a hundred colleges - most from out-of-state - compete for wets Michigan high school graduates, and I'm expecting that their draw will be hard to beat when they can most likely offer in-state tuition and a better shot at getting a position at the end. Besides having a booth in the VanAndel Place, sharing that space with some hundred other colleges and even though our current application rates appear to allow us to call victory for the upcoming year, what could we be doing that will help ensure our future enrollment numbers in the face of such declining supply and ensuing scramble among the many colleges trying to keep their doors open?