

Deans' Council Agenda January 4, 2005

SAC's Accountability Requirements for Off-campus Programs—The Provost reported on the SACs issues that we need to respond to and the need to focus carefully on comparability of off-campus programs to the on-campus versions. She distributed a list of programs that must be involved and indicated that there will be a January 20 Workshop for deans and heads. Heads will play a central role in identifying measures of comparability to be used in the evaluations. All programs will require input from faculty and heads in setting the criteria for comparison.

The Provost indicated interest in gathering third-party evaluation of on-line and off-campus teaching and programs, perhaps using tools from SREB or WCET.

Final Grade Reporting—Final grade submissions were not completed as late as January 3 and despite a deadline prior to Christmas. Deans identified several problems with Web for Faculty or SIS that interfered with online submission of grades—computer times out in the midst of submission and faculty have to start over, SIS down for a day, grade reports for large classes take longer time, submission from home not as reliable as from on campus.

Timely grade reporting is critical to students, to their financial aid and academic progress. How do we get the system and the reporters to be more respectful of students and the institution?

One-stop Student Services Center—The Task Force Report and a planning matrix were distributed. Planning will be incremental—identify key offices to be included, evaluate current space and staffing, identify prospective issues and future needs. With this information, begin looking for suitable space for the essential services.

Planetarium Start-up Costs—The Provost shared a preliminary budget built on the costs for the new Digistar III system. Dean Doughty, Director Kent Montgomery and the Provost will meet shortly to line out the basic support funding issues and then continue the discussion with the administration.

Ad Hoc Work Group on Retention—has prepared a Report with recommendations about what the university could do to improve retention. Issues addressed include an administrative structure for the First-Year Experience, requiring a Freshman Success Seminar for all new students coming from high school. Members noted that some of the discussion must include the appropriate Faculty Senate and college curriculum committees.

Searches—The Provost updated Deans on the status of the following searches: Enrollment Dean, Marketing Director, Financial Aid Director, and Dean of Arts and Sciences.