

ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL

April 2, 2018

3:00 p.m. Altgeld 315

Minutes

Present: Abdel-Motaleb, Chitwood, Cripe, Daniel, Douglass, Falkoff, Gordon, Isabel, McCord, Mini, Mogren, Reynolds, Torres, Wilkins, and Winkler

Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. Announcements

- HLC Assurance Review Report -Carolinda Douglass
 - The committee has access to draft version #2
 - There is a window of two weeks for feedback, March 28 to April 11, 2018
 - If you see any gaps or anything we should be highlighting, please provide feedback
 - If you choose to provide feedback, send it to Susan Smith, IE Projects Coordinator
 - Giving feedback is not required, it is an option
- Look at subcommittee B report and get questions back to Jeanne Isabel by Friday, April 6

2. Approval of minutes from March 5, 2018

- Motion made by Ibrahim Abdel-Motaleb
- Seconded by Stephanie Torres
- Motion approved

3. Discussion of Interim Report from Center for Human Capital and Leadership

Carolinda Douglass gave an overview on the Interim Report

- This time of year we get follow-up reports
 - We have asked for follow-ups from previous reviews
- APC asked for information on outcomes of first three years of existence
 - Includes: activities, financial information, and outcomes
 - We don't have to approve but do have to receive it and may want to comment on it
- Did this program go through Program Prioritization?
 - No

- Was it designed to raise money?
 - It was more of a service center to connect students and businesses
 - Not meant to bring in research money
- A good question for the center would be where the expenditures are coming from?
 - Some money has been brought in from businesses they have worked with
- How does it compare with original goals?
 - They didn't have a target number of students they wanted to connect with but first page has their goals
- It is not hard to become a temporary center but to become a permanent center it is a longer process
 - If they are thinking of becoming permanent, they should talk to the Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships
- Any advice?
 - Carolinda Douglass believes it is a well written program given lack of research focus, she wouldn't recommend they become a permanent center
- Provost Chris McCord provided insight on the center
 - Not quite an academic center because it doesn't hold academic credential, nor is it a research center
- Is it a kind of center that needs IBHE sanction?
 - Needed it because of public service component
 - If it is happy being a student support center and bringing in money from businesses than maybe it doesn't need to be a permanent center
- Is only the College of Business involved with this center?
 - Yes, but if another college is interested in it, maybe they could ask if they want to get involved
- The center is leading people through organizational change and helping them better understand the workforce
 - They work with companies in the industry and connect students with the companies
- Money is being exchanged so it is one of the reasons they wanted to create a center
- If you have a public service component to the unit (no matter what it is called) and have a research component, it represents a center per IBHE
- What is a temporary center?
 - Can easily get approval from the IBHE to try it out for 3 years, after that you can apply to become a permanent center
- Possible topic for next year (Fall), look at all the centers and see what has been temporary for too long and discuss them.
 - Have the Vice President for Research and Innovation and Partnerships involved as well as people who run the centers

- Give us some student feedback and reaction (recommendation for center)
 - Student impact
 - Have they gained skills? Learned something? Offer jobs? Or how has this center helped bring in more students?
 - What kind of population is this serving? Undergrads? Grads?
 - Are the presentations on the back of the report by students or faculty?

4. Discussion of subcommittee report:

Geoffrey Gordon gave an overview of the Subcommittee A report

- **B.A./B.S. in Geography**
 - Graduates appear to be satisfied with their degree and time of completion
 - Faculty members and staff provide strong support for students in the program, as evidenced by internships, mentored research, and service learning opportunities
 - Davis Hall has a variety of severe deficiencies. What plans are in place, if any, for renovation?
 - Provost Chris McCord commented on this:
 - John Heckmann has a list of essential infrastructure and enhancement
 - It has been hard to even fund the essential infrastructures
 - Sarah McGill, CFO for Administration and Finance, is starting to investigate a process that will make changes in between academic and administrative space and budget allocation
 - It will help that the APC has a seat in budget planning
 - Online courses
 - They have some online courses
 - Who runs the online courses?
 - Outreach? Provost?
 - Geography was confused about that
 - It is currently in transition; it has been managed by Outreach but they are getting out and online will be taken over by another office. The regional facilities and will still be underneath Outreach
 - Migrating to Academic Affairs
 - Clean up budgets, like fees to off-campus students
 - Revenue distribution has to catch up
 - Phase 1: migrating service providers

- Quality Matters Software
 - They didn't realize this existed
 - It also depends when they developed the online courses
- **M.S. in Geography**
 - Hiring new faculty is a strength
 - The program representatives engage in continuous improvement efforts grounded in assessment data
 - The department does a good job of enhancing graduate education through many research projects and teaching experiences
 - There has been a decline in the Master's enrollment since 2011. This may be due to low Graduate Assistant stipend levels, loss of tenure-track faculty, and low morale among students
 - Interdepartmental collaboration as an innovative marketing strategy to have faculty coverage
 - Continue to explore opportunities for online classes or other delivery methods
- **Ph.D. in Geography**
 - This program is fairly new and offers opportunity to add to the greater overall enrollment at NIU
 - The program promotes and supports student career aspirations in a good variety of professions
 - Continue to monitor resources carefully
 - Perform an objective study as to whether it is sustainable to continue to offer a Ph.D. program in Geography
 - It was a different environment when it was approved
 - Faculty have retired since then
 - Does the program have the resources to continue to be sustainable?
- **B.S. in Meteorology**
 - Faculty are well recognized in this program
 - Graduates of the program appear to be satisfied with their degree and time of completion
 - The combination of geography and meteorology programs under one academic unit is a strength and distinctive feature
 - Advising is a strength of the program
 - Consider offering minor and online courses offerings for non-majors. Link up with specific departments or colleges to develop courses attractive to their majors
 - Use current community connections to increase marketing and awareness of the program. Explore grant opportunities with community colleges for expansion of research activities and attract new faculty

5. Review of External Review

Jeff Reynolds gave an overview on the Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences External Review Report

- It is not under accreditation
 - Bring reviewers onsite for two-day period
 - Half day with administrators
- Review was conducted in October of 2017
 - Thomas Schmidlin and John Harrington were the External Reviewers
- Faculty are very productive: teaching, learning, and service
 - As a result, the department is respected by their peer departments
- The faculty are stretched about to capacity perhaps beyond in their teaching, advising, research, service, and, in some cases, labs
 - Suggested differential workload policy would enable compensation for efforts that match faculty strengths
- Davis Hall was brought up
 - External reviewers said it needs to be updated for the department to function more effectively
- Organizational structure
 - Noted that the chair and graduate coordinator positions shifted in recent years
 - Leaves some uncertainty and a concern about respect among faculty, graduate students, and office staff
 - This affects morale
 - Suggested a long term effort to build social capital and increase perceptions and feelings of respect for all levels
 - Three different coordinators since 2011
- Online program is strong and should be enhanced
- Increase of tenured faculty by two individuals would be a valuable addition
- Outreach event to continue to help alumni engagement
 - Career Day is a hallmark of the department
- Department needs to focus on marketing
 - Adjustments to recruitment efforts will enable faculty to actively meet with teachers and prospective students at more of the regional community colleges

6. Other business

- No other business

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Rodriguez and Crystal Doyle