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Council of Chairs Meeting, October 3, 2013

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COUNCIL OF CHAIRS, 2013-14
Minutes of the Meeting on October 3, 2013, 3:30 p.m.
Drinko 349; GC 134; CEB 102

1. Attendance.

17 Chairs/Division Heads: Mike Castellani (CHM), Jeff Archambault (ACC/LE), Dan Holbrook (HST), Marty Laubach (SOC/ANT), Denise Landry (NUR), Paula Lucas (CI), Josh Hagen (GEO), Eldon Larsen (ENGR), Allyson Goodman (MC), Cam Brammer (CMM), Richard Kravchak (Music & Theatre), Del Chrol (Classics), Tracy Christofero (TM), David Mallory (BSC), Jeff Ruff (RST), Steve Mewaldt (Psych), Sandra Stroebel (School Psych)

2. Mike Castellani called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and provided a summary of a meeting he, Harlan Smith, and Jane Hill (ENG) had with Dr. Kopp regarding our report on the campus ethos. Pres. Kopp forwarded the report to the senior vice-presidents shortly after receiving the document from the Council. He requested that they report back to him on a plan to address our concerns. He is taking this very seriously.
3. Cam Brammer discussed preparations for a retreat that will be held on October 11 at Trinity Episcopal Church. This retreat will address questions that arose from an Association of the Governing Boards of Colleges & Universities (AGB) document that Pres. Kopp shared with a number of people who met with him this summer including Cam Brammer, Mike Castellani, and Josh Hagen. This will be a large gathering with representatives from Academic Affairs, deans (all), chairs, Faculty Senate, Board of Governors, President's office, student government, the Budget Working Group, and classified and non-classified staff (about 50 invitees in all). The participants at the retreat will begin discussion of how the University should deal with the serious budget challenges that we face. [Rick Staisloff](#) of RPKGroup will facilitate the event. He has consulted for the WV HEPC in the past. [An article we were given to read in preparation may be found [online](#).]
4. Cam Brammer reported that the Faculty Senate passed a resolution regarding distribution later this month of forms for evaluating both the President and Provost. The resolution establishes March as the month for subsequent annual evaluations of those in these positions.
5. In aftermath of the meeting between the President and Mike Castellani, Jane Hill, and Harlan Smith, Harlan engaged in an email exchange with Dr. Kopp about the campus culture with regard to common courtesy and politeness in communications between offices and departments. Notably, he's made the point that it would be good for everyone if staff in administrative offices, and faculty, were more courteous when dealing with each other on day-to-day matters. The President agrees that a lack of common courtesy in many interactions contributes to our difficult operating environment, and encourages everyone to remember this going forward.
6. The group discussed revisions to the Council's governing rules (circulated by Mike Castellani prior to the meeting). The consensus was that these revisions should be submitted to the Council as a whole. There was a good deal of discussion regarding who should be a member of the Council because there are units

without chairs who do “chair-like” activities. A number of ideas were discussed, but in the end there was no simple descriptor for all of us, so it was decided to allow each College to define who should be a member of the Council. The group also decided to conduct all elections conducted electronically. Finally, it was noted there was no clause addressing voting on measures such as rule changes and that the revised rules should be amended to state that such votes would be conducted in the same way as election of officers.

7. The group discussed where the Council should have input in the University governance system. Cam Brammer, Eldon Larson, & Dan Holbrook will draft a proposal to bring to the Council (with the intent that it go the Faculty Senate Executive Committee) requesting official representation on pertinent Faculty Senate committees (e.g. Academic Planning and Personnel).