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Council of Chairs Meeting, February 17, 2010

Marshall University

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Council of Chairs
Minutes of Meeting
February 17, 2010
Ed Gross Room – Harless Dining Hall

Members present: Marybeth Beller, R.B. Bookwalter, Kathy Chezik, Byron Clerx, Michael Castellani, Jane Hill, Denise Landry, Anders Linde-Laursen, Suneel Maheshwari, Steven Mehwaldt, Ralph Oberste-Vorth, Bill Palmer, Jeff Pappas, Elmer Price, George Watson

Guests: Frances Hensley, Gayle Ormiston, Mary Beth Reynolds, Donna Spindel

The meeting was called to order at by Kathy Chezik. The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Donna Spindel made a presentation on the Graduate School.

- About 25% of the student body is made up of graduate students. About half of full-time graduate students then receive some kind of financial assistance including tuition waivers and graduate assistantships. A 50% rate of financial support is high nationally and about double that of peer institutions.
- Marshall has 43 Masters programs (a little high compared to peer institutions) and 5 doctoral programs.
- Total current graduate enrollment is just over 3,000. 675 have graduate assistantships: 436 full-time, 232 part-time. Total value of in-state assistantships is ca. \$1.5M (estimated assuming all students are in-state).
- Some departments have 100% of their students on tuition waivers and this is a non-viable method of maintaining the graduate program. Currently, the revenue from undergraduate enrollment pays for much of the graduate program, which is the reverse of the large majority of other institutions. The graduate school is trying to find the correct funding balance.
- (From Dr. Ormiston) Graduate tuition waivers have never been budgeted and are a cost to the university that must be paid for. A budget for graduate tuition waivers is being created. This will be part of the Academic Master Plan. The rough cost of educating a student is \$8,700, while state provides \$2,800 and tuition \$5,100. This means that the university is running a deficit with respect to the instructional costs of each student. This is why the university has to address the tuition waiver problem.
- There are a large number of graduate assistantships awarded to what are called auxiliary units. These include athletics, autism, international students program, and HELP. These are service positions and the proposed ultimate goal is for those units pay for those assistantships. Athletics has 55, for example, and a goal is for that number to drop and the number on the academic side would increase.
- Graduate scholarship tuition waivers is a program to award 3-hr tuition waivers to MU graduate students and employees. About 250 awards are current valued at just under \$200K.
- Total graduate assistant stipends paid fall 2009 was just under \$2M. Base stipend is \$2,320.

- Special education is the largest Masters program on campus (about 270 students) with several others having over 100 students enrolled. Leadership Studies students with 57 students is the largest doctoral program.
- The office of graduate admissions is located in South Charleston with Beth Chiparo as director.
- Departments have the option of granting full, conditional, or provisional admission to applicants. Conditional means the applicant is missing a credential (e.g. hasn't graduated yet and so doesn't have final transcript). Provisional applicants do not meet all program admission's requirements. Provisional students have 12 credit hours to demonstrate that they can meet program expectations. This terminology is the reverse of that used for the undergraduate programs. This problem will be fixed.
- At some point in the future, it has been proposed that each college will receive an allotment of tuition waivers and the academic dean will decide how to distribute them. This will give colleges more control of assistantships and the opportunity to rethink their distribution.
- The graduate college is proposing to eliminate the eligibility of provisional students for assistantships.
- Donna is doing a major catalog edit, but she is not editing departmental entries. She's visited most departments. If she hasn't met with you, please contact her. Also, please look over your departmental entry in the graduate catalog to make sure that it says the same thing as what you say on your website.

From the floor:

- It was recommended that the stipends and tuition waivers be viewed as an investment, rather than a cost. They lead to more research, help bring in grant funds, and assist with teaching. In the latter case, some departments cannot cover all of their teaching without them.
- The loss of tuition waivers will not necessarily result in the generation of new tuition dollars because for some programs the waivers are a primary draw to the program.
- It was asked part percentage of graduate students were in-state, metro, and out-of-state. That was not reported, but the largest share is in-state, with a majority of out-of-state being international. The costs of full-time tuition waivers are \$6,450 out-of-state, \$4,200 metro, and \$2,300 in-state.

Dr. Ormiston's remarks:

- One of the core curriculum changes is the introduction of e-portfolios. There is a sub-committee of the general education that will establish the guidelines and key moments in the undergraduate career that students will deposit artifacts in their e-portfolio. Departments will also get to decide on what kinds of artifacts that they want deposited in the portfolio.
- Clemson has an e-portfolio website: <http://www.clemson.edu/academics/programs/eportfolio/>. In the body of the text, there is a link to how to create an e-portfolio.
- This will begin with freshmen and transfer students in the fall 2010 semester.

- From the legislature: A bill has been introduced that will limit the authority of MU & WVU to govern themselves. We will be brought back under the jurisdiction of HEPC and changes in salary, tuition, and programs will require HEPC approval.

Responses to questions from the floor:

- A concern was raised about the quality of student work that would be deposited in the e-portfolio. Ultimately, students will be advised, but will make the final decision as part of the “self-assessment” process. This is consistent with what other universities are doing with their e-portfolios.
- Is the system public or secure? The system is secure except for those parts that the student makes available.
- (From R.B. Bookwalter) The current thinking is that the e-portfolio will include one or more artifacts from the FYS that reflect critical thinking. It will be designed around the core domains of the new curriculum. The students will be required to post something in each of the areas. Students could substitute later work for earlier work. A check (like an advisor hold) will be instituted to ensure students have posted work in each area.
- A question was asked regarding whether this had to go through the Faculty Senate or not. (It has not done so yet.)
- What has happened to the money from summer school? There was a \$134,000 profit. The funds will be distributed soon. It will happen after the budget cuts are determined. The long time to determine the funds arose from the fact that receipts were still coming in as late as mid-December. Academic affairs will keep 25% and the rest will go to the colleges in proportion to the amount they made last summer.
- On summer school 2010. The money “allocated” for 2010 is projected from last summer. The money isn’t really there now. The principle that each department must at least break even will hold this summer as well. There will be no fewer than 10 students in any class. Also, while revenue from summer 2009 will be shared with colleges, this may not happen next year because of the projected budget cuts.
- On the budget cuts. Higher education received a 3.4% cut in operating funds that come from the state. For Marshall, that is about ~\$1.7M. All state funds are used for salaries, but we are not furloughing, firing, or stopping faculty hires. Thus, all cuts must come out of operating funds, which total about \$15M. This translates to an 11.2% cut. Right now, we are at about \$1.3M in identified cuts, with academic affairs short by about \$100K. Academic affairs is protecting recruiting, the registrar, student services. During the current fiscal year, higher education is 5% in deficit and next year there will be an additional 5% deficit (\$5M total in 2012). In some situations, stimulus money is being used to make up that shortfall, but not this year at Marshall because we were supposed to receive \$1.25M to assist with the separation of the CTC. Unfortunately, the state has taken back that money with the 3.4% cut. In short, there is no guarantee there will be stimulus money next year.