

Council Notes

May 25, 2016

Prepared by: Deb Zielinski

President's Remarks:

- Meghan welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting since she began as President.
- There was a conversation about commencement and what we can do better for next year. Overall, the feedback has been very positive.
- Meghan reported on various new hires, including a new president at RIC, Frank Sanchez, our new CIO starts June 13, our AVP for IA starts June 20, and the search for our AA/Diversity/Title IX director is in its final stages.
- Details about inauguration were discussed. The confirmed date is September 15, with the installation ceremony to be held in the Bobby Hackett Theater at 4:30 p.m., followed by a celebration on the grounds of the Knight Estate thereafter that would include great music and food. There are asks out for special guests, but details are yet to be confirmed. As part of inauguration week, there are plans for an Arts night, featuring both visual and performing arts. We will necessarily need to cancel classes for the afternoon/evening of September 15.
- Meghan talked about developmental coursework and described it as a work in progress. She is partnering with Ken Wagner to solve this collaboratively. She believes it is a positive sign that we have a commissioner willing to work with us and be accountable and creative.

WP/WF and Reverse Transfer Policies:

- Rosemary presented two outstanding policies that came out of the Academic Advisory Committee. Both were previously distributed in advance of today's meeting. Rosemary offered details related to the Reverse Transfer, confirming that it is NEASC-compliant, and noting that we will be moving from a 50% to 25% residency requirement. Rosemary asked President's Council to approve. Tom Pitts moved to approve the Reverse Transfer Policy as proposed; it was seconded by Ron Schertz, and unanimously approved.
- The second policy was the abolishment of WP/WF/NA grades. Rosemary gave a brief history of where this has been. Rosemary noted that the Academic Advisory Committee worked very hard, and when it came out with its recommendation to accept this policy as is, there had been an opportunity for additional input. After discussion and questions regarding who may initiate a withdrawal, bureaucratic issues, the high numbers of withdrawals in some departments, and the possibility of a link to an early warning system, Rosemary recommended that it go back to the committee for further consideration.
- Hilary inquired as to when this will go to the department chairs. They should have input. Rosemary confirmed that each department has a representative on the committee; those members must report back to their chairs. Rosemary said that the red flags came out after the process was completed.

- Alix Ogden made a motion to send this back to the Academic Advisory Committee; it was seconded by Ron Schertz, and unanimously approved.

Transgender Facilities:

- Michael C. distributed a letter that came out of the U.S. Department of Justice. He noted that this is a compliance issue for us. This is not law, it is regulatory guidance. He commented that we have had a few issues with transgender students and that we do have gender-neutral bathrooms on each campus. We have worked through our issues; we do not have a clear-cut policy.
- Fatima has used her sabbatical to find out how others are doing this and has developed a workshop on this issue, which will be available this summer.
- Meghan moved to approve the expedited formation of a task force; it was seconded by Rosemary Costigan, and unanimously approved.

Next meeting:

- July 20, 2016.