Senate Growth and Development Committee
Meeting Minutes 3.29.19
10:00-11:00am
Hall Building, Rm. 123
DRAFT

Present: Robert Bird, Andrew Moiseff, Carl Rivers, Faquir Jain, Kylene Perras, Joerg Graf, Benjamin Christensen, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Stuart Duncan, Johnny Banks, Ming-Hui Chen, Deepa Shukla, Louise Lewis.

Guest: John Volin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Introductions were made by both the committee's guest and attending committee members.

John briefly summarized the state of the budget. The university's budget is manageable through fiscal year 2020. There are decreasing block grants over the long term. Tuition revenue now exceeds state support, and it is important that the university seek other sources of revenue to support needed programs. John noted that highly productive centers are bringing in more money than their costs. Collaboration is important toward addressing financial issues going forward.

Attendees then discussed the subject of university space. According to John, 190 classrooms are managed centrally and double that space is managed by schools and departments. University controlled classrooms are maintained such that technology is retained for no longer than five years. The goal of these classrooms is that they are 'plug and play' for faculty members who can enter a classroom and readily meet their pedagogical needs with the resources available there.

More schools are delegating control of their space to the university. When this occurs, the schools get first priority over that ceded space. Such space not claimed by the school is then available for extra usage. Also, the schools and departments do not have the pay for the technology support of that delegated space.

Classroom capacity varies according to preferences, with bunching on certain days. University heat maps reveal that Tuesday-Thursday schedules appear to be most preferred by faculty. Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedules are still well-utilized but not as much as Tuesday-Thursday schedules. Friday afternoons are fairly open for scheduling. Classrooms in the 50-75 size range is the greatest challenge. Available large classrooms are still sufficient to support university demands, but are estimated to reach full capacity in the near future.

John further reported that 56.7% of classes follow university standard meeting times.[1] When a class does not follow standard meeting times, it can occupy two or perhaps three time-space equivalents for a single class. Non-standard schedules create inefficient use of classroom space. At least 80% compliance with standard meeting times would help manage classroom use. This system was contrasted with a model system at another university that a faculty and staff group visited, whereby standard meeting times were required and could only overruled by the Provost's office at that university. This created almost complete compliance with standard meeting times.

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[1] *See* https://policy.uconn.edu/2017/09/07/assignment-of-instructional-space/.

Other issues discussed were the possibility of changing certain classrooms into active learning spaces, increasing communication between faculty and architectural planners, and lack of freedom to make changes in the academic calendar due to federal funding and state control.

Faculty and administration will need to collaborate and resolve challenging issues regarding university space in order to plan for the future.

The committee thanked John for his time and contributions.

After the departure of our guest, the committee discussed briefly plans for the next meeting and preparation of the annual report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58am.