

Minutes
College of Education Faculty Advisory Council
July 8, 2003
SWT – Education Building –Room 4002-6

Members in Attendance:

Nathan Bond, Deborah Buswell, Linda Homeyer, Marla McGhee, Bobby Patton, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Susan Field Waite, Jo Webber

Members Absent:

Roxane Cuellar-Allsup, Beth Erickson, Russ Hodges, Moe Johnson, Sharon O’Neal, Alicia Paredes Scribner, John Walker

Guests:

Dean John Beck, Senator Gay James, Steve Gordon

The meeting began at 2:15 p.m.

I. New Business

A. Chair Webber’s Presentation of SWT’s Strategic Planning Process

Chair Webber opened the presentation by sharing her insights into the planning process. She currently serves as a member of the Academic Steering Committee, which is playing an instrumental role in SWT’s Strategic Planning process. Chair Webber indicated that the process is a top-down, bottom-up process, with the SWT mission statement completed by the end of August. The general priorities that will come from President Trauth will include the following:

1. SWT will continue moving toward becoming a research institution. SWT will not necessarily follow the model established by UT or A&M. It will, however, differ from past models.
2. In accordance with the initiative, “Closing the Gaps,” SWT will strive to recruit more diverse faculty and staff, especially Hispanic students, staff and faculty.
3. President Trauth would like to offer higher salaries for both existing and incoming faculty and create more faculty lines.

The bottom-up process includes working through the departments. The SWT faculty will play a significant role in the Strategic Planning Process. They will be asked to identify priorities and goals for their departments. The department will complete their plans by October 17th. The Colleges, then, using departments’ plans will develop priorities and goals to be sent forward by November 14th. This is a 5-year plan. In February, the SWT Strategic Goals will be announced to faculty. The FAC must decide what role it will take in this process. For example, it may want to ask for input from the faculty or hold a retreat. The process should be college-wide.

Chair Webber stated that the Academic Steering Committee will continue to work on the planning of the calendar and questions.

B. Dean Beck's Presentation of the SWT's Strategic Planning Process

Dean Beck shared the agenda of the University Planning Retreat that the deans held on June 9th and 10th at Aquarena Springs. The Deans, President Trauth and her Vice Presidents met for this event. At the August Convocation, President Trauth will talk about her Mission Statement, and a draft will be made available at that time. This version of the mission statement will be shorter and more explicit than the one currently on the web.

At the retreat the deans shared information and spoke very openly about the newly proposed doctoral programs. The proposed College of Engineering is considered a top priority. President Trauth and Dean Israel have already met with the President and Dean of Engineering from the University of Texas. In addition, the Deans talked about the criteria that will be used to judge the existing doctoral programs.

The President discussed the new money that the university would receive. If the university receives the money, it will probably be reallocated. Initial figures indicate that next year's budget will only be cut 2 or 3%, meaning that the university would operate under a 97 or 98% budget. Discussion also touched on eliminating some existing programs as a way to reduce some expenses. This was a touchy subject.

On the first day of the retreat, the deans also talked about "Closing the Gaps." The university's goal is to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (H.S.I.), meaning that 25% of the students are Hispanic. Currently, 18% of the student population is Hispanic. Holding a H.S.I. designation would make SWT eligible for certain federal grant monies.

Topic 6 of the deans' discussion focused on faculty grant writing. Again, the university is committed to supporting faculty and their grant writing. It was questioned how faculty would do this during a time of reduced resources. Grants are one way to support faculty travel and release time.

Dean Beck thinks that the faculty in the College of Education should share their teaching expertise with others on campus because he believes that some of the best teaching occurs in the College.

This discussion of diversity continued at the retreat, and the discussion will continue in the next few weeks. This particular theme will probably be present in future goals. To help SWT meet the H.S.I. goals, the College of Education can begin to offer some of the scholarships that are set aside for minorities. This action is a result of the Michigan court case. In the Dean's Summary, he noted that there has not been any quantum leaps in the area of diversity in the College. In fact, the Department of CI has decreased in its

minority enrollment; other departments have stayed the same or made small gains. Some discussion focused on making greater efforts in San Antonio and Round Rock to recruit minority students. Finances always pose a challenge.

Dean Beck stated that President Trauth also wants more tenure lines and that she rarely mentions SCH ratios.

C. Dean Beck's Discussion with the FAC about the Planning Process

The FAC members and Dean Beck then talked about the upcoming College-wide meeting on September 12th. The day can be used for either departmental planning or college planning. It was suggested that the departments meet and that faculty from other departments also attend and facilitate the planning process. Mixing the faculty would allow professors to gain different perspectives on other departments' goals. It was suggested that the College start with a clean slate and focus only on a few questions. The goal is to not stifle the process. The College might consider moving back and forth between working at the department level and the college level. The NCATE goals would also need to be considered. It was also proposed that practitioners be invited to talk about what they see as the needs in their field. These educators may want to give mini-presentations. Identifying stakeholders and inviting them could be beneficial to the planning process.

Dean Beck agreed that September 12th would need to be reserved for the planning process and that there would be a combination of college and department meetings.

To clarify the discussion, it was noted that several planning sessions will occur. The Strategic Planning Process will identify the goals that the university will achieve during the next five years, and the Operational Planning Process will determine how the university will achieve those goals in accordance to the budgets. We are conducting strategic planning in the fall.

Dean Beck distributed a handout that showed the internal and external stakeholders in the College. He wants the FAC to consider including all stakeholders in the planning process, if it is feasible.

The Dean also wants to be a part of the process and make his vision known to the faculty members in the College.

The departments will meet on September 12th following a college-wide discussion of priorities and hold follow-up meetings before October 17th. The Dean wants us to set another meeting for Strategic Planning before October 17th.

There is some fear across campus that some faculty will not participate. Using a nominal group technique in the College of Education would establish safe ground rules and hopefully increase participation.

According to President Trauth, the Strategic Plan that is being discussed will start in Fall 04 and last for five years. The plan will include goals and outcomes. The operational aspects can be decided at a later time. The first part of the planning process is to determine the main initiatives and the indicators that will signal completion of the goals. Dean Beck stated that the first part will be determined on the September 12th. At this time, general guides will be given. Then, the departments will work more specifically. It was suggested that the goals be named priorities, rather than goals. After that, the FAC and a to-be-named COE planning committee will formulate COE priorities and indicators with the Dean and Chairs.

Chair Webber clarified that the COE Planning Committee would be comprised of the FAC volunteers plus volunteers from the COE Restructuring Committee. It will also include the Senators and Drs. Patrice Werner and Rich Radcliffe, the NCATE Chairs. This final committee will plan the September 12th retreat, facilitate departmental planning and participate in the COE planning.

D. The Upcoming FAC Elections

The members of the FAC discussed the upcoming elections. Nathan Bond presented a timeline that adhered to the guidelines in the FAC Constitution. If the election process started immediately when the fall classes resume, the first meeting of the newly elected FAC could not occur until October 8th. No action was taken to change the election process at this time. Thus, the current FAC will serve until October 8th.

E. COE Planning Committee

Chair Webber asked for volunteers to serve on the COE Planning Committee, which would meet on August 29th from 2 to 4 p.m.

F. Next FAC Meeting

Current FAC members will hold their next meeting on September 26th from 2 to 4 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Bond
FAC Secretary