Arts and Sciences Council of Chairs

Thursday, December 04, 2014

9:00 – 10:30 am

245 Patterson Office Tower

Next steps for Provost Office

President Capilouto announced the departure of Provost Christine Riordan. She has accepted the President position at Adelphi University in New York. The president will be talking with each dean individually over the next few weeks. The president stated in his email he hopes to have a provost in place January 1, 2015.

Chair’s SEC meetings

Dean Kornbluh suggested that department chairs hold meetings with other department chairs in their cohorts, whether it be the SEC, Mississippi Valley, etc. He offered college help on staffing the arrangements.

Night of Creativity

The College’s staff are welcome to participate in the 3rd annual Night of Creativity. This year’s event will be on January 5. Interested employees will report to work on January 5 at 3:00pm and work until midnight. The next day they will work remotely. The projects they work on will be presented at a brown bag lunch later in January. The staff enjoy this event and it builds collegiality.

Students Success Update

The dean informed the group that the president was pleased with the 5 page student success report. The college is seeking ways to work on increased student success and retention for this semester. Several faculty in the psychology department are reaching out to students who are at risk. They reported that it is beneficial if there is already a connection established with the student. This has been helpful in catching unadvised scheduling for next semester. These conversations must be sensitive and thought through. Another strategy is to investigate where the students are successful. The idea is that students who maybe struggling in STEM courses could be successful in the Humanities or Social Sciences. The Dean encouraged the chairs to work with the data team to determine if there maybe students they could encourage to change majors. It helps to be “noticed.” The dean also acknowledged there still remains an instructor issue in success and retention. Additionally, the college is creating a committee who will be charged with creating a common academic culture. The group will prepare a 12 month calendar on how the college will build this culture. If you want to be on the committee or have faculty who might be interested, please work with Kirsten Turner. The college will continue conversations on student success and retention in January.

Update on External Funding and Start-up

Beginning in FY2016 the College will no longer be able to request large start-up packages from the OVPR. The dean stressed the importance of spending departments complete budget.

Finally, the group discussed the value of academic time buy-outs from NIH grants. These buyouts release money which the department then keeps.