11/14/13 : BOR meeting

Academic Affairs committee Reports

- Strategic Framework Reports: Enrollment [1bi], nonresident student enrollment [3ci], international student enrollment [3dii]
- Peet Lipins, Senior Analyst, Institutional Research
- NU-wide total and UG enrollment 2013: 50,405 and 38,048 respectively. UG +0.8%, metric target +1.5%.
- NU UG enrollment by residency 2013: instate -0.4%, out-of-state +7.2% (this includes international students)
- NU 1st time Freshman enrollment by campus 2013: UNL +12.3%, UNO +7.1%, UNK -10%
- NU-wide full-time freshman retention rates. 2012 cohort 80.2%. Metric target 80%
- Domestic nonresident UG enrollment 2013: 4,375 students, +7.8%. Metric target 1.5%
- International student enrollment 2013: 3,638 students, +4.7%. Metric target 7%

University consent agenda

A. Academic Affairs
   1. Approve request by Professor Machida, Political Science, UNK to receive monthly stipend from Takushoku University to advise its exchange students.

University administrative agenda

A. Business Affairs.
   1. Approve an amendment to the agreement with the NU Foundation in connection with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. (X-B-1)
   2. Approve amendment to Policies of the Board of Regents RG-3.2.3 to accurately reflect ancillary organization(s) eligible to participate in the University group insurance plans. (X-B-2) (e.g. alumni associations, NSRI, PK Technology Corporation)

B. Information :See strategic Framework posted on BOR website.

C. Reports

D. Rename the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems to the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology in the CNSS at the UNK.

11/19/13 Executive Committee Meeting with FS Grievance Chairperson

The Faculty Grievance Committee Rules of Procedure Section 13 Item C states that the Faculty Grievance Committee is charged with “Correcting any deficiencies or abnormalities found in bylaws, rules, regulations or procedures relevant to the grievance.” In keeping with this directive the Executive Committee meet with the FS Grievance Chairperson to see what deficiencies or abnormalities have been identified from recent and pending cases. Current deficiencies or abnormalities have to be identified in order to improve bylaws, rules, regulations or procedures. Such improvement is part of a culture on continuous process improvement that provides for a fair and equitable process for faculty with potential workplace issues, such as future promotion and tenure applications.
Feedback from this meeting:

I. Department level criteria should be clearly stated and most be at or above the criteria used by the College.

II. P&T Committees must use the Departmental level criteria that has been approved by the College in making determinations regarding Promotion and Tenure Decisions.

III. Departmental level criteria should be included with everyone application for promotion and/or tenure. If such documentation is missing from the application, it may be requested.

IV. As a best practice, Colleges should develop a simple promotion and tenure checklist illustrating required documents and process pathways. Such a document is not meant to impose an additional requirement on P&T Committees but is simply a guide to help assure that existing policies and procedures are being followed.

11/25/13 Meeting with JB Milliken

Discussion topics:

1. Garcetti v. Ceballos has left open the possibility that faculty speech critical of administration may not be protected by the First Amendment. Can faculty be terminated for speaking against administration? President Milliken felt that the bar for revocation of tenure was so high, that action based on this alone would not be successful. He felt that current BOR policy, as is, protects faculty, but he would look into it.

2. Discuss the survey results: "Attitudes on Innovation - How college leaders and faculty see the key issues facing higher education" The Chronicle of Higher Education (July 2013). Response rates were low on this survey and many of the questions invoke affect. Conclusions asserted by the survey: i) most presidents and faculty members believe that more evolutionary change is needed, ii) it seems to be a challenge for presidents as to how to engage faculty members on the issues where there is widespread agreement to work together on a strategy for the future. and iii) faculty members have a much more pessimistic outlook about the future.

3. MOOC’s and Coursera. Faculty are responsible for developing, delivering, and validating courses and programs (as opposed to other entities in the university). It is unclear what impact MOOC’s will have on higher education. The partnership with Coursera was a no(low?)-cost arrangement to make available tools for the optional use by NU faculty.

4. Brief discussion over the Strategic Planning Framework. Minor changes to the document are possible over the next year.