

EPC and FPC Planning Meeting

March 14, 2012

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. WH A420

Present: Hill, Norman, Gasco, Robles, Maki, Pawar, Martin, Bersi, Bragg, Prado, Brooks

Gasco reported that she and Norman talked to the provost about developing some kind of plan for program/department elimination. Gasco and her EPC committee spent several hours going through documentation on this subject. They looked at Humboldt State's process which was a ranking system. They discovered there is already policy on our campus; PM's that we should use.

Gasco said that we as a campus should have a system for evaluating programs so that when a budget situation arises the procedure is already in place.

The missing part is the Program Effectiveness Committee. They are listed as being a part of the procedure but they seem to no longer exist. They stopped functioning. Robles remembers going to several PEC meetings. A report would be red and then go on to funnel information and decide what went to the University Budget Committee.

Maki said that program review year to year decides what programs should get resources and who should not and this changes [what does this mean?]. Price said that it seems the program review process allows committees to raise the question. How does this program serve the mission of the university?

Norman said that faculty want to have very little to do with ranking other programs.

Gasco noted her concern that any program elimination policy must include greater budgetary transparency so that faculty understand that every other measure has been taken to protect programs. She also said that her personal gripe is the number of consultants hired on the campus when we have excellent people right here on campus.

Norman encouraged that our campus adopt an open book management policy giving the example of the practices used by University of Minnesota where faculty and staff had access to the budget information at the department so at any time you could go on line and see where the money being spent in several categories ranging from pay, travel and research expenses.

Hill said that the trigger will be set by the governor's proposals and if the triggers are set our campus will have to pay 10%. The chancellor said that if the millionaire's tax passes it might help us some. The 10% cut will include the 5%.

Pawar said that there are chancellor's office planning guidelines about programs that should be evaluated based upon demand.

Gasco asked where the 10% cut would come from. Robles said that there is no plan right now but in her college they can re-organize administrative staff and put some of them together. Maybe take away the use of paper.

Wilkes said that there is a big push back and we may have to cut back on the number of students we serve.

Bragg said that in the next 6 weeks it is important to plan and have conversations. The colleges need to plan and some of the planning will happen in the summer. She said that she could cut her graduate coordinator position. Bragg said that faculty really value the courses and programs that they have built but we need to move away from “your program or your course” and focus on what the graduates need.

Pawar said that we need to have a conversation about how we value central services like tutoring and advisors.

Norman said that a lot of useful budget information has not been shared with faculty making it difficult to see where there is duplication and to know costs. We need to continue to have meetings and talk to build faculty trust in dealing with sensitive issues such as eliminating programs.

Robles mentioned the UPC and said that in the past the PEC was not very effective.

Maki asked if we should resurrect the PEC. We should ask the provost. Norman said that he has been asked and that we are waiting for an answer.

Maki said that there is wisdom in having a division wide body to make decisions and a university wide body to make decisions.

Hill said that one of the senate chairs heard that the graduate programs have been moved to extended education. There were statements about financial aid and students and that campus financial aid officers have been asked to suspend them.

Gasco asked if there was any thought of moving professional programs to extended education

Hill said that the provost said nothing yet as far as graduate programs. Wilkes said that graduate coordinators do not get compensation and are overwhelmed and when you cut a program you are cutting years and years of professional work.

Bragg called the graduate office to get some materials and they did not have any. That is an area we could leverage collectively. We also need to look at cross listing curriculum.

Pawar mentioned admissions drop off and said that the most severe drop was in Education.

Gasco said that she has been charged with bring up an uncomfortable issue... what about the release time that the business school gets given the circumstances everyone is looking at.