

## **Agenda for President's Council: Tuesday, January 18, 2011**

Present: Bergh, Bouton, Cavanagh, Eastman, Howrigan, Lamore, Murphy Regan, Scott, Shaw, Stewart, Warden, Whitmore. Absent: Farara

- Review of our Plan on which we continue to make good and steady progress. Be ready to talk briefly about what you are working on or are observing others to be working on. (Barbara, all)
  - Applying the lessons of working with first year students to second year students (Dan, Margo, Dave B)
  - Degree Completion initiative (update)
  - Balancing access with seriously disruptive behavior: lessons from Arizona shooting (Dave B, all)

- We carried out our priority-by-priority review of the plan as we do at each monthly meeting. We were all impressed that progress is being made on all fronts and we are demonstrating ongoing commitment to the goals of the plan. Again, we noted how the goals overlap and complement each other. While the most recent version was not on the web at the time of our meeting, it is now.

- Continuing strategies for student success beyond the first year:

We had a good discussion about extending the strategies that are serving students well with a particular look at second year students. We talked about whether, in fact, we would focus on year #2 or take a more global approach to strategies across the college for all continuing students.

We also discussed whether we would reconceive the office of First Year Experience as the place to locate extended efforts or whether we would take a different approach. Several members have been working on a design for a new position: someone to coordinate student support, mentoring, and outreach—a multi-pronged reach-out to students for maximal engagement and support.

While we reached no conclusions, we affirmed our commitment to continuing student success and learning as much as we can about successful initiatives in line w/ the goals of the plan.

- Degree completion initiative: Carol Vallett, Academic Research Consultant and former Academic Coordinator at CCV will work with us—especially Doug—to design a pilot that will identify the key reasons a number of our 'almost' graduates have failed to complete. Doug has identified 105 students who filed an application to graduate, indicating their near-completion, but did not follow through. Of this 105—which represents both campus-based and EDP students—1/3 had 'walked' at commencement; 1/4 of the students were EDP'ers.

Our consultant will analyze information re: the 105 students and identify reasons that explain students stopping just short of degree attainment. She will also design strategies for our reaching out to them and inviting them to re-enroll and complete.

- We had a brief conversation about the Tucson incident and the Community College's approach to the enrollment of the former student charged with the shootings. We continue to take seriously faculty and others' concerns with disruptive or challenging student behavior and make good use of the weekly student concerns committee meetings.

Update on upcoming Board committee meeting: the board Finance and Facilities committee will discuss a 4% tuition increase for next year for Vermont students. This number is advanced against a background of near certainty that we will lose the ARRA funds that have assisted our share of the appropriation for the last two years. Their expiration will likely return us to FY07 levels.

Another item from Tyrone: announcement that the Obama administration had eased restrictions on college travel to Cuba. It will be possible to carry out study tours briefer than a semester and allow a consortium of students from different colleges to travel.

Meeting adjourned at about noon.