

President's Council: Meeting notes
September 6th

1. We welcomed Jo Ann Lamore to the Council and look forward to her participation and membership.

2. Review of FA10 enrollment: Doug shared the "enrollment headcount" as of 9/7/2010. We are eighteen students 'down' from last year at this same point. Out of a total headcount of 1936 (as of this date), this is a very small number and not cause for concern. What we agreed we need to pay close attention to are:
 - Drop of ~45 entering first-year students with most of these students Vermonter (first year of predicted demographic dip of 18 year olds)

 - Drop in graduate students? these numbers are not firm yet and we may just be seeing a shift from degree-seeking to non-degree seeking

 - EDP numbers are up ; but EDP students do not usually enroll as fulltime students. They are more likely 8.5 cr. Students per semester. (It takes more of them to make up a fulltime paying Vermonter.

We reinforced our need to focus strongly on retention, transfer students—serving the ones we have well and attracting new ones—and researching those VT high schools that are sending us fewer students this year than last year.

3. Revenues as of this date: Sharron and Toby shared that we are running just over 1% of revenues compared to this date last year. This is awfully close; so, we will be watching our collections closely.

4. Title III : wrapping up the last month (September) of our five-year Strengthening Institutions grant. Dan spoke about the projects we have accomplished during the length of the grant and his belief that we are not just "strengthened" but "transformed" over this period. He named the programmatic changes (common reading initiative, first-year seminars, strengthened orientation and advising are among these changes) and the successful transition we are experiencing from grant-funded activities to college general operating budget.

Barbara thanked Dan for his leadership in this area—from having had significant input in writing the original grant to his stewardship throughout.

5. New Student Orientation – Several members of the council are involved in planning summer and fall orientations. The group has already met to debrief from the paired orientations and is thinking about revisions. All agreed that early pre-registration was a “win” for students and families in helping us plan courses, having student know early what courses they are in, generating more realistic bills for families, and reducing disappointments in not getting courses.

6. discussion of *JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Success, & Engagement*

- Faculty input: a summer working group met with a focus on the first two priorities of the plan. They raised some questions and offered revisions. These have been submitted to Dan Regan. At this point, faculty input is being incorporated into the Plan. We are pleased that the Plan has faculty endorsement as we enter fully the first year.
- Communicating the Plan’s priorities and first year work projects

We reviewed the places where we have already shared information about the Plan. These venues include: Department chairs’ meeting, Student Affairs division, last spring President’s address, College Council (September ’10 meeting); library staff. Barbara has shared the goals with the President of student government, but not the full SGA.

To do:

Invite Basement Medicine to write about the Plan’s priorities

Organize a ‘coffee’ and invite conversation about the plan (BEM to organize)

Meet with admissions and financial aid staff to review (Penny, Barbara)

Administrative Assistants (Jo at a meeting this fall)

Board of Trustees (Barbara will present the goals to Board at their retreat this month)

Barbara will also share with Alumni Council, Fund for JSC members, and Ellsworth Trust members

Prepare a single folded ‘hard copy’ piece to hand to interested people (Deb and Barbara to work on this in time for BOT meeting and Homecoming weekend).

Faculty Assembly meeting

Student Government Association (Dave will set up)

Other ideas as they surface and as we need them: we are committed to keeping this plan very much alive and visible.

- Elements of the College Plan for which external funding might be sought:

Undergraduate research opportunities: increasing the number and range, sciences and beyond

Library resources: in-hand and virtual

Center for Student Success

Common Reading Initiative: a sponsor to ensure its continuance

Extended Classroom Experiences- research and more general opportunities

Center for Lamoille Area Studies

We adjourned at 11:30 a.m.