

President's Council: 1867 Room Dewey Hall

Notes from September 8th, 2009 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

September meeting was a planning session in which we reviewed the six broad goals and ordered them in this way:

Academic Planning
Early and Ongoing Student Success
Civic Engagement
College and Campus Transformation: Physical and IT
Comprehensive Enrollment Planning
Development and Fund Raising

We ordered them in this way to establish the primacy of Academics as the heart and starting point for the plan.

Assignments for October 27th meeting : develop action steps or specific strategies to reach the six goals. While this is a 5 year plan, we will focus on the upcoming two years.

**October 27th 2009 – 1867 Room Dewey Hall
9:00 a.m. to noon**

1. We began with status updates for our areas of oversight and responsibility.

Enrollment: especially good news is that our first to second year retention is up by 5.2% over last year. We don't know yet if this is a 'blip' or the beginning of a trend. We hope it is the latter as we have been working toward this direction since the beginning of our Title III grant four years ago. Our overall numbers at the college are strong with 2000 being our overall count. Because just over 30 students are fully enrolled at another VSC college (EDP students enrolled in CCV courses, usually as part time students), the VSC numbers reflect the 1868 number.

Faculty Recruitment: we will launch searches for two positions in the Education department, one for the emerging Digital or Media Arts program and, possibly, a visiting professorship in Political Science.

Zaharom Nain: We continue to enjoy "Rom's" five week visit at JSC. Dan brought us up to date on Rom's schedule—a busy blend of on campus teaching, presenting, and role in the community speaking to St. Albans and a talk at the Morristown Public Library.

NEBHE Conference on "After the Crash: A New Reality for Higher Education": Barbara reported on a conference she attended in Boston in which Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter discussed the Obama administration priorities for education. These include increasing high school graduation rates. (Every 26 seconds a h.s. student drops out) Of great concern is that students are dropping out early—closer to 9th or 10th grades than as junior or seniors. Teacher preparation is also a priority; Secretary Duncan's position is that strong programs ought to be invested in; middling ones ought to be offered assistance and weak ones ought to disband.

College graduation rates have been stagnant for some time in the U.S. with our current national graduation rates at 42%. This is quite far from the 60% goal of the administration. U.S. is lagging between many developed countries. Equalling Canada's graduation rates is our new benchmark.

Community Colleges are seen as the priority area for investment as they are the most accessible and affordable.

NEASC update Dan and Joe recently attended a workshop on the new standards for accreditation and how they will inform the preparation of the 5-year mid-cycle report which we will write for NEASC by August 2010. Dan discussed three areas of emphasis put forth by NEASC. These are: assessment—how we know what we are teaching and how students are learning and how this informs strengthening of curricula; the role of planning and governance ; and public disclosure—how we present ourselves fully to our publics and our constituents.

Upcoming...We reviewed upcoming dates and events at the college including SHAPE opening, Rom's public talk, open house for admissions.

2. Resume College Planning

We reviewed each of our six areas in turn and the key 'indicators' or 'action steps' or 'strategies'. While we did not settle on a preferred word, we were talking about the same things: what are the steps we will take to move us toward successful realization of goals and against which we will measure our progress.

Each group has made good progress breaking out next steps. We gave each other feedback and agreed to take two weeks to refine our 'action' plans and resubmit to the group.

Our hope is to make revisions and launch early spring semester; we can connect this launch to a President's State of the College address.

We reviewed a few plans to look at format: LSC, CCV, University of Alaska. Our preference seems to be for the CCV format with some 'tweaking' of our own.

Reminder to submit to Barbara and all PC members revised drafts by Thursday, November 12th.