

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Meeting with the President Notes

Via Teams

In attendance: President Maxwell, Secretary Killman, Past-President Luna, President-Elect Allen, Senators Ojo, Liu, Fornehed, SSmith, Comer, Rand, Manginelli, Crockett, Craven, Witcher, Frye, Lee, Spears, Mullen, Fennewald, Upole, Smith-Andrews, Turner, Hassan, Park, Allcott, Hajdik, Isbell, Null, Ding, Meadows, Alley, Sisk, O'Connor, TSmith, Loftis, Weathers, Burch, Hermann-Turner, Adams, Winkle, Brachey, Rajabali, Pickering, Howard, Reames, Canfield, Shipley, Mills, Hutson

Guests: Mark Creter, Troy Pardue, Mark Cramer, President Oldham, Lee Wray

Absent: Senators Duncan, Swartling, Langford

Call to Order:

President Lori Maxwell called the meeting to order at 3:35pm and welcomed guests including President Oldham and COS Lee Ray and general counsel Troy Pardue.

President Oldham shared the stats from Preview Day, where there were 450 prospective students and

Answer:

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If it is being checked across the board, then why is it that a certain group has been stopped and not all groups?

Answer:

I cannot answer that, but it is a worthwhile question.

Question:

President Oldham, why only this group? It feels biased. Why not cancel all groups?

Answer:

Our approach is always to be the least disruptive as possible. Questions were raised about this activity that I felt needed to be explored. The approach that's being taken is to try and be even-handed. Where are the boundaries? How do we make sure that is reflected in our management of student organizations and their activities?

Comment:

Questions regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment trump state statutes, which is absolutely correct, but the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment does not apply to these behaviors.

The issue still stands we need a broader policy to cover all events in the future. How can that be expedited?

President Maxwell thanked the guests for their contribution and participation and guided the meeting to the next topic.

Topic: Research

President Oldham stated that Dr. Taylor announced stepping down from her role in the research office and that work is being done to begin a search thinking it will take 6-9 months. Dr. Carl Pinkert is semi-retired and has agreed to spend the next 6-9 months filling the role in more of a consultant role, not interim. He brings a wealth of experience from multiple institutions and should be on campus shortly. The good news is our research funds continue to grow. We saw about a 6% increase over the last year in awards and it continues to be positive. We have booked 8-10 million worth of awards for this year. We need to continue to grow the infrastructure that supports this, but we need to be smart about it. Dr. Pinkert can help us navigate this.

Question:

Will the director search continue to move forward?

Answer:

We are trying to fill all vacancies as quickly as possible. We are making sure individuals are aware of what they are getting into. There is some work to do regarding competitive salary to have someone relocate, but we are not holding up on any positions or hires.

Question:

Is the position Dr. Taylor moved to a new position?

Answer:

It is a part of the transition, but it is not permanent.

Question:

How is faculty involved in the restructuring of the research office? You mentioned last time they would be involved, but I wonder if you have a more solid answer now.

Answer:

We are not there yet. I met with some PI's about research a while ago, and a number of faculty have been involved. For restructuring in the future, Dr. Pinkert, might have some recommendations and conversations with faculty and research leaders to determine points of friction and issues. There is no question we have a lot of work to do to build the infrastructure that is needed, but that is a part of the challenge Dr. Pinkert has. Where are we now and where do we need to be in 3 months, 6 months, and we really hope to set the stage for the new VP, but until he gets here, I cannot really tell you how.

Topic: Library

Question:

true. Faculty is not happy about it. Her office got 60% of that raise pool that went out, it undermines the faculty's faith in your leadership. I'm not criticizing, so don't shoot the messenger.

Response:

Of our total E&G budget, Academic affairs takes 2/3 of it, which includes supporting the library. We push a lot of resources to departments and colleges and a lot of opportunities for local decisions to be made. If you want me as president, to be setting all of the budget decisions, I think it is a mistake, I might attempt, but I do not think you want me to tell you how to prioritize resources in the departments.

Comment:

An increase in protection is important. 1/3 of the library budget was taken by ITS.

Response:

We need a plan. What does the library need to look like? What should be our target? What are we looking for? We can say we need more resources, but to what end? That's the other piece. Not criticizing, just an honest observation. How do we carve out the necessary resources to make that happen?

Question:

When we apply for a research grant, there is an indirect cost of 43% that goes to the university. This generally was always partially allocated to journals, subscriptions, etc toward the library. Is that happening here? I understand the administrative cost that comes from the indirect cost, but how much