Council of Chairs Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 27, 2014

245 Patterson Office Tower

9:00 – 10:30am

Updates

It is has been announced that there will be a 1.3 million dollar budget cut. The dean does not expect this cut to affect the colleges. The university is still planning on salary raises for 2014-2015.

The College has not received positive responses on the startup requests from the VPR and Provost. The Dean is pushing again and strategizing on ways to share the expenses.

Wethington Awards (Betty)

The College received the call for Wethington awards far later than normal this year. The deadline to the University was much later as well. In an effort to have a similar deadline and payment as previous years, the College will set an earlier deadline and work with the departments to allow have the requests handled expeditiously.

Betty Lorch also reminded the group that the financial disclosures are due on March 31st. She will send a reminder with instructions to the department chairs to share with their faculty.

Strategic plan discussion

The “Pinata” document was released to the committees on the strategic plan. The Piñata is an integration of the six working groups’ reports. The dean stressed the graduate education portion of the document and plans to hold a retreat to discuss the future of graduate education. The Dean encouraged the committee to attend the open forums and town hall meetings regarding the strategic plan.

Thinking about next year

The dean’s office will be sending out a call for 2014-2015 hiring priorities soon.

The dean’s office will also send the date and details for the retreat at the end of the semester. Our main focus will be on graduate education and funding.

Science Chairs discussion on startup costs and faculty retention

The dean stressed the importance of hiring in research clusters, not only for the academics but for the collegiality. The scientists are extremely expensive to recruit and hire. Losing new faculty after a year or two can be devastating not only to the department but also to the College’s budget. The dean encouraged the chairs to plan ahead and work together when possible.