General Faculty Organization Meeting

May 18, 2007, 9:00 am, UW2 141

Chair: Steve Collins

Present: Steve Collins, Mike Stiber, Constantin Behler, Tom Bellamy, Arnie Berger, Michael Goldberg, Cinnamon Hillyard, Laraine Hong, Mark Kochanski, Gray Kochhar-Lindgren, Andrea Kovalesky, Sandeep Krishnamurthy, Kevin Laverty, Pete Nye, Rebecca Price, Gowri Shankar and Alan Wood.

Guest: Interim Chancellor Olswang and Chancellor-designate Chan.

Steve Collins, GFO Chair opened the meeting welcoming Interim Chancellor Olswang and Chancellor-elect Chan and thanked both for their participation in this discussion. This meeting was called in response to the legislative mandate in the capital budget that directs the UW to assess options and make recommendations for the siting of the branch campus in the Snohomish/Island/Skagit counties. President Emmert will appoint a working group charged with completing a report by November. Chancellor Chan will play a strong leadership role on that working group and two members of the UWB faculty will serve as well. Chancellor Chan has asked the program directors and the leadership of GFO to nominate faculty for this important role.

GFO discussion:

- This campus will be a UW institution, not an independent university.
- How will this affect the strategic planning process at UWB?
- We should figure out what the North campus will be doing so that there will not be a duplication of effort.
- The UW will not want to duplicate programs at a North campus.
- We must develop a UWB strategic plan to grow this campus.
- This will be an opportunity for UWB to take responsibility in planning the new campus.
- Other universities have multiple sites, UWB could be a campus with multiple sites.
- How do you run a multi-site campus, do we extend our faculty north?
- It is a mistake to let someone else decide on our role, we need to take the lead.
- The new campus could have the residential halls, performing arts space and labs that are needed to grow a campus to the capacity we need in the North Sound.
- We should look at a full range of programs, dorms and labs.
- What will this mean to UWB as a commuter campus?
- You need to look 100 years out to project the future of a campus.
- The success of a campus cannot be measured for at least 50 years.
- The faculty at UWB must take a leadership role in the new campus, take ownership.
- How will the working group address Eastside concerns? Who will serve that region?
- Will a new campus even meet the demand for more degrees?
- What about the funding? If the funding is based on FTE, will it be adequate? A new funding mechanism should be found, one not FTE-based.
- This campus must be appropriately funded to be a success.
- Will the new campus be a polytechnic institute, offering math, science and engineering?
What will that mean for STEM programs at UWB?
Should UWB focus on their MBA program, there is a high demand for Business degrees.
Weekend executive programs could bring students here.
What community/regional needs should we be meeting?
UWB’s academic footprint does not align with the footprint of our region, we need to deliver value to the region.
UWB needs to develop more partnerships with local businesses, leverage our strengths; work with the demographic characteristics of our region to develop an academic footprint.
How can UWB deliver education in a new way, should we consider scheduling weekend classes, expand our opportunities?
Can we deliver math, science and technology in new ways - interdisciplinary?
It is important to develop K-12 pathways to science and technology.
How do we ensure the faculty voice will be heard over the summer?

Steve outlined some issues that need to be addressed:

1. We need to develop a campus-level strategy for new programs and degrees, take ownership at the campus level, not program level.
2. We must determine how to ensure a strong faculty voice is heard in decision-making from the planning phase forward.
3. Funding - adequate funding must be made available for this campus to succeed. We need to look at new mechanisms to fund higher education, FTE based funding is not adequate.

Alan Wood shared two books he found useful on the current state of higher education:

- "The Creation of the Future: The Role of the American University" by Frank Rhodes.
- "Our Underachieving Colleges: A Candid Look at How Much Students Learn and Why They Should Be Learning More" by Derek Bok.

General Announcements:

- A GFO vote will be held on legislation to revise the UW Handbook to strengthen campus governance.
- A GFO vote will be held on adoption of the new GFO Bylaws.
- The Vice Chair of the GFO plays a strong role in shaping the campus, faculty are strongly encouraged to consider running for this leadership position.
- UWB will be conducting a search for an interim Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.
- Two faculty members will be chosen for the North Campus working group.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Minutes submitted by Barbara Van Sant