

## **Deans' Council Meeting**

Held: June 21, 2012

Attendees: B. Barnett, E. Daffron, L. Chakrin, E. Saiff, L. Siecke, S. Rosenberg and C. Romano.

B. Barnett opened the meeting by giving an update on the recent Cabinet Retreat.

- Building projects may be on hold because of the need to acquire construction permits. It will be late August or fall before building actually starts.
- Faculty will be impacted this fall with parking and classrooms.
- Conversion of the Carriage House to an Academic Commons to be used by both faculty and students should be completed by January 13.
- The incoming Web and Marketing Director will have to have separate office space as will the director of Institutional Research.
- A co-generation plant – will offer an opportunity to save money on utilities.
- Solar panels will be installed in September or October.
- The capital campaign is already over the 40 million dollar mark; advancement is trying to make certain they go over set targets in all areas. Currently lagging behind in the annual fund and grant monies.
- There is a focus on customer service in Residence Life and the Bursar's Office.
- Institutional Effectiveness is being reconstituted and will be more focused on reviewing annual reports.

### **Aaron Lorenz – Living and Learning Communities Update –**

- Inaugural year was a great success.
- 60 – 75 students for the coming year are expected.
- Data, including retention rates and GPA, will help the program determine success.
- Students have already had organized advisement.
- The program cannot be marketed as developmental, rather as a learning advancement program.
- A survey may be issued the first week of school to gather information from undeclared students who did not accept invitation to join Living Learning Communities.

- Adam Lorenz will be invited back to speak to the deans council in January 2013 to give an update on data collected from the Living and Learning program.

Chris Romano introduced Joe Connell as the new director of Student Success. He then shared his report on Enrollment Management that he presented to the Cabinet on June 20.

He reviewed challenges that Ramapo is and has been facing.

- Stabilize the freshman class at 900. ER has come within 2% of the 900 every year.
- Increase the SAT average of admitted students; this average has been increased by 20 points.
- Increase the diversity of the incoming class – non-white enrollment has been increased.
- The number of high school students or yield is declining.
- The East Coast sees the largest decline in students.
- Between 2008-2010 – family income suffered a decrease.
- Outcomes – preprofessional interests are dominating liberal arts.
- Loans and new loan requirements force a larger focus on value
- Most sister public colleges are in growth mode.
- Increased selectivity has moved Ramapo to upper echelon of competition. Competitors have better name recognition than Ramapo.

#### **Challenges:**

- Continued pursuit of students with higher SAT scores required significant increases to scholarship each year. Students are choosing Ramapo as their second choice or because it works financially.
- Yield decreased from 36 to 31% this year.
- There has not been much faculty participation in events this year.
- Housing demand has dropped.

#### **Recommendations from EM :**

- Establish clearer priorities for enrollment.
- Remove acceptance rate as a priority– currently set at 50%.
- Move into SAT stabilization rate with goal of 1150 – 1170 – this was not accepted by Cabinet.

- Focus on increasing diversity by stabilizing ethnicity and race.
- Focus on South Jersey to help with housing situation.
- Implement a waiver strategy for out of state students.
- Offer housing to out of state students at a discounted cost.
- Move away from rolling admissions.

### **Report on Consultant for Adult Education**

Adult student deposits continue – it is not yet close to program goal though those students who are accepted are enrolling.

- C. Romano needs good market research so money is not invested in programs that are not financially viable.

### **General Education**

E. Daffron gave a brief review of general education.

There is concern about the general education program and GECCO.

GECCo has had problems with trying to establish itself and move forward as a committee. It has been assessing general education but has not been very effective in relating that information back to faculty. The committee feels it is operating in a vacuum. It is possible that the committee's original purpose has not been fully implemented. The committee also does not have a chair and is missing 5 positions at the current time. Mid-September there will be a vote for new members for the committee.

A temporary, separate, and future taskforce may be created that would tackle revising General Education while the GECCo group is continuing to do its own work.

The next group that revises general education has to start with learning outcomes - this group may not be GECCo, but a task force. It has to establish what it is students should know and be able to do. The work of GECCo will have to feed this taskforce – they must be aware of what did and didn't work in current structure.

Discussion on faculty teaching general education courses and the feasibility of this proposal.

L. Chakrin pointed out that more faculty would have to be hired in ASB if they were required to teach one general education course per year. He questioned the affordability of this idea. E. Daffron understands the challenges but still feels that philosophically more regular faculty should teach more often in the GE curriculum. .

B. Barnett pointed out that there is a need to make certain that curriculum in majors and schools is not overly large; Ramapo needs to move toward a curriculum that puts a full time faculty member before students early in their career.

**Update on Strategic Planning** – Committee has started working on objectives under goals. Still struggling with the idea of measurable objectives that have achievement targets attached to them.