

Notes of ACC Meeting, 12 August 2008, ARD 174, 1:30-3:30pm

1. Introductions Updates

- A. New and returning ACC members briefly introduced themselves
- B. The Executive Director (Roy St. Laurent) briefly reviewed the ACC mission statement and the meeting schedule for the academic year.

2. Impact of changes to the university e-mail and calendar systems on faculty and staff: IRIS update – Dina Barnese, ITS

- A. The IRIS server will replace jan as the server for faculty and staff e-mail. Mail can still be accessed via Thunderbird, though the recommendation is that users consider Microsoft Outlook instead. Oracle Calendar is going away December 31st to be replaced by the integrated calendar and e-mail platform in Microsoft Exchange. Approximately 1100 e-mail accounts were switched to IRIS between June 30th and August 12th. All faculty should arrange to have their e-mail moved by the end of September. At some point, faculty who have not yet scheduled a date to make the switch will have their e-mail switched for them.
- B. Jan will be “turned off” as an e-mail server on October 31st, but will remain available for other computing purposes.
- C. Microsoft Outlook is the preferred program for reading e-mail from IRIS, in part because as a server-based e-mail environment it permits users to access e-mail and calendar from their desktop machines, via a web interface (Outlook Web Access), or via their mobile device. One feature is a common address book accessible anywhere.
- D. Dina Barnese is available to visit departments and meet with faculty to provide information on this switch over.

3. Updates from the Executive Director, general discussion

Roy reported on summer happenings:

- A. The ACC Executive Director and the President of the Faculty Senate have been added back to the Provost’s Leadership Council (PALC), after a hiatus of several months. The provost’s decision on this matter was due to the benefit to the PALC of receiving input from the ACC and the Faculty Senate early on in policy discussions.
- B. Over the summer the PALC continued to discuss possible changes in how Summer Sessions will be operated, beginning with 2009, now that the responsibility for its management has been moved from Distance Learning to the Academic Division. Recommendations will be forthcoming and discussed by the ACC before final policies are implemented.
- C. There has also been discussion in PALC of the Merit & Evaluation Task Force Report; including the proposal to switch to a 3-category evaluation scale (exceeds expectations, meets expectations, and does not meet expectations) and a change in the distribution of salary / merit dollars (when available) whereby a cost-of-living-like raise would be awarded to all who meet or exceed expectations; a smaller amount would be awarded to those who exceed expectations; and a pool of money would be available for exceptional “career achievement”-type “Dean’s Awards”. Expect to hear more about this as the fall progresses.
- D. Anticipated state budget cuts, are likely to affect departments through: (1) a rescission of the increases to department operations funds from last year; and (2) a possible sweep of one to two percent of large-balance local accounts – with the usual exceptions made to course-fee accounts.
- E. Other PALC items: The Graduate Assistant Task Force Report is forthcoming sometime this fall. Karen Appleby made a presentation to PALC on enrollment / SCH changes by academic unit covering the last ten years or so. Roy has distributed this to the ACC membership via e-mail. There is a new adjunct appointment process in place. The Task Force on International Education will be making recommendations for internationalizing the curriculum in the near future.
- F. Issues of import from recent University Cabinet meetings include: discussion of the university’s approach to dealing with the expected budget cut from the state; development of a CCC/NAU dual admission project; and the SPEED capital buildings & renovations projects. This last to include 30+ academic classrooms added to the Wellness Center to be constructed around the current recreation center and Lumberjack Stadium. (While the Wellness Center funding is from student fees, the two floors of classrooms that would be added are part of the SPEED project.) Roy has expressed concern on behalf of the ACC at Cabinet and PALC that in designing these classrooms there be more involvement of the Academic Division. ABOR is proposing a set of pre-tuition-setting guidelines for the universities that would limit what they can propose in the way of tuition increases. How this would affect NAU since we have adopted a four-year tuition guarantee, is uncertain. ABOR is also

pursuing an “Efficiency and Productivity” project at the behest of the governor’s office. The goal of this project is to identify where cost-savings can be had and to increase productivity (i.e., the number of graduates) at the three state universities.

- G. Because of the extent of updates, the discussion of prioritizing ACC agenda items for the year was delayed to the September meeting.

4. Discussion with the President and Provost: John Haeger & Liz Grobsmith

- A. The provost gave an update prior to the arrival of President Haeger – items B, C & D below.
- B. Liz thanked chairs for their efforts in accommodating the increased numbers of (especially freshman) students. She reported that the \$1,000,000 in temporary instructional staffing provided departments in 2007-08 to accommodate growth has been permanentized and an additional \$1,300,000 in new one-time monies were made available to meet the growth needs for 08-09, with the expectation that these funds would be permanentized in 08-09.
- C. The CEFNS and FCB dean searches are moving along. There will be no new Regent’s Professors appointments this year.
- D. Chairs asked questions about how the \$1,000,000 in added operations budgets would be returned; they explained that prior to the increase, many programs were not evenly funded, so returning to the previous funding model would restore inequities in operations funding. Liz suggested that how the cuts in operations funding are implemented is a college-level decision. In response to requests to consider the effects of hiring on campus budgets (in one case advertising a lecturer position cost more than 10% of a department operations budget), Liz expressed willingness for the Provost’s office to provide additional funds to pay for campus visits for lecturer candidates and to help fund advertising costs.
- E. President Haeger gave an update on the state of the university budget and the state economy. Currently state budget cuts amount to more than \$8,000,000 to the university. With the state budget situation for FY09 not really fully addressed by the legislature, it is possible there will be additional bad budget news during the remainder of the FY09 budget year – and FY10 is not looking good either.
- F. SPEED building projects are a good deal for the university with the state picking up 80% of the debt service and the university responsible for only 20%. As the projects go forward there will be substantial disruption in traffic and parking, as well as dislocation in faculty offices and classrooms. The final list of projects will be approved by ABOR in September. Concerns were expressed about the closing of the third floor (previously remodeled) of Liberal Arts as the first and second floors are remodeled.
- G. The Board of Regents is pursuing a “productivity and efficiency” project: Arizona needs to double the number of baccalaureates it produces annually, but with the current cost of producing a graduate, this is cost-prohibitive (hence the need for greater efficiency). Q: What about quality? The universities need to produce more baccalaureates, faster, cheaper but of the same quality. One of the first steps is to tackle the preparedness of students coming through our K-12 system, and educate more teachers in mathematics and science. Q: How will this affect graduate education? ABOR is on record as supporting all three state universities as research universities – one productivity goal is to substantially increase the amount of research / research funding at each of the state universities in the next 10 years. The AZ community college system will be an integral part of producing more baccalaureates – hence NAU’s experiment with (seamless) joint admission of students at Coconino CC and NAU, likely to be expanded to a similar partnership between Yavapai College and NAU.
- H. There were several questions about the nature of the classroom space in the Wellness Center and what the long-term plans for that space might be, given that no faculty or department offices are planned for the space. Chairs did not seem particularly satisfied with the involvement of the academic division in helping determine the use of that space, and suggested the need for more consultation. The President noted that the university could lose the SPEED monies to ASU or UofA if the projects do not move ahead on the time schedule planned.
- I. One chair expressed concern about the president’s growing hierarchical structure of leadership at the university relative to his more collaborative approach from several years ago. It was suggested that he consider renewing the small informal meetings with individual faculty as a way of getting a better sense of what was happening on campus, and how faculty feel about the issues facing the university.
- J. It was suggested that the message “we’re in really good financial shape” will be a difficult one for the campus community to accept when department faculty will experience no salary increases, and operations budget cuts at the same time departments do their best to accommodate a growing number of students.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.