

## Notes of ACC Meeting, 15 October 2008, Union Havasupai A/B (relocated from Kaibab room), 1:00-3:00pm

### 1. Updates from the Executive Director

- A. President's Cabinet meetings September 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>: (1) The university put out a "Request for Proposals" concerning a faculty / staff housing project. While several contractors expressed interest, only one submitted a proposal and it did not meet the specifications of the RFP (the contractor cited \$350,000 to \$500,000 as the range for affordable housing). SPEED building projects are going before the JCCR (legislative review committee), more will be known in mid-November as to whether these projects will proceed as planned.
- B. Provost's Academic Leadership Council (PALC): (1) The Provost reminds departments that students are not permitted to transport official documents between department and other university offices concerning their performance on oral exams. A recent case of fraud has occurred in that regard. Chairs should take care to prevent this from happening in the future. (2) Those faculty who participate in one of the optional retirement programs and who are considering opting for phased retirement (under which they can begin to access their retirement funds) must maintain a half-time workload during the 3-year phasing. The 0.50 FTE can be spread unequally across 2 semesters but there must be some supervised work in which the faculty member is engaged during both semesters, in order to maintain benefit eligibility.
- C. The ACC Executive Committee met on October 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the new travel reimbursement rules requiring logging the research purpose of the travel, and reporting of honoraria. The administration is backing off on enforcing the rules until there can be a clarification of what is required.
- D. In light of President Haeger's October 14<sup>th</sup> budget letter to the university community, and e-mail from the Provost, St. Laurent gave his impressions of the state of the budget and what chairs might expect to occur. Chairs raised questions and concerns: Exactly what travel will be restricted? How will this affect junior faculty and faculty development generally? Should a hiring freeze be put in place? There is a general impression that Distance Learning is flush with resources, how can they help the university through this budget cut?
- E. It is anticipated that the ACC Executive Committee will be invited to the President's Leadership session devoted to the university budget situation and scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup>. The ACC needs to spend time developing a set of budget principles to help guide the Executive Committee members in their discussions. Because of the limited time available at this ACC meeting, it was decided to use the time on October 29<sup>th</sup> (2-4pm) as an ACC work session on budget principles. This time had been previously scheduled for a now cancelled ACC workshop.
- F. Maribeth Watwood, ACC representative to the University Strategic Planning Council gave an update. The SPC is in the process of revamping (re-wording) the strategic plan; responding to changing "environmental" factors (i.e., political changes in legislature and governor's staff); working on incorporating the ABOR 2020 goals (doubling the number of baccalaureate degrees; doubling research funding) into the strategic plan; and discussing what can be done to build interdisciplinary programs.

### 2. Update on ACC working session discussions

The ACC had a brief discussion of what the three working groups have discussed to date, see materials distributed with the agenda for details. It was suggested that in light of the impending university budget cuts, maybe the ACC should add to the work session topics a focus on the cost and profit structure of Distance Learning.

### 3. Discussion of BIS/BAS administration and Yuma / Mountain campus curricular issues: Karen Pugliesi, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies

- A. The decision was made over the summer to move administrative lead over the BIS (Bachelor of Individualized Study, formerly BAiLS) and BAS (Bachelor of Applied Science) programs to Yuma under the direction of Larry Gould. This involves no change in curricular oversight for these programs, they remain Mountain campus programs.
- B. The Public Agency Service emphasis within the BIS/BAS has been moved to Yuma, which will be the curricular home for this emphasis. Concern was expressed that changes in PAS need to go through

NAU curricular process (including college curriculum committees) because of how changes to that program can affect on-campus departments / course offerings.

- C. In response to concern regarding how the administration of BIS programs relocating to Yuma would affect Mountain campus BIS students, it was pointed out that only 20% of BIS students are Mountain campus students.
- D. Karen suggested that we may want to develop a different type of interdisciplinary program in place of the BIS for Mountain campus students. In particular insofar as the learning outcomes for the BIS may not fit our students' needs.
- E. It is the President's intention to move Yuma to curricular autonomy over time, but a time frame has not been set, it could be 2 years, it could be 8 years. No plans have been developed to date.
- F. Yuma's current status is a branch campus of NAU in relation to ABOR, but relative to university accreditation. This means that effectively NAU has a second representative at the table for some ABOR committees.
- G. Karen also reminded the ACC of the CCC to NAU initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to provide Coconino Community College students with a seamless transition from CCC to NAU to encourage a greater number of students to pursue a baccalaureate degree (after first completing an associate's degree at CCC). NAU has a full-time advisor at CCC to work with students in making this transition. In implementing this initiative several articulation issues have arisen, including restrictions on CCC students joining NAU clubs. These will need to be ironed out.
- H. Currently there are 36 students in the CCC to NAU program. The expectation is that this will grow to approximately 100 students.

#### **4. Updating the list of NAU peers (ABOR initiative): Pat Haeuser, Vice President, Planning, Budget & Institutional Research**

- A. ABOR began a process on August 12<sup>th</sup> of working with the universities to establish a new set of institutional peers. The process is moving quickly. The impetus for the process was the intent to move the 3 universities to a new state funding formula by November. Though with the current state budget difficulties the process of agreeing to and implementing a new funding formula may be delayed, nonetheless the identification of new peers is going forward.
- B. The list of peers will be drawn from other institutions within each university's Carnegie classification, based on a similarity index that compares institutions on the basis of a number of variables including number of credit hours by discipline, mix of state, research and tuition funding, urban/rural setting and others. Ultimately the list will be used to help set tuition, determine university funding, and determine salaries. The final list will include 15 institutions.
- C. Pat invites comments concerning the variables being used to finalize the list.
- D. ACC members expressed concern that any peer list for the university as a whole may not adequately represent specific disciplinary department's peers. Especially for those doctoral granting programs. Pat expressed interest in receiving department lists of disciplinary peers, but noted that such lists must be drawn from institutions within NAU's same Carnegie class ("high research").
- E. It was also suggested that Pat compare a university peer list based only on variables concerning Mountain campus programs, in addition to a peer list based on both Mountain campus and distance programs. Pat commented that she has looked at this and without distance programs we look much more like the institutions that are on the tentative list of schools she had sent us in advance of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.