

President's Council Meeting Notes – February 28, 2020

- 1) **Welcome** – President Hanson thanked all for their time in attending this meeting and for the many activities supported on campus. He hears good things from students regularly. Please review the role of the Council, which is listed at the bottom of the meeting agenda.

- 2) **Good News** - Several departments communicated highlights, including the following:
 - Gina Bittner – Pleased to announce that 1,000 young students are visiting campus yesterday and today for the annual Dr. Seuss Celebration. Dr. Seay and PSEA have done an excellent job preparing for the event. Also, the Engaging Educators in-service for the ESU4 teachers was a great success. There were 700 educators on campus, of which approximately 500 were PSC alumni!
 - Deann Bayne – Shared student success story – former Peru State international student is now working in Chadron and pursuing her MBA. Both schools have worked together to assist this student on her pathway of success.
 - Greg Seay – Graduate Programs is pursuing an additional endorsement for “Behavior Interventionist”. On a personal note, Dr. Seay’s son will be attending Peru State in the fall and playing Bobcat basketball.

- 3) **Thousand Oaks Alumni Excellence Awards** – Annie Neveau announced that this award ceremony will be part of the Research & Creativity Expo on April 8, 2020. The four award winners will participate in the Expo events before being recognized. All staff and faculty are invited to attend as the awards are presented at 2:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center (PAC). This year’s recipients have been chosen, with help from the deans, based on their exceptional achievements and service:
 - Arts & Sciences – Lori (Vrtiska) Seibel (1984) (daughter of former State Senator Floyd Vrtiska)
 - School of Education – Jack Moles (1980)
 - School of Professional Studies - Alec Gorynski (2007)
 - Graduate Programs – Pat Haverty (2008)

- 4) **HLC Visit & Requests** – Tim Borchers asked all to become familiar with the new Peru State mission and vision statements:
 - Mission Statement - Peru State College provides students of all backgrounds access to engaging educational experiences to strengthen and enrich communities, Nebraska and the world.
 - Vision Statement - Peru State College will be renowned for transforming student lives through personal and engaging educational experiences.Soon they will be asking volunteers to serve on Review Teams to help gather “evidence” for the five criteria for accreditation. Tim reviewed several important details for the upcoming HLC report and visit, including the following:
 - The Higher Learning Commission will consider three categories of evidence: Clear Evidence (principal, precise), Corroborating Evidence (supplementary), and Circumstantial Evidence (from which the principal evidence can be inferred).
 - The Higher Learning Commission will confirm that the institution articulates its mission publicly and that it is operationalized throughout the institution.
 - Through a brainstorm session, the group was asked to provide ideas on how departments can provide evidence. There were several suggestions: the College

Catalog, course syllabi, Bobcat 360, Weave, assessment processes, campus committees (i.e., President's Council), performance evaluations.

- In order to begin evidence-gathering, Tim suggested:
 - Creating a "HLC Evidence" folder in which to store helpful items, which can be emailed to Tim Borchers or Kristin Buscher.
 - Complete the mach form for evidence collection at https://www.peru.edu/eform/view.php?id=507483&mf_page=1

For additional information on accreditation and links to the HLC website, please visit <https://www.peru.edu/oira/accreditation-HLC/overview>

5) Persistence Task Force – Tim Borchers reported that this task force is meeting to explore many possible strategies to help with persistence. One such strategy is "Multi-Term Registration", which involves a student being able to register in February for summer, fall and spring terms all at once.

6) Updates

- a. Enrollment & Admissions – Tim Borchers reported that our spring enrollment numbers are up this year, after having shown a spring decline the past three years. Online recruitment numbers are also up, due to the marketing efforts by Archer.

Cindy Cammack reported several items for Admissions:

- Applications and admissions for this fall are going well. Housing applications are up significantly and the orientation sessions are filling rapidly.
 - March 20 is the annual scholarship luncheon, which will take place on our campus. Fifty students have been awarded scholarships and have been invited to the luncheon.
 - We have a new event, Peru State 101, which is scheduled for April 3. Thus far, 15 high school students are registered to attend.
 - Admissions is offering rewards to potential students for staying engaged with campus – i.e., they get a prize for completing their housing application.
 - High school students are being allowed ACT "Super Scoring", which means they can select to take only individual sections of the ACT exam. Dr. Hanson noted that many colleges and universities are not using ACT scores as much as they used to.
- b. Facilities – Dr. Hanson introduced Darrin Reeves as the new Director of Facility Services. Darrin reported on several Facility Services projects including:
 - They will have a new Office Assistant II beginning on March 2.
 - The new Assistant Director of Facility Services will start soon.
 - They have hired three new temporary custodians to fill vacancies.
 - The new Library fireplace will be installed soon.
 - There is a preconstruction meeting on Monday (3/2) for the roofing project.
 - ADA improvement work will begin after commencement.

- Two Facilities staff members are putting together a proposal for sprucing up the erosion control on Park Avenue.
 - He will be putting out a new schedule for the cleaning of buildings.
- c. Community Update (Levee & Grocery Store) – Dr. Hanson reported the on the following:
- Long-Term Recovery Group – This group of representatives from various entities, including the City and the College, are working together to support the City in finding funding for repairs of the levee, roads, water and wastewater treatment plants. Dr. Hanson noted that Governor Ricketts is very supportive of these efforts and is committed to finding monies to fund the engineering study for the levee repair.
 - Grocery Store Transition – Dr. Hanson met with a group of fifteen people on Saturday to discuss the possibility of a community-owned grocery store. The group confirmed that a new approach is necessary for success.
 - NET Town Hall – This panel discussion took place last Friday night on campus. The focus was ongoing flood recovery. NET filmed the event and it will air on an upcoming broadcast of “Speaking of Nebraska” (March 19 at 7:00 p.m.).
 - Media – Channel 3 News will be on campus today for follow-up reporting on flood recovery.

7) Announcements –

- The Rotaract Club has organized a water conservation project on campus. Over 100 students have committed to the conservation pledge. Their names are listed on the droplet wall in the student center. Campus water usage has shown a significant decline with the implementation of this effort – down 20,000 gallons per week.
- Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash has the last performance at 1:00 p.m. today.
- Gina Bittner announced that a Special Olympics team will be practicing on our campus.
- Gina Bittner announced that the SE Nebraska Cancer Garden in Humboldt is looking for volunteers to help with spring planting.
- There is a band concert in the PAC on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m.
- The Distinguished Series Speaker Beverly Gooden will speak in the PAC at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 02. She is a domestic abuse survivor and founder of #whyistayed.
- A new part-time Dance coach has been hired and will start next week.
- The new football coach will start on March 2.
- The SE District Health Department will be on campus on Monday for a meeting about the coronavirus response.

8) Future meeting dates – Monthly meetings usually on the second Friday of each month, September-May. The next meeting date will be **Friday, April 17, 2020.**