

## President's Council Meeting Notes – May 10, 2019

- 1) **Welcome** – President Hanson welcomed all and thanked them for their work in the big events last weekend – the PAC grand opening and Commencement. He has been receiving plenty of great feedback!
- 2) **Good News** - Several departments communicated highlights, including the following:
  - Amy Mincer – The Hansons have welcomed a new grandson, Daniel “Danny” Mathis. Dr. Hanson shared that both daughters and all three grandchildren are visiting them over next several days.
  - Matt Thielen – Kudos to Crystal Hutson and Deborah Solie for their great work on a new event for our graduating seniors – a Senior Send-Off. This will be a great annual tradition.
  - Tim Borchers – The recent spring vocal concert brought three area high school choirs to campus to perform and participate in a final song that had 200 voices on our new stage! Paul Hinrichs added that Auburn High School has since asked for permission to perform in the PAC next year. They are working to confirm a date for this.
  - Greg Seay – Summer enrollments are already ahead of last summer, with three weeks to go before the session begins. Also, Peru State’s share of the EETP (Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Programs) forgivable loan offer was increased by \$50,000 and grad programs requested another \$30,000 to meet the requests of our new grad students. This increasing our share to \$105,000 with the request (if approved) of up to \$155,000 in forgivable loans for graduate students in our MSED program.
- 3) **Orientation dates and schedule** – Cindy Cammack reported that not all orientation sessions will be identical in scheduled locations, so she encouraged all to check the schedules ahead of time. It will be nice to use the PAC for these sessions, in addition to TJ Majors. A group will be meeting next Tuesday to review the programming. Our Topcats will also be assisting with each orientation session. As of today, the number of students registered for orientation is as follows (numbers will change over the summer):
  - May 17 – 68 students
  - June 7 – 70 students
  - June 21 – 37 students
  - July 19 – 15 students
  - August 7 – 18 studentsCindy also shared that Admissions has just launched a new Yes, No, Maybe campaign to follow up with individuals who have not yet committed to PSC. It is helpful to connect with them and learn their plans. She is very optimistic that we will have higher enrollment this fall than last.
- 4) **Updates**
  - a. City Water update – Dr. Hanson reported that water is still being trucked to Peru on a daily basis. The new portable unit has been delivered and should be running within a week. At the next City Council meeting (May 20), JEO will be presenting three options for a permanent water solution in Peru:
    1. Rebuild the current facilities

2. Connect to a regional water supply
3. Build new facilities above the flood plain

Dr. Hanson encouraged Peru residents to attend this meeting and offer input. He thanked all for water conservation efforts since the flooding began. Our campus has saved 15-40% in our usage over this time, depending on the day. Note: On September 14, during halftime of the football game, we will be hosting/thanking all who donated flooding assistance materials and efforts.

- b. Online Recruitment – Dr. Hanson confirmed that new online student numbers are declining and changes are necessary to reverse this trend. We are talking with Online Program Recruiters to develop strategies to grow online student enrollment. We will present a proposal to the Board of Trustees in June and hope to start this program right away. We are not pursuing a full Online Program Management firm. Instead, we will only contract for services that lead to the application. We will continue to handle the enrollment, registration, financial aid, and other aspects. The additional funds that come from additional online students will increase our waiver capacity for on-campus students. The additional marketing will also help increase our prominence across the region.
- c. Enrollment – Jesse Dorman reported that admits-to-date are gaining (only 2% down currently compared with 17% down a few months ago). Presently, we have added 62 students from the SEM initiatives (JV sports). Recruitment is going well for the first year and we expect this number to grow. Transfer numbers are still down, but it is too early to tell how they will turn out. Jesse noted that the student call center is having a positive impact on enrollment numbers. Kudos to Admissions for their work on this project!
- d. Budget – In Tammie Hart’s absence, Eulanda Cade shared a handout with budget numbers. This year’s projected shortfall of \$615,592 will be covered by carry-forward funds. Dr. Hanson announced that Tammie is modeling the budget for next year. It seems there will be an increase in funding from the State, although the Governor’s Talent Scholarships have been eliminated from the budget.
- e. Facilities – In Jill McCormick and Debbie White’s absence (they are hosting LB309 guests on campus today), Amy Mincer shared a list of summer projects as reported by Debbie:
  - Fieldhouse renovation
  - Oak bowl erosion project (correction of erosion issues)
  - Electrical upgrades at the Complex
  - Restroom and flooring upgrades to some of the Oak Hill Apartments
  - Fresh Ideas will be renovating the dining area and coffee shop
  - Campus wide ADA study
  - Display case in Hoyt Hall
  - Fire Alarm systems in Hoyt, CATS, Library, Morgan Hall

- Finishing the PAC punch list items
- Porta potties going away next week

Dr. Hanson added that LB309 has been a very important contributor to many of our large campus projects. They are currently completing an ADA study, which will likely mean that good ADA solutions are coming to Peru State.

- f. Strategic Plan Updates – Tim Borchers reported that the implementation teams have been meeting and recommending initiatives, changes and improvements to programs. For example, the First-Year-Experience group has recommended a quality initiative. In addition, the Honors group has initiated the Research and Creativity Expo, which held its first successful event in April and has been scheduled again for April 8, 2020.

Regarding the NSCS strategic planning efforts, Jesse Dorman reported that he and many others are serving on a committee that will be meeting regularly to develop the new system-wide plan. Their next meeting will be in early June. Any feedback for the committee may be given to Jesse or any of the following committee members from our campus:

Joyce Douglas	Community Member and Vice Chair of the Foundation Board
Thomas Veleba	Student Body Vice President
Wayne Albury	Director of Athletics and Baseball Coach
Kristin Buscher	Director of Assessment
Jesse Dorman	Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
Paul Hinrichs	Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences
Christy Hutchison	Professor of Business
Crystal Hutson	Student Activities Coordinator
Judith Ruskamp	Professor of Education

- g. Dining transition and facilities – Jesse Dorman shared a video presentation of the proposed dining hall renovations by our new vendor, Fresh Ideas. The target start date is June 15 and renovations will conclude early August. There will be new furniture and flooring in the dining area, with a variety of seating zones. The food area will be completely open. Dining hours will be extended and discount rates will be available for staff & faculty. A mobile app will be available to order food ahead. Fresh Ideas offers 80-90% made-from-scratch items. Their new catering director contact info will be released soon.

**5) Announcements –**

- June 6 at 6:00 p.m. - Omaha alumni reunion
- Please send summer announcements to Amy Mincer for posting on the internal communication page.

**6) Future meeting dates** – Monthly meetings will occur on the second Friday of each month, September-June. The next meeting date will be **Friday, June 14**.