

## President's Council Meeting Notes – Oct. 16, 2020

- 1) **Welcome** – Dr. Hanson welcomed all and thanked them for attending. He also thanked all for extra work that has gone into this COVID-19 semester.
- 2) **Good News** - Several departments communicated highlights, including the following:
  - Ken Curtis – The Art Department will be hosting an exhibition next week (Katrina Swanson). Watch for an announcement for gallery hours.
  - Debbie White – Art students are working on painting a mural in the game room (lower lever Student Center).
  - Tim Borchers – Excited to report that the Freshman retention rate this year is the third highest number in 10 years at just over 62%.
  - Dr. Hanson – Enrollment is holding steady this year, which is great news!
  - Dwayne Chism – SOE is holding panel interviews today.
  - Paul Hinrichs – There was a pep rally on the quad yesterday and the Peru Theatre Co. is performing its work this week.
  - Jason Hogue – Thank you to all who helped with the recent commercial shooting on campus. It went very well.
- 3) **Great Colleges to Work For Survey Results** – Kristin Buscher sent the results by email to all and shared on the Zoom screen during the meeting. She reviewed the survey details and results, noting that there were 15 core dimensions measured in the survey. There were 98 faculty and staff who participated in the survey, which was up from 92 last time. The response rate was 57.3%. The survey is completely confidential and demographic information is not reported back to the College.

The three highest performing dimensions for Peru State: Supervisor, Job Satisfaction, and Pride. The three lowest performing dimensions: Policies/Resources/Efficiency, Faculty/Staff/Administration Relations, and Senior Leadership.

The Respect/Appreciation dimension has had significant improvement over the past two survey years, up from 40% to 67%. The survey shows that improved Transparency and Communication is an opportunity for growth.

Kristin reviewed several of the responses to the open-ended questions on the survey. She also asked for feedback from the group about what the campus should focus on for improvement in the next two years. She will be presenting this information to Staff Senate and Faculty Senate and will ask for feedback there as well.

- 4) **COVID-19 Response: Testing and Contact Tracing** – Dr. Hanson reported that the campus will be continuing with its weekly testing strategy (which especially helps catch asymptomatic cases) but is moving to a saliva-based test.

Dr. Dorman shared that we are partnering with Corteva for these new tests which will have a 24-hour turnaround time. This will help greatly with contact tracing. The College will receive the data directly from Corteva and will then report necessary information to the Health Department. Dr. Dorman noted that test results will have to be delivered to Johnston, IA, which

is near Des Moines. He is hoping we will begin with the saliva testing by the end of October and it will take place in the Student Center (2 days/week) for easier accessibility.

Matt Thielen reported that we have been assisting the Health Department with contact tracing. We have quarantine (exposure) and isolation (positive cases) rooms on campus. Most students are quarantining in their rooms. We work with them to deliver meals, both for on-campus and off-campus students. We also follow-up with students on their academic needs, including remote tutoring. Matt noted that students in quarantine are monitored for symptom development. If they have specific health questions, they are referred to the Health Center or their own healthcare provider. We have a COVID support email ([covidsupport@peru.edu](mailto:covidsupport@peru.edu)) and phone number (ext. 2277) that students are using regularly. When students are cleared to return to classes, their faculty receive notification.

Dr. Dorman noted that the Residence Life team has been working day and night to help this process move smoothly. Thank you to Dean Thielen and his staff for this good work!

## 5) Updates

- a. Facilities – Darrin reported that the roof repairs are continuing. The ADA project is also continuing. Next Tuesday is a kickoff meeting with Leo A. Daly on the TJ Majors Criminal Justice renovation project.
- b. Enrollment & Admissions – Dr. Dorman reported that our enrollment for term II is good. Our online numbers are up 44 students over last year. Graduate enrollment is up as well. He reported that, due to COVID-19, we are running behind in inquiries and applications, although this has been improving in the last two weeks.

Cindy Cammack reported that Admissions staff have been attending high school College fairs both in-person and virtually. They are also preparing to send a Financial Aid Checklist mailing in hopes of collecting parent information to improve communications. A new Facebook page has been developed to attract parents and alumni.

- c. Community Update (Water & Levee) – Dr. Hanson reported that the City
  - LTRG – The Peru Long-Term Recovery Group now has a full-time person working with the City to help with flood recovery projects. This is a much needed and wonderful development.
  - Levee – Thanks to work from Congressman Smith, the Peru levee has hopes of soon being returned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s “active” list, which means it will be able to receive necessary repairs by the Corps.
  - Water Treatment – The City of Peru will be connecting to Auburn Water for its long-term solution. The City will be getting a good amount of funding from FEMA for the project. When this project is complete, Peru will have the best water in its history.

**6) Announcements –**

- Peru Theatre Co. production at 7:30 tonight.
- Volleyball games in Peru tonight and tomorrow.

**7) Future meeting dates –** Monthly meetings usually on the second Friday of each month, September-May. The next meeting date will be **Friday, Nov. 13, 2020.**