

President's Council Meeting Notes – Nov. 20, 2020

- 1) **Welcome** – Dr. Hanson welcomed all and thanked everyone for working together to help us get through the semester. It has been challenging and we have had to adjust many times. Some faculty and staff had to work extra hours and meet unreasonable deadlines. Others were assigned jobs they have never done before. Dr. Hanson asked deans and directors to thank their staff members.

- 2) **Good News** - Several departments communicated highlights, including the following:
 - Dr. Hanson – Celebrating that we have made it to the end of the semester.
 - Dwayne Chism – There was a good turnout yesterday for the student/administrator meeting on Race. Guests were invited and it went very well.
 - Jared Koelzer – Student Senate delivered care packages this week to students across campus. He is thankful for all they have accomplished this semester, despite COVID-19.
 - Greg Seay – Graduate Programs is offering a Substitute Teacher course which has become very popular.
 - Debbie White – Art students unveiled their mural in the game room yesterday. Please see the wonderful student project in the lower level of the Student Center.
 - Cindy Cammack – Thank you to faculty who meet with student visitors on campus.
 - Ken Curtis – Shout out to Susan Moore who hosted artist Katrina Swanson for her students yesterday.
 - Adam Neveau – Res Life held a haunted trail event for Halloween. It went very well and was attended by 100 guests.
 - Crystal Hutson – Student orgs have been holding programs despite COVID-19 challenges, continuing to engage students while also following health department guidelines.
 - Jesse Dorman – Thanks to Crystal Hutson and Dr. Chism for their work with the new Student Leadership Society. They held an induction ceremony recently for 94 students!

- 3) **Campus Communication Discussion** – Dr. Hanson asked the group for feedback on ways to improve communication across campus. Employee survey responses indicate that this area continues to need improvement. Feedback included:
 - Sharing President's Council meeting notes across campus would be helpful.
 - It is important for department representatives to relay the information to their areas and ask for feedback.
 - Amy will begin sending the notes to the whole campus community.

- 4) **Spring Semester** – Dr. Hanson reported that the NSCS plan is to follow the original academic calendar for the spring semester. Students will be screened for symptoms and tested for COVID-19 when they return to campus. Dr. Hanson noted that START will hold a campus ZOOM meeting before students return in January in order to share information and answer questions. Regarding vaccination distribution, Dr. Dorman reported that the State will distribute it through the Health Department. The College would be in the first phase of distribution, behind health care workers and vulnerable individuals. With testing in place on our campus, we are set up to help the distribution happen smoothly.

- 5) **Corrections Leadership Scholarship Program** – Jason Hogue presented on this new program, which now has its own logo. There are advertisements and other promotional material to help draw students to this exciting new opportunity with generous scholarships. Jason shared several of the print and video ads. The ads will be seen online and radio. Jason noted that the Admissions office is doing great work to promote the program.

LINKS:

Corrections Leadership Commercial:

<https://vimeopro.com/ccgpost/peru-state-2020-tv/video/468270269>

Upbeat College Commercial:

<https://vimeopro.com/ccgpost/peru-state-2020-tv/video/474682271>

- 6) **HLC Town Halls and Review Teams** – Dr. Kristin Buscher reported that five town halls were held recently (one for each of the criterion). There was discussion about gathering evidence for the process. Kristin was pleased with the town hall attendance, noting that the smallest meeting was attended by 15 individuals. The five review teams have all met once. They will continue meeting and will eventually offer a report. Kristin shared highlights from each of the review teams:

- Criterion 1: We are very mission focused. There is widespread buy-in to the importance of student engagement and have multiple examples to share with HLC. We have strong relationships with our community. We offer and invite members of the community to campus events and work together with the town to strengthen the community.
- Criterion 2: We have many policies, processes, and training in place to support ethical decision making. We are fairly transparent with our information with stakeholders via catalog and website.
- Criterion 3: The overall tone is that we are continually looking for best practices to find those ways to increase the online student experience to make it like an on campus course. Commitment to ensuring the same type of quality for online as on campus. Commitment is heavily focused on technology, the collaboration, and the focus on student learning. We seem to address the learning domains identified by HLC in our general education, but we identified that we can do a better job of addressing why and the importance of general education to students. We are doing a lot more to improve our student services that we provide to students and are starting to move towards more emphasis on specialized groups.
- Criterion 4: The overall tone is the pride that faculty and staff have in the programs that we have and student effort and successes. As an institution a lot of effort has been taken develop systems and processes related to assessment, but we still have more work ahead of us to have a strong culture of assessment. One example is the inclusive process that we adopted to develop institutional learning outcomes. We have hope for our students and their future and if we can instill that and help them realize that for themselves then that allows them to achieve their goals here. Also, that we are focused on student engagement, which is conveyed in everything that we do and reflects in conversations with students and in survey data.
- Criterion 5: We have a very inclusive and collaborative culture and that faculty and staff feel as though they are well informed, there is a high level of transparency, and our

input is often solicited. It seems as though we are proactive in identifying and strengthening the institution for the future.

Dr. Hanson noted that our campus has a good process in place for gathering data to support the work that we do. He is thankful for the good work being done to prepare for our HLC visit.

7) Updates

- a. COVID-19 Response: Testing and Contact Tracing – Matt Thielen reported that our number of students in quarantine has decreased since we transitioned to Corteva testing. Getting test results back more quickly helps keep exposures down so less students are having to quarantine. Dr. Dorman noted that we have administered 6,000 tests over the semester. Our test positivity rate has remained low at just over 2%. We will be offering testing throughout second semester. We also plan to offer testing on campus between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dr. Hanson reported that we will be sharing our data with Dr. Seph Fauver (PSC grad) for a study he will be working on.
- b. Facilities – Darrin Reeves reported on the following:
 - The ADA project is nearing completion.
 - We are working on an RFP for temporary grounds and maintenance staffing.
 - We are getting ready to start a President’s House remodel, which will be funded by a private donation.
 - We are working to replace the chiller in Hoyt and LB 309 will fund the project.
- c. Enrollment & Admissions – Dr. Dorman reported that spring numbers are up. The online numbers are more than double that of last year. Freshman numbers are up for spring as well. High school counselors are very busy with COVID issues in their high schools and aren’t spending as much time on College preparations. Cindy Cammack reported that Admissions is connecting well with potential students (and their parents) through letters, Facebook, etc. Parental engagement is key so they are trying very much to reach them.
- d. Community Update (Town Hall on Dec. 1) - The City of Peru has learned that FEMA will be funding the needed water treatment solution (connecting Peru to Auburn water) and that the City’s required matching funds will be covered by grant funding. This is great news! The City will be holding a Town Hall in the PAC on Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

8) Announcements –

- Debbie White announced that travel guidelines will be changed started January 1. Travel manuals will be updated soon.
- The College’s copier contract is being updated. The machines will be replaced over the holiday break. This will be a large financial savings for the College.
- Students Activities is planning a graduation event (for graduates only) on Friday, Dec. 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. More information to come.

- There are Foundation funds available for students who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. If you know of students in that category, please share their names with Dr. Hanson.

9) Future meeting dates – Monthly meetings usually on the second Friday of each month, September-May. The next meeting date will be **Friday, Dec. 11, 2020**.