

President's Council Meeting Notes March 11, 2022

- 1) **Welcome** – Michael Evans welcomed all and reminded that clocks will “spring forward” this Saturday night/Sunday morning.

Michael asked the Council to look again at the Leadership Commitment listed at the bottom of the meeting agenda, specifically the sixth statement, “Instilling a sense of pride by celebrating successes”. He noted that some supervisors are afraid to celebrate their employees’ successes because they worry people won’t work as hard if they feel they have already met the expectation/hit the mark. Michael said the opposite is actually true – celebrating successes inspires people to work harder in the future since they don’t want to disappoint others. They want to continue exceeding expectations.

Michael offered updates on the following position searches:

- Football Coach – Thus far we have received 93 applications. The search committee is working to narrow the field and will proceed with several Zoom interviews next week. We hope to fill this position very soon so the new coach can connect with the team and hire new offensive and defensive coordinators.
- Vice President for Administration & Finance – This search committee has brought three finalists to campus and the fourth will be coming for campus interviews on Monday and Tuesday (3/14 - 3/15). The committee will then decide either to make an offer or restart the search process.

Good News - Several departments communicated highlights, including the following:

- Keith Bailey – Facility Services has hired two new employees who will start work soon. We still have several positions to fill.
- Wayne Albury – Our men’s bowling team is competing in the national tournament in Dallas this weekend. One of our bowlers (Isaac Skalak) received Bowler of the Year award in the HEART conference.
- Paul Hinrichs – Rich Clopton has been awarded the Clark P. Reed Mentor Award (a national award).
- Cory Moen – Residence Life held its Room Selection Night last week. There were 130 students who selected their rooms for this fall, which is an increase over last fall. We will have eight new RAs joining the team for 2022 - 23.
- Greg Seay – The State of Nebraska Department of Education has announced \$175/credit hour (through the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program) to be offered to graduate students as a forgivable loan (if they stay in Nebraska for three years after graduating).
- Ted Harshbarger – Shout out to all who have worked together to implement the additional Foundation scholarship money that has been identified and will be offered through Financial Aid.
- Jason Hogue – Announced that Kyle Ryan has been selected to serve on the Board for the National Strength & Conditioning Association. Jason also announced that additional African art has been installed on campus and the ID plaques will be added soon.
- Amber Mahan – Happy to report that the Business Contest went very smoothly. SPS will be interviewing soon to fill the open CJ and Psych positions. Amber also reported that a

new leadership course is being developed and will, hopefully, be approved in the near future.

- Jon Robertson – Thankful that Deonte McReynolds has accepted the position of Accountant. They will now be seeking to fill Deonte’s former position.
- Jennifer Rieken – HEERF funding has been approved for many projects on campus, including student assistance. Jennifer attended a HEERF webinar that helped clarify the guidelines.
- Michael Evans – Kudos to Tim Borchers for his countless hours spent working on the HLC report and submitting it on time. We are now waiting on the HLC response.

- 2) HLC Update** – Tim Borchers announced that the HLC report was easy to write since our campus has so much good information to share. He discussed the upcoming meetings that he has scheduled with departments where he will be sharing expectations for the HLC campus visit. Tim reviewed the handout, “Engaged for Excellence”, reminding all that the review team wants to help us be the best we can be. Continuous improvement is what they are looking for. He encouraged all to wear Peru blue during the HLC visit. Also, remember to wear nametags.

Tim shared a second handout, “HLC Assurance Argument”, which is the executive summary of the report. He referenced key metrics, the PALs program, Budget Committee (shows transparency), Career Services (new position based on data), Writing Center (based on feedback, new director started this week). He also noted SEE fund awards of \$450,000 since inception, SEM initiatives (action based on enrollment), ILOs, KPIs, CDEI, Student Success Services, & Cultural Enhancement Plan – we now have Pizza with the Pres to further engagement.

The Higher Learning Commission requires that we survey our students, which was completed in January. Tim distributed a handout with the survey results.

3) Updates

- a. **Facilities** – Keith Bailey reported on the following:
- Water Softeners – These have been ordered for the Student Center and the Complex.
 - Boiler – Repair work will begin next week.
 - Tree removal – Damaged trees will be removed from Neal Park by the end of the month.
 - Lighting – An audit of our lighting will be completed soon in order to receive rebate funding.
 - Staffing – Three Facility Services staff members will be leaving soon. The department continues to need additional staff.
 - HEERF – This funding is being used for new HVAC units for faculty housing, Oak Hill, and the Complex. The Student Center will also be getting a new A/C unit for the kitchen.

4) Announcements

- Foundation office will be hosting/taking part in the following:
 - Etiquette Dinner on April 6
 - Creativity Expo & Alumni Awards on April 14
 - City-wide Clean Up on April 29
 - Baseball Reunion on April 30
- Paul Trana encouraged all to complete the Great Colleges to Work For survey and to remind department staff to do the same. He also noted that students

will be offered two additional surveys this spring.

- The Admissions team will be hosting the following:
 - Scholarship event on March 31
 - Counselor Connection event on April 8
 - Orientation events on May 20, May 25, June 24, June 29, and July 15
- Paul Hinrichs announced that we need student workers for our sound & lighting tech jobs. Please refer any interested students to Arts & Sciences.

5) Future meeting dates – Second Friday of month at 11:00 a.m. in CATS. Next meeting is April 8, 2022.