

President's Council Meeting Notes November 19, 2021

- 1) **Welcome** – President Michael Evans welcomed all and reviewed his previous comments about “empowering the team to make a difference.” Michael recently attended a conference for new presidents in Florida, where Disney was one of the presenters. Disney shared about solving a parking problem by implementing employee suggestions. In the end, it was a very effective and successful way to fix the challenge.

Michael noted the Leadership Commitment listed at the bottom of the meeting agenda.

Looking at #3, “Building community through collegial and collaborative relationships resulting in trust,” he asked how we can strengthen relationships on campus. Feedback from the group included:

- See people as ends (people) and not just a means to get something done.
- Do not see interactions as a business transaction. Be sure to allow side conversations & not just the work at hand.
- Give affirmation – thank others for their contributions.
- Be a good listener.
- Practice patience and offer grace.
- Do not assume the first question is the only question or the real question. There may likely be more to the issue.
- Let others see you as a person, not a title. Do not be afraid to be vulnerable, and apologize when needed.
- Meet in-person when possible and less on Zoom.

Michael also asked how the College can better foster relationships on campus, with the following responses offered:

- The former Internal Communication Page is missed. Could we include announcements such as those through another avenue such as Teams?
- Lunch & Learns – Employees can present on their department and/or a personal subject of interest. This is a good way to learn about other departments on campus.
- NOTE: Michael asked all to send additional ideas to him.

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

- Jari Dunekacke – Happy to announcement that the Admissions office will be fully staffed as of December 1.
- Crystal Hutson – Our extramural flag football team took 2nd place at a tournament at UNL.
- Tim Borchers – Big thanks to Crystal Hutson for the hoop dance presenter last night in the PAC. It was a great event!
- Wayne Albury – He presented recently at the Auburn High School FBLA, sharing about his career in athletics.
- Dwayne Chism – He is working together with President Evans on building a Future Teachers Academy, which will be a great recruiting tool for high school students interested in a teaching career. Dr. Chism is also working with the Ralston superintendent and others to continue to grow our education program.

- 3) Jesse Dorman – Our Care Team is helping serve students with mental health concerns. He has seen many go on to be very successful **HLC (Higher Learning Commission) Update** – Tim Borchers reported that all five chapters have been distributed to campus for review. Paul Trana asked that staff send comments and evidence to Tim at tborchers@peru.edu. Paul reviewed the form that staff should use to submit professional development activities and also noted the following dates:
- Our campus review teams will meet before the holiday break and again in late January.
 - The quality initiative is done. The self-study is due February 28, which is the same date as the Federal Compliance Review.
 - **Site visit is scheduled for March 28 - 29. All staff & faculty should keep calendars open for those dates!**

Dr. Borchers noted that, although memorizing the Mission and Vision statements is not required, it is good for all to consider ways they have lived these statements. He distributed blank note cards and asked all to write down some of these ways.

4) Updates

- a. **COVID** – Jesse Dorman reported that we have had a total of 52 COVID cases on campus this semester, with only one active case currently. Our region continues to have a high number of cases, recently doubling. Jesse noted that the CDC has announced all adults are eligible for the COVID booster shot. In addition, children ages 5 - 11 are now able to receive the vaccine. The Southeast District Health office in Auburn is offering booster shots on Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (bring your insurance card). We are continuing to offer weekly COVID testing on campus on Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- b. **Facilities** – Darrin Reeves reported on the following:
 - The Hoyt chiller is being replaced this week, funded by the 309 Task Force. We are also installing LED lights in Hoyt and getting quotes for some exterior work. This funding request will be submitted to the 309 Task Force.
 - The maintenance staff is working to replace bulbs all across campus.
 - Facility Services is continuing to work on planning related to the Indoor Athletics Facility and the Master Plan.
 - Facility Services is short-staffed so please be patient with work order requests.

5) Announcements

- Men's basketball has a tournament on campus this weekend. The women are playing away.
- Men's bowling won a tournament at Hastings last week and the women's had their highest finish ever.
- December 9 – Holiday Concert (6:00 p.m.) and Staff/Faculty Open House (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.) at the President's home.
- February 4, 2022 – We will host nearly 700 area educators on campus at the ESU4 Engaging Educators event.

6) Future meeting dates – Second Friday of month at 11:00 a.m. in CATS.