

## President's Council Meeting Notes December 10, 2021

1) **Welcome** – Michael Evans asked all to look again at the Leadership Commitment listed at the bottom of the meeting agenda. Looking at #4, “Foster mutual respect and support”, he asked how we can best accomplish this task. Michael noted that it is best to begin with respect. To lead with respect. We should give respect even though it has not been “earned”. Additional feedback from the group about how to foster respect included:

- Take the higher road.
- Assume others’ good intentions.
- Let others have their way whenever possible/be willing to compromise.
- Communicate well.
- Seek first to understand, then to be understood.
- Be patient.

Michael also provided updates on the following projects:

- a. **Indoor Recreational Facilities** – With the AWAC space at capacity, we are looking at adding new facilities, both near the baseball/softball fields and north of the Oak Bowl. Two of the proposed structures will be air-supported domes which will offer tremendous cost savings. We are working with Leo A. Daly, the firm hired to develop the Program Statement, to refine the plans. A final statement will be submitted to the Board of Trustees at their April meeting. Following this meeting, the plans will move on to the State for funding consideration. NOTE: Expanding the AWAC is a possibility in the future, but not an affordable consideration concurrently with the addition of new facilities.
- b. **Master Planning Process** – The College is working with RDG Planning & Design to continue developing and refining the Master Plan, including the Student Center redesign. We hope to have a finalized plan in the spring.

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

- Ken Curtis – Encouraged all to visit the jazz art collection (historical documents of the Kansas City jazz scene) currently on display in the AV Larson gallery. Also, be watching for an email from Susan Moore announcing the all-campus art show. They would like as many pieces (due in the gallery by January 15) as possible to display.
- Paul Hinrichs – Congratulations to Nate Netzer who is the new chair-elect to the Nebraska section of the American Chemical Society. The ACS is a scientific society that supports inquiry in the field of chemistry. Also, kudos to the choir members and Director Hill for the great concert last night!
- Cory Moen – Residence Life survey results are in and will be used to improve student experience in our residence halls.
- Jesse Dorman – Reported that he testified with the System Office this fall before the State Legislature about Title IX. The Peru State CARES team was highlighted during the testimony as a very positive support for our students. Our CARES team receives referrals through Bobcat360, through the website submission form, and through direct contacts of CARE team members, including Dean Thielen.

- Ted Harshbarger – Happy to report that the Foundation Office is up and running and the Foundation Board has approved a positive 2020 audit.
- Tim Borchers – Happy to report that Paul Trana (Assessment) recently determined our Oct. 2021 enrollment numbers ended slightly higher than Oct. 2020.
- Greg Seay – Graduate Programs numbers are great – kudos to Emily Volker for all she has been doing for the College despite the incredible personal challenges she has faced. Greg was excited to announce that on Monday (December 13) they will be welcoming their 15<sup>th</sup> grandbaby.
- Jari Dunekacke – Ashleigh Eickhoff (Admissions) had her baby boy this week.
- Max Kathol – Kelli Gardner (School of Professional Studies) had her baby boy recently.

**3) HLC (Higher Learning Commission) Update** – Tim Borchers distributed a document to the group and reviewed the information detailing some of the expectations for our **upcoming HLC campus visit (March 28 - 29)**. There will be five team members conducting the on-site visit. Tim has been and will continue to be meeting with the review teams. They will be sending out a final report for review. Tim asked all to clean up their work spaces in preparation for the campus visit so we can make the best impression possible. In addition, all staff and faculty should plan to be available (wear nametags) on campus during those two days. Michael emphasized the importance of all being VERY available to respond to any needs during the visit.

#### 4) Updates

- a. **Enrollment** – Jesse Dorman reported several enrollment details including:
  - For Fall 2022, inquiries are up 10% over last year, but applications and admits are down 20% for the same period.
  - We had an influx of football student-athletes last year, which made a difference.
  - This year, we are running behind in low-income/first-gen students, which seems to be a trend nationwide. Evidently, they are weighing higher paying jobs vs. pursuing higher education.
  - Last year, we had 17 online freshman students through Archer. That number was up slightly, but it remains fairly stable.
  - Activity from prospective students in Omaha has increased, but it has decreased in Lincoln. We are working with partners who can help us connect with parents as they play a significant role in the process.
- b. **COVID** – Jesse Dorman reported that the campus is averaging a much higher number of COVID-19 cases during the last few weeks than earlier in the semester. The numbers in the region are much higher as well, with the current regional case numbers around 300 - 400 per 100,000 (the goal is to have less than 100 cases per 100,000). There are currently 11 active student cases on campus and 2 active faculty/staff cases. Thus far this semester we have had 64 student cases and 11 faculty/staff cases. Many of the students have been recovering at home rather than on campus, which has been helpful. We are continuing to offer weekly COVID testing on campus on Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. This will continue during second semester.
- c. **Facilities** – Darrin Reeves reported on the following:

- The Hoyt chiller has been replaced and will be tested in the warmer spring weather.
- The Facility Services team is 90-95% finished with replacing the lighting in Hoyt.
- They have been busy picking up leaves on campus and getting winter equipment ready for service.

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