



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

Miller Administration Boardroom and Zoom

PRESENT:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement (via Zoom)

Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Assistant Vice President for Diversity & Chief Diversity Officer (via Zoom)

Ms. Sherri Cox, Secretary to the Board

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Laine Berghout, Faculty Senate Chair/Professor/Chemistry

Dr. Gail Niklason, Staff Advisory Council Chair

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Brad Mortensen, who welcomed all in attendance.

Agenda Items**Meeting Minutes Approval (November 3, 2021):**

Meeting minutes from November 3, 2021, were reviewed by the President's Council. The minutes were approved.

Alternate PC Meeting Dates:

President Mortensen discussed upcoming start times for Presidents Council meetings for February and March, 2022, due to conflicts with legislative meetings.

Approval: The start time for President's Council meetings for February and March 2022, will be moved to 10:00 a.m.

President's Diversity Advisory Council:

President Mortensen discussed membership of the University Diversity Advisory Council as per recommendations by consultant Dr. Reggie Blaylock. He introduced the different department representatives comprising the council, and those who have volunteered for faculty positions. Charters and directives will come from the Blaylock report. The president will ask the council to help us contextualize what is in the Blaylock report and include initiatives in our "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" section of the Strategic Plan. Administrator positions need to be selected with meetings taking place soon as education on free speech, discrimination laws, and other topics needs to take place. This council will be facilitated by the president's office.

Davis-Morgan-Weber K16 Legislative Briefing:

President Mortensen gave a briefing on the Davis-Morgan-Weber K16 Joint Legislative Breakfast held on Nov. 29 at Davis campus. School district superintendents and boards, technical colleges and boards, WSU Board of Trustees, and Weber, Davis, and Morgan county legislators were invited to attend. The objective was to show unity among the groups to legislators. This event replaced the need for each school district or higher education institution to individually host a breakfast. The superintendents and presidents addressed different legislative priorities collaboratively. The McKay Education building renovation project was also addressed by President Brush from Davis Tech and Superintendent Rasmussen from Ogden School District. The event seemed successful, and there will be several follow up meetings afterward as Devin Wisner will be setting up appointments to meet with the committee for the infrastructure project.

Reports:

President Mortensen discussed the following reports:

a. AASCU Highlights

- FY2022 Appropriations – The proposed Build Back Better bill and the proposed FY 22 federal budget appropriation include funding to increase the Pell grant

award by \$950 which could be a big impact in the future.

b. USHE Highlights

- The Council of President's (COP) meeting, COP retreat, and Utah Board of Higher Education meeting review took place. Among the items discussed include the new USHE online initiative. After discussion of this subject at the meetings, the Board made the decision to create a task force to work with Scott Wyatt's working group.

Early Retirement Request:

Vice President Norm Tarbox presented an early retirement request for Leslie Loeffel.

Approval: The early retirement request was approved to move to the Trustees.

Program Reviews:

Provost Ravi Krovi discussed the following five program reviews:

a. English:

The English department is large consisting of 37 full-time faculty and several adjunct professors. Digital fluency has been introduced and includes adjunct faculty retreats. The department is working on more diversity in their faculty base. Another goal is to decrease adjuncts to longer term contracts as 35% of general education courses are taught by adjunct professors. Funding will need to be budgeted for this, but it will add security to the programs. The department had a good review with a seven year review recommendation.

b. Health Sciences:

Health Sciences is an academic department, but the gateway to all health college programs. It is a large department consisting of 1800 students. A bachelor of applied sciences is being discussed, and more specific advising is needed. More faculty is needed and they have been very innovative in reducing course material costs. A seven year review recommendation was given.

c. Math:

Math is a critical program for the entire institution. Several courses are being offered for gateways to science, health, engineering, etc. with a focus on how to support quantitative literacy (QL) students as there has been a decline in QL course enrollment. Better advising, resource management and facilitating is needed. A seven-year review recommendation was given.

d. Master of Criminal Justice:

The review for Master of Criminal Justice went well. Recommendations included the need for more faculty and students needing a culmination experience such as a thesis project. Students come from various audiences and backgrounds in this program. A seven-year review was recommended.

e. Management Information Systems:

Management Information Systems is a high functioning program with several majors, an undergraduate, and associate degree program. There is good growth in and demand for the program, which has a strong technology-based system. There is a need for a more formal curricular evaluation process, more faculty, and

advisors. A negative part of the review concerned assessment and needing to do a better job of closing the loop. They also need to manage required and elective courses better. One of their goals is to start a master's program. A seven-year review recommendation was given.

Approval: The five program reviews were approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Curricular Changes:

Provost Krovi discussed the following two curricular changes:

- a. **Paraeducator Certificate of Proficiency**
There is an increasing demand for teaching assistants and aids for K-12. This program will facilitate teaching licenses or an undergraduate teaching degree.
- b. **Fashion Merchandising Minor Program Discontinuance**
The Fashion Merchandising minor program has been discontinued due to a lack of students and loss of a key faculty member.

Approval: The curricular changes were approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Other:

Other items discussed during President's Council included:

- a. Norm Tarbox shared that COVID-19 testing statistics for the fall months have been parallel to the statistics in 2020 according to a report from Dane Leblanc.
- b. President Mortensen mentioned that revisions to the strategic plan may be taken to the next full Board meeting due to inconsistency issues with some of the published dates on the fliers. A revised version will need to be provided to the trustees at the January meeting for approval.
- c. President Mortensen shared that for the USHE five-year performance metric, they changed the definitions of the numerator and denominator for the high yield awards with regard to where general education certificates fit in. They then took them out. The percentages are a lot higher for high-yield awards with them removed. They adjusted our awards by a .5% increase.
- d. Gradfest had 800 students in attendance.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming events were provided for reference in the packet. It was noted that commencement is Dec. 17 only. Haven Barlowe's birthday party has been canceled due to his health issues.

Adjournment:

Without any further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.