

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING
Thursday, May 1, 2014
Student Union room 205 at 3:30 pm

Present: Barbara Anderson (chair), Jason Brody, Drew Smith, John Devore, Diana Farmer, Steven Graham, Heather Reed, Regan Kays, and Jim Sherow

Absent: Jim Bloodgood, Brad Burenheide, Joel DeRouchey, Lynn Carlin, Chairat Chuwanganant, and Mark Weiss

Visitors: Ben Champion, Scott Nichols

1. Barbara Anderson, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm and gave recognition to those who are rotating off of FSCOU: Steven Graham and Jim Sherow. Not all committee assignments have been made as of yet.
2. The April 3, 2014 minutes were approved as submitted.
3. New Business
 - A. University Aviation Transportation program: Presented by Scott Nichols, Tom Karcz and Bill Gross (20-30 minutes with Q and A to follow)

Tom Karcz and Bill Gross were unable to attend. Scott Nichols thanked the committee for having him as a visitor. He is in charge of the Transportation Program, which will be going away. Their unit provides the university with air transportation for a fee, however, it is only a break-even fee. They fly frequently for various administration offices; athletics; president's office; Landon lecture speakers are flown in – often this is how they are able to retain them. They also have flown for other units such as Ag, Engineering, etc. He gave an example of how Housing and Dining services was able to visit six different facilities in two days. If they had used commercial airlines, it would have been a five day trip and would have been much more expensive. Their services are valuable in respect to the cost and time they save the university in transportation services. Nichols commented how almost everything has changed in the last five or six years. Recruiting rules have changed – they used to fly in recruits to visit the university; however, now this practice is not allowed. Manhattan has acquired better airline service. Administration at the University has changed. At this point, without another plane, they will not be able to continue the transportation program. This program allows them to give their students actual flight experience in turbo prop airplanes. He discussed the details of various planes and how these make a difference to the university. Currently, they need a new airplane to fit the needs of the university. Funding is an issue though as the purchase price of an appropriate plane is several million dollars. They are working to find a partner in business that could assist with the purchase of the plane and the university would manage it. They will also be actively searching for donors and other non-state funded aid. It was noted that over the years having this kind of aircraft has been a tremendous recruiting tool for students to attend K-State Salina Aviation program. We are one of the few universities that has this available option for students to get training in actual transportation services. Other universities that operate transportation airplanes have restrictions that would exclude students from this actual participation.

Opened it up for questions. Committee members mentioned a couple businesses they felt may be a good fit for what the program is trying to do: ICE corporation/Civics plus/GTM. ICE may not be the right fit, but still should be looked into. It was mentioned the airline service in Manhattan may be better, but there are not ENOUGH flights coming in and out. An example was given of university visitors who flew into Dallas, but their flight arrived late thus delaying getting to Manhattan until late the next day due to not enough flights into town. The need for the aviation transportation program may still be quite viable to university administrators if they struggle with the same situations.

Committee members discussed how the program is perfect for a group of faculty members who would like to attend a conference and return in a much shorter time span. It is more cost effective when there are three or more passengers. Passengers frequently work while flying and it is far more conducive to work than commercial airline travel.

Members inquired what presentations have been given to administration and what has been the response? Nichols responded they have given presentations to various administration units and the support is there for the continuance of the program; however, the cost for the new plane is the holdup. It is important to keep in mind all the planes currently being used have been purchased with donor funds, NOT state funds. The plane they need to purchase in order to continue with the program is a Cessna citation. This plane is a great tool for the university's needs. Members suggested showing the cost comparison as well as time savings comparison with information available. Nichols shared that a large portion of the problem is getting the word out that it is a service which is available for the entire university's use. The up-front cost is expensive; however, over time it is quite cost efficient to run. There is also the issue of perception. Some may worry it looks like the university is being wasteful in resources by using their own jet. However, this is simply not the case. Countless dollars and hours are wasted by using commercial flights. Nichols mentioned the time faculty use on the plane is productive time as they have wi-fi access and often hold meetings on the way to their destination and back. It was noted by committee members that this can also have an immediate impact on students whereby allowing a faculty member to return in a shorter time and therefore teach their class instead of trying to find a substitute.

It was suggested to Nichols to talk with Richard Potter, who is responsible for corporate engagement. His unit partners up with corporations in a variety of ways.

Committee members found the presentation quite informative and thanked Nichols for attending.

- B. Leadership needs for the campus community regarding implementation of the sustainability plan. Presented by Ben Champion, Melody LeHew, Bruce Snead (30 minutes)

Ben Champion thanked the committee for having him as a guest once again. He handed out a rough draft informational document which identifies first steps in identifying leadership to help carry out initial steps of the Sustainability draft plan on campus.

What entity will assist in creating sustainability leadership? NRES is an existing program and a possible starting point. With some restructuring it could offer leadership in the sustainability area; however, this would ultimately take faculty buy-in to make it successful.

A conversation *needs* to begin so the areas which can be given attention now, over the summer and in the fall for example, can begin being addressed. Again it was mentioned to think about what we're already doing within our separate areas that could be identified in efforts to be sustainable.

Chair Anderson briefly noted that Faculty Senate, as a body, has not endorsed or given support to any particular K-State 2025 theme committee reports. Is this report different in its need for support than the others? Champion responded how there are areas and units with personnel that are suited well to give leadership to the other reports, such as the Research and Diversity and multicultural plans. There are individuals and offices who will push to advance the Research and Diversity and multicultural plans. The Sustainability plan has basically one full time person devoted to that area, who is leaving; therefore, someone needs to carry the torch, so to speak, for this plan to gain momentum. It was acknowledged everyone is vying for dollars and resources.

There are different strategies to move forward and have leadership for sustainability. Lengthy conversation continued. Champion mentioned sustainable practices in K-State facilities and in housing and dining as well. Right now there are opportunities to plan for K-State's future with regarding to sustainable practices.

Champion discussed the vision for the Center on Sustainability that is proposed in the draft. This center needs to be able to convene leadership across campus; assist in gathering data; track progress on 2025 plans and assess their performance. The center would be able to provide a leadership role in university-wide committees in order to help build buy in with faculty, staff, and students in the colleges. The center could also assist in hosting or organizing programming for perhaps a conference on a yearly basis. This center could function very well with just one leadership role and perhaps a support staff person to assist.

FSCOUP discussed their role. They agreed that meeting with key people such as the provost and others and acknowledging the need for leadership in this area is important to the university's continued success in advancing sustainability initiatives. It comes down to the need for support in the area of sustainability across multiple units. This area should be given attention that compares equally to the attention given to other areas.

Committee members thanked Champion again for attending. He may be present one final time at the May 15 meeting.

Anderson mentioned a speaker coming from 10:00-11:30 am on May 2 to the Alumni Center. The Sustainability speaker's name is Debra Rowe and she is an expert in many areas but especially integration of sustainability in education, which will be the topic of her presentation.

4. Other

Sherow updated FSCOUP members on the City/University Funds project committee meeting that took place on April 30. After conveying what happened during the meeting. Sherow recommended being involved in the process from beginning to end. A faculty member needs to be involved and give faculty a stronger voice. FSCOUP members agreed and it was noted this has been discussed more and more over the past few years. It was recommended that Faculty Senate and Student Senate should work together in the fall, since Student Senate has a committee that works extensively to make recommendations. This item will be discussed again at the next meeting and three faculty names will be decided upon.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2014; 3:30 pm; Union room 205

Action item: Receive Legislative and FY 15 Budget Reports

Make nominations for the City/University Fund Project committee: Steven Graham... and two others, preferably from FSCOUP