Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Identity and Vision
Thursday April 26th, 2018  1:00-2:00 PM RSS Room 353

Present
Jen Wright
Pamela Riggs-Gelasco (new member for fall 2018-19)
Todd McNerney
William Bares
Robert Podolsky (new member for fall 2018-19)

The meeting began with an introduction of committee members noting those who will be rolling off the committee and joining for the 2018-19 academic year. Incoming member Jonathan Neufeld was out of town and unable to attend.

William briefly summarized the purpose of the committee and its activities.

William invited membership to reflect on the process of the past year and offer suggestions for next year’s committee.

Irina suggested that we contact the staff advisory committee to appoint an administration representative (currently Jeri Cabot).

Jen suggested that it would be good to have at least 1, maybe 2 non-faculty members.

Jen said that she thought the process seemed fine, but it would have been good to have had more attendance in face to face meetings.

Alex said that we need to see results from this survey to encourage future feedback and participation.

Robert – Suggested looking outside of the College for comparisons.  What is Francis Marion doing?

Alex – We can get comparative survey data such as Great Colleges to Work For

Jen – We can also get data from faculty welfare survey

Irina – People say they are happy at Francis Marion since they have a clear mission that is communicated clearly to all. Faculty sit with executive team on a weekly basis.

Jen – Our survey showed there is a clear desire for input.

Todd - At Francis Marion, the faculty annually evaluate the provost and president.

Alex – The Faculty Senate did vote to recommend that we evaluate administration.
Pam - We once had an outside consultant give presentation about trends in higher education to chairs and deans. We might bring in an outside speaker to offer outside perspective to future discussions.

Alex - Discussion could include outside input.

Pam – We could tap our neighboring institutions and ask what they see our role as being.

Jen - Where we fit within others’ perspective of CofC?

Pam – We could seek input from legislators, others in higher ed, public, students/parents.

William - Does admissions have available survey data on input received from parents and prospective students?

Todd – I know there is a survey of prospective students who didn't come here.

Jen - Would be good to have meeting with chairs and deans.

Robert - Where do you see us starting to make recommendations?

Jen - More ways to get people together.

Irina - Change committee structures to include staff - such as welfare committee.

Todd – We would need to change Faculty Activity Manual (FAM). It is more complex than just adding members. For example, modified duties, leave issues are different between faculty and staff. It could make work of committee harder with members with distinct problems.

Jen – Perhaps we could have parallel sets of staff committees that would get together with corresponding faculty committee when needed.

Todd - Staff feel the staff advisory committee is less effective.

Robert – Let’s begin with a set of concrete recommendations.

Jen – We can begin with an initial set of recommendations constrained to identity issues.

The committee agreed draft a short list of recommendations during the summer break by exchanging e-mails.

William – In preparing end-of-year reports to be published, what additional information should we publish?

Notes of discussions from the six sessions.

William – Some session notes have names listed to comments and not everyone may agree to their release. It would be easy to scratch the names.

The committee agreed to omit names since we did not want to discourage future participation.

William – We have been invited to present our findings to the full Board of Trustees meeting on June 4th or 5th. The day and time of our visit is to-be determined. Who can attend June 4th or 5th meeting of the full Board of Trustees to present our findings?
William, Irina, and Todd said that they would be available to attend.

William – Our last duty is to elect a chair for the 2018-19 Academic Year. I am happy to continue as chair.

By acclamation, the membership elected William to continue as chair.

William – To-do items over the summer break will include initiating e-mail discussion of a short list of recommendations, inquiring about staff or administration member being added to the committee, and filing the end-of-year report.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM