

Humboldt State University

Task Force on Ensuring Resources to Fulfill the University's Mission

Friday, December 12, 2014, 8:30-10:00 am, Harry Griffith Hall, Room 113.

Members present

Present: Co-chairs Rick Zechman & Hari Singh. Committee members: Carlos Diaz, Sarah West, Alex Hwu, Evan Johnson, Volga Koval, Craig Wruck, Jasmine Servin, Amy Sprowles, Pat Comella (admin support),

Absent: Steve Hackett and Julie Tucker

Rick Zechman called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

December 5 meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

Updates

No updates.

Finalize questions for general campus survey

Noah wants final questions by the end of today, Dec 12. Amy Sprowles and Steve Hackett have developed a survey specifically regarding faculty research that will be administered separately.

The committee decided that the original questions were very broad and so came up with two additional questions that were more specific:

1. How can we modify academic/curricular policy to ensure resources are available to deliver quality academic programs?
2. What changes in recruitment / enrollment of programs should be considered to ensure that students in different majors receive a quality experience.

The committee reviewed and refined the questions on the student survey as follows.

- **Question 1** was acceptable, with the exception of the second example. It was reworded to read: What kind of advising has been effective for you and what would you suggest?
- **Question 2** was changed to: What would strengthen your commitment to graduating in your degree program?
- **Question 3** was edited to be more concise: Under what conditions would it be appropriate to increase student fees
- **Question 4** was edited to be more concise: What other information would you like to have in order to feel best informed about the strategic planning process?

It was agreed that these questions would be circulated by email for approval and then submitted by the end of the day.

Guest Speaker: Rhea Williamson with the Office of Research, and Economic Community Development (ORECD)

There was no specific set of questions for Rhea, the committee was interested in her perspective on how we can enhance research revenue on campus and what obstacles were holding us back. Rhea explained that ORECD is managing over \$49 million in grants and growing. This increase is partly driven by new faculty hires and their interests. Grants are available to institutions that support students, curriculum development and many of the metrics that HSU is interested in, such as improving graduation rates, HOP, TRIO and additional forms of support for first generation students, veteran students, etc.

The bulk of funding opportunities in the past had been related to faculty research. ORECD has developed new faculty orientations to help facilitate proposals for research, but noted that one of the main obstacles that they face is that their workload and the available pool of lecturers in this area sometimes preclude them from getting release time to do research. The ORECD has developed some incentive programs, however the money available has been under-utilized thus far.

Other external ways to enhance revenue would be through community partnerships with match requirements, either cash or in-kind. There are many local non-profits doing good work and partnerships would increase likelihood of getting funded. Currently the ORECD is working to build relationships with others in the community that are not able to write sizeable proposals, partnering with HSU would allow for larger grants in the local community.

For the past four years a percentage of indirect cost (IDC) money has been going into creating a reserve for immediate funding. Once a grant is awarded hiring and purchasing begin, but money often does not really come in for another 4-6 months. It has been important to build this “bank” so start-up costs are covered. The goal of \$4 million for this “bank” has almost been met, at which time the colleges, departments and PI’s will begin seeing more of the IDC money. IDC money can be used as seen fit, ideally it would go back into research or the kinds of things that departments would like to support, like equipment or student internships.

Another focus has been on internships. Rhea reported that she is aware that our community is interested in providing internships to our students and appreciates the problems that the complex administrative nature of providing internships can cause. If we can figure out a way to make it easier for industry to hire students as interns we can have an impact on student retention, graduation rates and external funding. Also, the focus does not have to be regional, students could get funding to work anywhere.

Rhea was thanked for her time and asked if she could follow up with an email outlining some of her ideas.

Other Business

It was noted that feedback submission on the portal was not anonymous and may prevent people from being completely candid. The website is also difficult to navigate and it was requested that this feedback be brought back to the Steering Committee.

Future agenda items

None noted.