

**MINUTES**  
**UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON**  
**STRATEGIC BUDGETING AND PLANNING**  
**September 26, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Martin Daniel, Fine Elizabeth, Tim Hodge, William Knocke, Mark McNamee, Joe Merola, Leslie O'Brien, John Phillips, Ken Smith, Jason Soileau, Sue Teel, Nicole Weinstein (for Theresa Pancotto)

**ABSENT:** Amy Brunner, Renee Boyer, Balachandar, Guiduri, Wendy Herdman, Andrew McCoy, Quinton Nottingham, Dwight Shelton, Connie Stovall

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Mark McNamee, Senior Vice President and Provost, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 29, 2013 MINUTES**

Dr. McNamee announced that the minutes of the August 29, 2013 meeting have been approved and sent to University Council for posting on the web.

**3. ACADEMIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Dr. McNamee welcomed new and returning committee members and facilitated introductions. He then reminded the Council of the broad based input process that led the development of the university's strategic plan for 2012-2018, *A Plan for a New Horizon*, and its subsequent approval by the Board of Visitors in June 2012. Subsequent work focused on soliciting advice to develop an academic implementation plan. Since the *Plan for a New Horizon* was developed in a broad based grass roots manner, the academic implementation plan was designed to ensure the commitment of campus leaders for implementation. Dr. McNamee distributed a handout of the university's *Academic Implementation Strategy for A Plan for a New Horizon*. As recently communicated to the campus, this document was posted on the Provost website this week. Dr. McNamee noted that this plan lists very specific goals and focuses on academic initiatives resulting from significant broad based input. It is intended to help shape longer term funding plans.

Dr. McNamee touched on some key points of the plan including: using current and emerging technologies to enhance traditional classrooms, expanding high-quality online learning opportunities, reviewing financial and incentive structures for teaching and learning through distance education; creating the Faculty of Health Sciences; and streamlining and consolidating academic programs. Dr. McNamee encouraged committee members to read over the plan and share any comments, questions or feedback they might have.

A question was raised about the continuing pressures to do more with less. The discussion reviewed that the university is working with the state to ensure it understands the funding shortfall as represented in the base budget adequacy computation and actions needed to close this gap. While there is need to consider how existing resources can be leveraged to help with programs such as compensation, plans also envision looking at increased revenues including: state support, tuition, summer and winter session enrollment, growing research, and fund raising.

There was also brief discussion about the future of distance education and the need for additional discussion about MOOCs. The recruitment of a new executive director or TLOS will be important for this conversation.

There was a question and discussion about how the investments in institutes directly benefit academic departments. Dr McNamee clarified that much of the investments in the institutes come back to departments through direct investment and/or faculty appointments yet institutes do help guide research.

Discussions also included the cost effectiveness of small interdisciplinary courses, classroom seats lost during renovations due to ADA requirements, that the faculty of health science is an effective cross-cutting strategy, the cost of administration, and how to keep areas from shifting expenses (such as the impact of changes in central test scoring) onto other departments.

Dr. McNamee noted the value of the active conversation and stated that those are the types of issues appropriate for the committee to discuss in future meetings.

#### 4. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.