President’s Council

Meeting notice: Wednesday, Oct 29, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
Location: Activity Center Conference Room

Attendees:
Tony Fernández, President tfernandez@lcsc.edu
Lori Stinson, Provost, lstinson@lcsc.edu
Andy Hanson, Vice President for Student Affairs ahanson@lcsc.edu
Carry Salonen, President’s Management Assistant cmsalonen@lcsc.edu
Mary Flores, Dean for Academic Programs mfflores@lcsc.edu
Rob Lohrmeyer, Dean for Professional-Technical Programs rlohrmey@lcsc.edu
Kathy Martin, Dean for Community Programs and Governmental Relations kmartin@lcsc.edu
Sue Hasbrouck, Budget Director nhasbrouck@lcsc.edu
Allen Schmoock, Chief Technology Officer atschmoock@lcsc.edu
Howard Erdman, Director of Institutional Planning, Research & Assessment hrerdman@lcsc.edu
Greg Meyer, Director of College Communications gameyer@lcsc.edu
Gary Picone, Athletic Director gapicone@lcsc.edu
Alex Bezzerides, Faculty Senate Chair abezzerides@lcsc.edu
Jessica Cromer, Professional Staff Organization Chair jecromer@lcsc.edu
Karen Schmidt kcschmidt@lcsc.edu for Amanda Gill, Classified Staff Organization Chair awgill@lcsc.edu
Mary Hasenoehrl, Director of College Advancement mlhasenoehrl@lcsc.edu
Megan Weir, President of ASLCSA asbpresident@lcsc.edu

1. Welcome guests:
   Karen Schmidt represented the Classified Staff Organization for Chair Amanda Gill.

2. Updates
   The State Board of Education meeting was here at Lewis-Clark State College on October 15 and 16. Prior to the Board meeting, there were two meetings of note. The first was a retreat of the Higher Education Presidents’ Council on October 14. One of the many topics discussed by the group was the fee schedule changes made by Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). They adopted a charge, in addition to the annual fee, for any substantive change that would result in costs of $250 to thousands of dollars depending upon the change. The group also discussed how institutions of higher education can cooperate to promote education in Idaho to affect the legislature. The political climate for higher education is not very good. One of the co-chairs of JFAC, Senator Dean Cameron, has actually written articles that are very critical of higher education. The second meeting of note was with Sandra Elman, the chief executive officer of the NWCCU and the higher education presidents on October 15. The discussion with Elman centered on the new fees the NWCCU has established. She argued institutions need to do a better job at looking at substantive change. She also stated NWCCU felt threatened by the US Department of Education to eliminate regional reviews by
having their own accreditation standards. The NWCCU believes that in order to do a more thorough job of assessing institutions, they need more staff and they need more money.

At the SBOE meeting Wednesday afternoon, the Work Session began with a presentation from the Department of Labor on workforce projections that continued the push for higher education institutions and community colleges to be responsive to the needs of manufacturers and industries in the state.

The Department of Education presented data on each of the higher education institutions from their standpoint. The data that they provided was difficult to determine the origins as they reported, for example, the cost per credit hour for LCSC being over $500 which was more than all the other four-year institutions. After much investigation, Howard Erdman, determined that the Department of Education arrived at their reported number by using the credit hours that were reported only for academic programs not academic and professional-technical programs together and took the entire budget which included the professional-technical programs to provide the cost per credit data. The actual cost per credit hour is half of what they reported and is less than the other Idaho four-year institutions.

LCSC student internship showcase was on display for State Board staff and guests. Our students were available to answer questions and provide details of their practical experiences. Mary Flores was thanked for her efforts in coordinating the event.

During the Progress Report for LCSC, President Fernández reported to the Board that our head count has stabilized. The total head count on census day of all students was 4,304 this year and last year. We have had three straight years of declining head count so the stabilization is a good sign. Another good indicator is that the number of freshmen immediately out of high school increased significantly, into double digits. Our FTE is a four person equivalent less than last year. The Progress Report included a baseball video and details of Darrell Wagner’s story of his baseball scholarship, military career and coming back to LCSC to complete his degree.

The Presidents’ Council report to the Board focused on the NWCCU. During the Consent Agenda items, Dean for Academic Affairs, Mary Flores was appointed to the State General Education Committee. The Higher Education Research Council appointed Ms. Robin Woods, CEO of Alturas Analytics, in Moscow. She was jointly nominated for the position to represent North Idaho from the UI and LCSC. HERC provided the Technology Transfer Feasibility Student report. LCSC is on the margins of this as research conducted at LC doesn’t really fit into a Tech Transfer situation. Bob Sobotta gave an Indian Education update to the Board. The Advancement Opportunities Three Year Tech-Prep Dual Credit passed the first reading. The second reading will have a minor change to advantage our students. Boise State got approval for the College of Innovation and Design. The approval was outside of the normal processes as there are no programs assigned to the college. Board members did ask during the Presidents’ Council report about Prior Experiential Learning.

During the Business Affairs portion of the meeting, the Board looked at the Sources and Uses Report which describes the money that comes into all the colleges and universities as a system and individually and then where the money goes. The report demonstrated the major funding goes to instruction and the majority of instruction goes to personnel costs. It was noted by Board Member Rod Lewis the significant fact that the report information over the years detailed there has been no corresponding increase or inflationary increase in support on the appropriations side, meaning that the expense was pushed to student tuition. The first reading of a new policy extensively on course fees occurred. More discussion is expected on the topic to
gain clarification on course fees. Student Health insurance is a topic of further discussion as well. The discussion isn’t on whether students should be required to have health insurance but if institutions should be required to provide policies. Progress is being made and there is support from Board Staff. The concern is the increase in cost for the coverage while the benefits to the students are decreasing.

LCSC Connections had two guests during the SBOE meeting -Bob Kustra and Chuck Staben. President Fernández thanked Greg Meyer and the video production group for their work in making the interviews successful. The topics raised in the interviews are relevant to some of the issues raised at the Higher Education President Council retreat, the least of which is that tuition is going up in part because of all the extra requirements that are coming from the Department of Education. The Department of Education is hiring people to take care of the regulatory requirements and compliance issues. At LCSC, we have not hired but have asked Andy Hanson’s area to take care of these increased requirements.

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities representatives, Nancy Goldschmidt and Ron Dalla, visited LCSC on October 27 and 28 for the Mid-Cycle Report. They met with the Provost, Vice Presidents, and the President on several occasions. The whole purpose of the visit was to take a look at how well we are progressing towards our seven year accreditation visit. Provost Stinson thanked Howard for playing a major role in preparing documents for the visit and asked those present to pass along her thanks to everyone across campus. The team did have a very favorable impression of Lewis-Clark State College and of the people who work here. They focused on assessment at the institution level and the College Assessment Rubric. They felt we were very much on the right track. They thought we had too many indicators, but Provost Stinson was not overly worried about that because we had already had much dialogue at the institutional level on the subject. It didn’t seem prudent to pare down prior to the Mid-Cycle visit but make changes with their feedback in mind. It did substantiate our thinking that we needed to do some narrowing down in how programmatic assessment feeds into institutional assessment. The draft report from NWCCU will come to the President and Provost to check for factual information next week. The final report will go to the commission in January. The official written notification would be expected by the end of January. The NWCCU team leader thought the outcome of the report would be an affirmation that we think we are on track for year seven and that the team thinks something along those lines. The concerns would come if they did not think we on track. The team has no recommendations as this is not an accreditation visit. Any recommendations would come in the seven year visit.

3. Other

In light of the fall 2017 seven year accreditation visit, we have the President’s Program Guidance directives for 2015. Some of the 2015 PG’s continue on the list and some are new or developing. A copy of the PG’s summary list for 2015 and a full text description of each PG were provided to the group. There are sixteen active PG’s. Every PG that is currently in force is tied to the Strategic Plan objectives. This year PG 3 has been revived to include program prioritization through updates to the planning and assessment process. The items on the report highlighted in yellow are significant changes from last year’s PG’s. State Board of Education work could also result in a PG, with an example being course fees and general education core. PG’s requires everyone one of us to work as a team to advance forward toward our objectives. Institutional Planning, Research and Assessment will host the PG’s on the intranet. If you have good ideas it is not past the time for suggestion and the possibility of it becoming a PG either this year or in a future cycle.
The Provost has been working this past year to streamline institutional assessment. The Unit Assessment Documents are due Friday, October 31, to unit immediate or first level supervisors. The main focus is on setting clear objectives that have meaningful, measurable benchmarks with noted data resources, and addressing program prioritization expectations. Please take the opportunity as a supervisor to work with your units to insure the UAD meets the unit goals and objectives. Changes can be made throughout the year as needed.

Enrollment reports developed by Howard Erdman for the past few years ago provide an analysis of what happens at LC. Student Affairs uses this data as a high level view of enrollment numbers. The Registrar’s office produces a detailed numbers report. From that report it shows the average age of students has dropped to 24. LCSC’s focus for the student population is the traditional student. Direct from high school student numbers are up 15% which represents 50 students. Student Affairs attributes this growth to ambitious recruiting as well as the new track team and the quality instructional programs. Self-reported total minority head count is up slightly by 4 students in the fall to fall numbers. International numbers went up substantially from 87 to 112 students. There has been a big effort and a lot of investment made in trying to get the word out in the international market. The Education division grew from 408 to 455. Nursing was 622 and grew to 663. Undeclared head count went from 250 to 270. All other divisions showed a drop overall for this year. 100% On-line Course students dropped from 462 to 430. Coeur d’Alene had a growth of 4 students this year. 290 of those students are 100% On-Line students which is about level with where they were last year. Technical program enrollment has dropped 20%. This drop is attributed to student selection. LCSC based student selection on sounds strategy to maintain awarding federal financial aid for some of our technical programs. We have seen statistics improve along the way was well. We have had far fewer people coming in getting their financial aid checks and walking out the door never to return. We are finding the right balance in practices and hoops that people will jump through but not making it so difficult that it is just easier to go down the road. We are constantly fine tuning that. The PG on enrollment has been on the list for a long time and probably always will be on the list as long as we have the PG system as we will never be done refining how we approach enrollment practices and that includes how we process distributing money for courses and going out to find students. Technical programs have the perception that the student will commit to going to classes from 8:00 to 3:00 Monday through Friday which doesn’t necessarily line up with reality across the board in those programs but that is the reputation that we have. Recruiters talk to people about the mechanical parts of enrolling at LCSC. The question is if a perspective student is looking at the menu of LCSC offerings have they made the correct choice for them based on how we market the program or can we better describe the program so they can make a better choice to align with their desired career path. The advising program tries to have students demonstrate a solid understanding of what it is they think they will be getting into. With the new advising process more students are getting placed in the proper programs for a greater success of the student and the program. Technical program advising is now a part of this new process as well. The larger question for LCSC, giving that the President has said we are going to grow to 6,000 students, is for us to have an expanded dialogue on what has to change about the product. We have seemingly lost the reputation for returning adult education. It is
believed by staff that there is great potential for that market but if you look at the product, we don’t have a robust evening school program, on-line programs were marketed to a population that didn’t know how to use a computer, and we had done away with Prior Experiential Learning. LCSC brought back Prior Experiential Learning and there is a PG to pin down what our evening school program going to look like. We are looking at what we can do to introduce people to the concept of on-line education. We want them to be comfortable with who we are and how we operate before we put them into a full-on education program. We need to work on the marketing of the programs so we can provide a decision making program description that tells the world why our programs are the best for them to take. Student Affairs thanked all present for their efforts in obtaining the numbers that were discussed as we are now at a reflection point where the numbers are turning around. 679 student of our current head count are tech prep and we know that that number is going to be dropping with the new reporting structure of pre-college tech prep. We all need to plan in a big way to overcome that figure. Student enrollment is critical to the future of this institution. We are not at capacity. We can do more and we are being looked at by the State to see how well we are doing. One of those measures is how efficient we are. We are efficient in some areas, very efficient, but some of the programs can grow. We can increase our enrollment in very reasonable and logical way to meet the goal of 6,000 students in a variable mix of delivery systems. Professional Technical is in the limelight now. That is the area that a lot of manufacturers, the Governor and the Department of Labor are looking at. Taking a good look at all our programs to see if they are the ones that we need is important to our future. In the strategic plan, we said we were going to be examining our programs. We have gone through a program prioritization process but there needs to be a more in depth look at what we are offering and how we are getting the word out and how we are serving the needs of students. President Fernández charged everyone in the President’s Council to look for innovative options, to be thinking about how are we going to do this, how are we going to increase the number of students we have and increase the quality of the programs while meeting the needs of the State of Idaho. President Fernández provided an example of BSU’s moving their entire computer science program to downtown location. We are doing innovative things like the Nursing program being provided off campus at Kootenai Medical Center. There are other programs that we could do the same sort of thing with.

Mary Hasenoehrl’s last day will be October 31, 2014. We are in the middle of a search for a new Director of Advancement.

4. Next meeting: Wednesday, Nov 19, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Activity Center Conference Room.

5. Adjournment