President’s Council

Meeting notice: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
Location: Activity Center Conference Room

Invitees:
Tony Fernández, President tferandez@lcsc.edu
Lori Stinson, Provost, lstinson@lcsc.edu
Andy Hanson, Vice President for Student Affairs ahanson@lcsc.edu
Sheila Bond for Carry Salonen, President’s Management Assistant cmosalonen@lcsc.edu, srbond@lcsc.edu
Mary Flores, Dean for Academic Programs mflores@lcsc.edu
Rob Lohrmeyer, Dean for Professional-Technical Programs rlohrmey@lcsc.edu
Kathy Martin, Dean for Community Programs and Governmental Relations kmartin@lcsc.edu
Chet Herbst, Vice President for Finance and Administration cgherbst@lcsc.edu
Sue Hasbrouck, Budget Director nhasbrouck@lcsc.edu
Allen Schmoock, Chief Technology Officer atschmoock@lcsc.edu
Gary Picone, Athletic Director gapicone@lcsc.edu
Alex Bezzerides, Faculty Senate Chair albezerides@lcsc.edu
Jessica Schumacher, Professional Staff Organization Chair jeschumacher@lcsc.edu
Amanda Gill, Classified Staff Organization Chair awgill@lcsc.edu
Erika Allen, Director of College Advancement eallen@lcsc.edu
Logan Fowler, Director of College Communications ljfowler@lcsc.edu

1. Welcome guests:
Sheila Bond is sitting in for Carry Salonen.

2. Updates

**Fall Enrollment**. Dr. Tony Fernandez indicated that there has been much discussion about enrollment across the United States. Reports were obtained from a data service located in Anchorage, Alaska. Dr. Fernandez plans to present this information to Student Affairs to discuss what other institutions are doing and LC’s enrollment plan. Dr. Andy Hanson indicated that fall 2015 head count was down 5.9% three weeks ago and is currently down above 3%. This is attributed to new entering students. Enrollment will continue up and down over the course of the summer right up until school starts. Dr. Fernandez indicated that financing higher education has been tough over the last few years with a decline in appropriations to institutions, and tuition increases. Student financial aid is critical. Institutional productivity is all part of financing higher education. There is reluctance in the State of Idaho to raise taxes and, also, LC competes with health care and prisons for similar money. Students are already paying a larger share of their educational costs through tuition. LC needs to increase enrollments. If LC increases tuition it would eliminate a targeted group that could become part of an enrollment increase, which includes those who cannot afford to enroll. With many competing factors, the decision was made not to raise tuition as high as other institutions. Tuition will not be increased any higher than the targeted group needed to increase our enrollments. Scholarships will be awarded to provide assistance.
Strategic Enrollment Planning. Faculty and staff will be working on this process over the summer to help identify factors that need to be considered, and provide data for the faculty upon their return in the fall.

Update on Tenure Policy. Dr. Lori Stinson indicated that faculty voted to permit, on the academic side, that instructors can be eligible for tenure track. One-third of the faculty chose to assume a tenure track position. Faculty pursuing tenure are required to work in areas such as teaching, advising, development, service and other kinds of activities as directed by their Division Chair. There are many key areas where the instructor rank is the right kind of rank in terms of what we can recruit at this time in certain areas and fields. LC instructors are highly valued members of our faculty. This is a good recruitment tool and recognizes their contributions to our students.

Teaching-Learning Center. Rachel Jameton is the Director of the TLC which is located in the library in the old ICC space. The center had a soft opening over the spring semester. Ms. Jameton hopes to host an event for those people who are not regular consumers of the TLC to give them an opportunity to visit the center. Rachel is on sabbatical this year, but she came back half-time during the spring to help launch the center. She has facilitated a number of activities with faculty which includes discussion groups to presentations from different groups, in particular the University of Idaho. Also, inquiry groups where faculty could study an in-depth issue related to teaching and learning. Participants of the inquiry groups would go on to lead their own groups in similar topics. This allows the experts in certain areas to continue to grow. This is very successful and culminated in the poster session that was held at the Research Symposium last Friday where the entire inquiry group faculty had posters on one wall and student presentations on the other.

PG 57 SCE’s and PG 03. Two Presidential Guidance initiatives have concluded. 1) PG 57 which is related to student course evaluations. This report has been given to the president and is posted on the intranet. In summary, the group, which consisted of faculty and one Division Chair, made some recommendations to the SCE process that were minor. 2) PG 03 which is related to assessment and had program prioritization embedded. This group focused initially on the assessment forms and the system on assessments piloting the new forms. The group had great ideas to make the forms more functional. There was a discussion about the concepts of program prioritization and the notion of how do we look at ourselves from some quantitative mechanisms. The group had ways to incorporate viability indicators into the assessment process. This discussion has to occur more specifically with the different constituent groups because the indicators that are meaningful for that group are going to be different. Also, it was suggested that the work done related to program prioritization, as continually tracked in an ongoing way, can distract from the assessment. They suggested that those processes run parallel, but not be part of the same document. Follow up in program prioritization is necessary, as is the need to have good program assessment. The group worked hard and came up with good ideas to help pilot a slightly modified version of the assessment form.

3. Other

Dr. Fernandez announced the SCE PG questionnaire was received. A lot of institutions are experimenting with different ways to do student evaluations. The student’s prefer that we refer to it as student feedback rather than course evaluations or class evaluations.
Student Code of Conduct. Dr. Andy Hanson indicated that the timing of regulatory updates received is not convenient when you put it into the context of an academic year. Guidance is received at the end of an academic year. Changes to the student code need to be in place by July 1, however, faculty cannot review until the fall. The faculty leaders have been very accommodating. Student Code of Conduct has received significant changes in the past five years. More changes are expected and if the group has any input, please let Dr. Hanson know. Title 9 Regulatory Environment will be changed. LC has been very clear in student code policy in matters of sexual misconduct. It states that if the parties involved are affiliated with the campus it does not matter where the incident occurs, LC has an investigative and adjudicative responsibility. After a legal review of our student code, it revealed areas where wording could be misinterpreted about when the code applies to students. This language will be amended to make it clear when off campus behavior involves our student code.

Another area in need of a policy change includes a better definition of what it means to disciple a student in the context of a classroom. It comes down to the faculty have purview over a classroom for a given instant, but when the faculty wants to move toward permanent dismissal from a class or program what authority does the faculty or Division Chair have and how does it fall within the student discipline system. Policy language will be created making it exceedingly clear.

Dr. Tony Fernandez talked about recent meetings he attended regarding sexual violence on campus. The University of Idaho was present discussing what they are doing to meet the federal regulations. LC received a dear colleague letter that was very prescriptive about what every institution is expected or encouraged to do. LC will be addressing this issue. It was enlightening on how pervasive the federal government is going to be in everyday business and how institutions will respond to the dear colleague letter. It is an important issue, but very obvious through the discussions that they are going to take a very hard look at this. University of Montana had some issues. The interesting statistic that came about was the Office of Civil Rights plans to review 110 colleges and universities and their responses to sexual violence on campus. Nearly 80% of those investigations were triggered by a complaint on the campus. There were suggestions about what a college should do proactively in order to avoid an OCR visit.

Year-end wrap up. It has been a very productive year with the new Teaching and Learning Center. Sean Gehrke will be onboard as our Institutional, Research and Assessment Director starting July 1, 2015. Logan Fowler is our new Director of College Communications. Commencement will be at a record high with degrees, certificates and graduates. LC has exceeded what was predicted (3% growth per year) and what the State Board expected. A little under 800 students graduating. It is attainable to increase that number. Enrollment management has everything to do with recruitment, the cost of tuition, and getting the word out about LCSC.

Summer plans. Start laying the ground work for the Strategic Enrollment Initiative that will be presented in the fall. This group will play a role. Research Institution data reports indicate that every state has set unrealistic goals in enrollments that are not attainable. The information indicated that there will be gains in enrollments and graduation rates.
Upcoming events. In June, SBOE meeting will take place. Chet Herbst indicated that they will be looking at 1) institution and athletic budgets, 2) legislative ideas, 3) recap of program prioritization action plans, and 4) Higher Education Task Force. Dr. Fernandez indicated that each of the four-year institutional presidents will sit on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education. Brad Little will most likely chair. They are actively seeking names of influential business and community leaders to sit on this commission. This will provide regional diversity. Please let Dr. Fernandez know of any individuals who might be qualified.

Dr. Andy Hanson indicated that, per Kathy Martin’s suggestion, a new agreement between LC and North Idaho College will be presented to NIC for signature while at the upcoming State Board of Education meeting.

Permanent Building Fund projects. Chet Herbst indicated that the results are out in terms of the awards for building fund projects. Approved projects include: Spalding Hall ($1 million project), Reid Centennial Hall, received $30,000 bid from Transportation Department to be used toward parking lot, Center for Arts & History will upgrade HVAC, received $4 million dollars of PVF funds toward a $6 million dollar project for the North Idaho Collaborative Education Facility. Working toward putting together requests for next year.

Summer projects. Summer project wish list is circulating amongst departments. Please input any requests on the form, include items listed in UAP, as well as any minor items (paint, carpet, etc). The preliminary list needs to be put together by early summer and a final list in August. Areas of interest include Spalding Hall, Clearwater Hall, and upgrade the restrooms.

FY2017 line item requests. State Board has directed that each institution can ask for up to five different requests which do not include occupancy cost requests. Mr. Herbst will be preparing a request for occupancy cost for the first floor of Clearwater Hall. A plan to ask for funds for security, safety, and compliance upgrades.

Dr. Andy Hanson indicated that an observation was shared regarding generic email accounts and how the generic email shows up in the recipient’s email box. After renaming those generic email account names, the response rate to emails has been drastic within two days.

Dr. Fernandez mentioned that since 2008, Idaho has allocated $2,700 less per student. LC has done well with the missing support; however, we need to continue to do better. Thanks to everyone for their dedication to LC.

4. Next meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Activity Center Conference Room.

5. Adjournment