2008 Provost's Council 2 June

by California Baptist University

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Jonathan Parker, Bruce Stokes, Erica McLaughlin, Connie Milton, Anthony Donaldson, Mary Crist, Gayne Anacker, Susan Studer, Dan Wilson, Elaine Ahumada, DawnEllen Jacobs, Judd Bonner for Gary Bonner, Art Cleveland

Guests

Phil Martinez

Discussion and Action Items

- DawnEllen Jacobs opened with devotion and prayer.
- Minutes for the 5 May 2008 Provost’s Council meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.
- Jonathan Parker reviewed Executive Council minutes for 24 April 2008.
  - Reviewed staff advisory minutes.
  - Declined a proposal to send job applicant response postcards to staff applicants not selected to move forward in the process.
  - Approved the portion of the proposed Engineering Project Lab Phase II relative to power upgrades.
  - Received an update on the pending WASC Visit.
  - Approved Senior Gift.
  - Approved ASCBU Projects for two 50” or larger monitors for the ADC and one smaller monitor for Wanda’s.
- Jonathan Parker led a discussion in response to proposed Faculty Senate changes to the course evaluation instrument. The recommended changes were not accepted.
  - The following questions were raised.
    - How is the course evaluation system used in merit pay decisions?
    - How can the role of course evaluations in determining merit pay be put into its proper perspective for faculty?
    - The purpose of the evaluations tool: Does it measure effectiveness of the course or student satisfaction with the professor?
    - Does the instrument measure what we want to know?
  - Consensus was reached on the following points.
    - Course evaluations are a necessary part of the assessment process.
    - Faculty teaching performance must be evaluated in some way from a student perspective.
    - Decisions about the course evaluation need to be grounded in research.
Faculty can be pro-active in seeking additional evaluation of their teaching through peer review and supervisor observation. They can also make use of self-reflection in conjunction with the course evaluations to identify factors to consider when reviewing the student feedback.

If the current instrument is out-dated or does not effectively give us the data we need, then the instrument needs to be overhauled, not merely re-worded.

- Susan Studer will chair a conference committee made up of the following members to create a joint resolution to present to Executive Council: Gayne Anacker, DawnEllen Jacobs, Bruce Stokes, Mary Crist, 3 faculty senators and possibly 2 student representatives.
- Deans may consider ways to collaborate on ways to measure how we are equipping students for a 21st century job market.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next Provost’s Council meeting is scheduled for 16 June 2008.