NOTES FROM DEAN’S COUNCIL
July 10, 2013

Present: Byington, Roberts, Rice, Conner, Jadallah, Ritter, Ennis, Ruse, Luken

1. Honors Program

Mike Ruse distributed a proposal to either create an honors college or merge the honors program with University College. The proposed timeline was to create an honors college by January 2014, and included curricular reform and a new administrative structure.

Mike reviewed the proposal, noting the extensive curricular reform potential and the need to address the current prevalence of “honors by special arrangement” courses. One third of the honors students are Marine Science and Biology, so faculty support would have to align with student needs.

Conversation ensured regarding the mechanics of slot assignments and faculty residency, and whether there was a need for a separate honors faculty with some formal affiliation with the honors program.

Mike then discussed a timeline for both the curricular changes and structural transformation for the program. The proposal covered a timeline from August 2013 until August 2014.

There was discussion of moving the honors curriculum to the core, even to the extent of having a separate honors core, so that departments were no longer required to provide honors version of major classes outside the capstone.

Curricular suggestions would be presented to a reconstituted Honors Advisory council for consideration.

ACTION: Mike Ruse was asked to form an advisory council to work on his proposal.

Dan Ennis and Nelljean Rice shared a report about honors colleges based on benchmarks from the National Collegiate Honors Conference and CCU’s peers and aspirants. This report recommended that the honors program be administrative attached to University College, identify a Director, and have benchmarks sets for eventual transitions to an honors college, with those benchmarks aligned with practice at other institutions.

Provost Byington agreed that a fall search for an honors director would be accompanied by a charge that said director transform the program into a college. The administrative location of the program was not addressed.

ACTION: A Dean will be put in charge of the search for an honors director.

2. QEP
Jim Luken and Mike Ruse shared plans for the future of the QEP in terms of funding and structure. Last year some colleges did not use their QEP funds.

Deans discussed challenges of distributing funds and ensuring they were spent in productive ways. The Provost charged the deans with developing QEP coordinators who would more deliberately drive QEP action and resource distribution.

All deans agreed that there ought to be closer coordination between deans and QEP coordinators. Dean Ritter suggested that the current funding model be continued for the coming year.

ACTION: The Provost agreed to continue the current finding model. Deans agreed to appoint QEP coordinators.

3. Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee Agenda

Provost Byington provided an overview of the agenda for the upcoming BOT meeting. He outlined a salary proposal that tied compensation increases to retention. He also announced that the BOT would be asked to review and comment upon plans for a new VP of Online Education position based on input for Dean’s Council and the DL Committee. Deans were encouraged to attend the BOT meetings and the Provost issued the schedule.

4. Academic Integrity Officer

The Provost reported that there was very little interest in the Academic Integrity Officer position. It was agreed that the position would be further promoted and deans would solicit interested parties.

5. Salary Proposals

The Provost reported that he had met with the leadership of AAUP and the FWD and reported that both groups endorsed compression model that took into account competitiveness and merit. This proposal was forwarded to the BOT.