Arts and Sciences Council of Chairs

Thursday, January 16, 2015

9:00 – 10:30 am

245 Patterson Office Tower

Education Abroad marketing for recruitment

Jennifer Allen, co-director of the Hive, informed the group about ways her office is marketing the Study Abroad Programs offered through A&S. Associate Dean Anna Bosch urged the chairs to ask their faculty to please support and promote these programs and the faculty who run them.

Dean’s Update

Dean Kornbluh reminded the group about the student success report he and other undergraduate deans provided to the president at the end of the fall semester. One of the key items that came out of that report was the focus on advising. Our college organized a retreat for 150 people across campus to discuss key ideas and brainstorm university wide initiatives which may better help the students. The retreat and discussion was really well received by all who attended. Assistant Dean Kirsten Turner is following up on themes and action items with Undergraduate Education.

Dean Kornbluh updated the group on the Provost search. The call for nominations was January 9 and the nomination notifications were sent out early the week of January 12. The deadline to put application letters in is January 16. Currently the search committee consists of 8 people and the president hopes to have a provost in place by the beginning of February.

Dean Kornbluh informed the group he knows nothing about the budget model. It will likely remain unclear until a new Provost is in place. He insisted that fewer faculty lines will be authorized in 2015-2016. Several people foresee the university spending the money from additional student tuition on raises, not on additional faculty or staff.

The College is happy to report that 17 of 18 Promotion dossiers went to the Provost Office with full support of the faculty, promotion committees, and the Dean’s Office.

Dean Kornbluh reiterated the importance of DEW rates and the role they play in retention. Improving DEW remains a key focus and top priority for the president.

Proposed Center on SES and Health

A center was proposed at a recent ADR meeting which seemed to catch the interim VPR attention. It was called Center was on Socio-economic Status and Health. Betty Lorch just wanted the group to be aware and thinking about ways their department might contribute.

Graduate Education discussion

The dean reminded the group that although a lot of attention has been focused around undergraduate success and retention, rethinking the future of graduate education is still a top priority for the college. He is disappointed there is not a funding model in place which will help support some of the goals of A&S graduate programs, but believes we need to have the conversations and pieces in place. The dean gave the chairs and DGSs a charge in the fall and he still would like the reports in March of this year.