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DEANS’ FORUM SUMMARY
April 4, 2013


Guest: Becky Schnabel

- Summary for March 7, 2013 Dean’s Forum was approved.
- Schnabel and Henry shared results of an internal survey of academic advisors to help define and clarify current use and role. Information about pilot use of Starfish scheduling software was presented. Use in the College of Education demonstrated Starfish improved the scheduling process, communication between advisors, interfaces well with other campus technology and maximizes efficiency of staff. A discussion followed regarding further implementation across campus.
- Lanyce Keel shared a copy of Electronic Content Resources Policy to clarify how apps are purchased or retained. Policy would provide an opportunity for apps less than $99 to be classified as “disposable”. Previously, it has been difficult to purchase apps for faculty and maintain university ownership. The policy applies to other digital purchases, such as e-books, as well.
- Reed provided an update regarding opportunities for external research funds, as related to campus priorities. Snyder shared opportunities for research funds related to neuroscience and other projects involving “big” data. Eligibility to qualify for these grants is related to dedicated faculty lines. Snyder suggested UNO make purposeful efforts in this direction to position the campus for such grant opportunities.
- Snyder noted he expects NSF and NIH grant opportunities may be significantly reduced due to the national budget discussion.
- Draft data model was shared that compares the investment of research dollars in relation to the resulting productivity and generated grant funds. Discussion followed regarding the variety of research produced.
- Fiene and Morrice shared updates regarding NeSIS Software and other electronic systems on campus (e.g., ImageNow, Orgsync, CCMS, DegreeWorks,). Fiene suggested we consider an analysis of implementation costs, personnel costs, related costs, to determine the overall value to campus.
- Fiene provided update regarding software currently being considered. Reed articulated the need to identify a model that funds campus systems, that is balanced with benefit to respective colleges and units.
- Reed and Batton shared a proposal related to International Differential Tuition. Batton suggested there be a consistent process to request differential tuition for international students or those from partner institutions.
- Morrice updated the group regarding personnel searches in the area of enrollment management.
- Smith-Howell explained the call for Faculty Fellows for the 2013-2014 academic year.