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Deans' Forum Summary, December 5, 2013

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Dean's Forum Summary Notes, 12/5/13

Attendees: H. Ali, G. Baker, J. Bartle, C. Batton, D. Boocker, N. Edick, J. Fiene, T. Gouttierre, L. Grams, L. Harland (for Pol), L. Keel, P. Morrice, B.J. Reed, T.H. Robinson, D. Shipp, S. Shorb, S. Snyder, N. Topp.

- The summary of the November 7, 2013 Dean's Forum was approved.
- A list of one-time funding requests was distributed. Deans were asked to examine and identify funding priorities by Friday, Dec. 13.
- Emily Poeschl, University Communications, presented the updated Spring 2014 commencement schedule, including inclement weather venues. Additional arrangements for the campus-wide ceremony to be held on Friday, May 9, 2014 include campus tours and other such opportunities to showcase the campus to visitors. The group agreed to move forward with the plan presented.
- Keel discussed state compliance issues related to distance education. It is important to be aware of the differences among courses classified as internships, practicums, and service learning as they relate to compliance for out-of-state distance learners. Legislation and rules vary widely across different states.
- Morrice explained the development of an intent-to-enroll mechanism that will be implemented by Sept. 2014 in order to serve the incoming Fall 2015 class. Applicants will be asked if they plan on attending UNO, but will not be asked to pay any deposit. The responses will provide another planning tool for departments.
- Morrice and Reed thanked the Open House Task Force led by Shorb for development of programming ideas. Large campus open house events are anticipated in the future.
- Reed provided an update concerning the current use of billboards promoting UNO.
- Ali presented the new Executive Master of Science in Information Technology (EMIT) degree. This one-year program integrates both managerial and technical training. A motion to approve the program received unanimous consent.
- Topp reported that two campus strategic planning forums will be held in Spring 2014.
 - On Feb. 28 an internal campus forum will consider assessment strategies needed for accreditation and other purposes. Each unit should have representation at this event designed to reinvigorate discussion of assessment.
 - Another strategic planning forum open to the community will be held in May sometime after Commencement.
- Reed discussed issues related to instructional workload. Robinson will provide data on the five year trend of instructional workload by unit. Boocker observed that sabbaticals will have an impact on these numbers.
- Fiene informed the group about new routers that will require a 6 hour disruption of service. He asked for feedback about the least inconvenient time to schedule the change, tentatively set for Fri., Dec. 27.
- Keel reminded the group to consider potential nominees for the Chancellor's Medal, recognizing staff or faculty who do outstanding work for the university.
- Morrice presented the latest information on enrollment for Spring 2014. Numbers are up; BJ Reed indicated that some of this increase could be related to improved retention efforts.
- Dr. Samuel J. Meisels, Executive Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute, described the Institute's objectives and vision that "Nebraska will become the best place in the nation to be a baby." Members of the group introduced themselves to Sam and engaged in discussion of issues related to early childhood education.