Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2015
8:15-9:50 a.m. Old Main Boardroom


Guests: K. Espy, M. Fleming, T. Miller

Call to Order
Co-Chair R. Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes of September 2, 2015
The minutes of September 2, 2015 were approved with one abstention.

Updates

Provost Comrie talked about upcoming Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) committee meetings focused on academic affairs and on review of summaries of Academic Program Reviews, University budgets and the basis of state allocations are also on the agenda.

Discussions with the UA Foundation and the Board of Trustees, including Interim Foundation President JP Roczniak are continuing.

The Provost gave an update on the Eller Dean search; there are currently three candidates being interviewed for the position. M. Miller shared with the Committee information on the candidates’ backgrounds.

Provost Comrie also talked about the opening of the ENR2 building, and encouraged all members to tour the new facility, now home to four colleges and the largest room built specifically for classes, with 600 seats. The building highlights many environmental issues and uses of space. P. Dourlein was thanked for putting video of the building’s first occupants – nesting hummingbirds – on a live feed for all to enjoy.

T. Miller updated the group about upcoming Campus Connections Workshops and Receptions for new and returning faculty. Dr. Laura Hunter, who has a joint appointment in T. Miller’s office and the Diversity Office, is coordinating these programs. T. Miller also said he would forward
information to the Committee about the Diversity Profile of the UA faculty; a 10-Year Trend of Headcounts by Tenure Status and Gender was then sent to Committee members.

Provost Comrie was asked how his office’s role will change relative to hiring requests, given RCM and college-based decision-making. He replied that he has not seen any significant changes in hiring requests in light of RCM, and that his office will continue to ensure coordination between colleges and the ORD for start-up funds. Members asked about the importance of student-teacher ratios in things like institutional rankings, and were told that such data are not as influential in rankings at this time as they have been in the past. If and when they are used to compare universities to one another, identical variables are compared (like tenured versus non-tenured faculty per student teaching ratios).

Members asked how the Banner merger was unfolding. Comrie explained that the hospital was never owned by the University and therefore was never ‘sold’ to Banner, a common misconception. Rather, the University of Arizona Health Network (UAHN) merged with Banner, a not-for-profit entity. In doing so, the University gained much needed funds for updating the current hospital structure and adding an additional building, as well as additional practitioners. An additional 190 clinical professionals have already been hired by Banner; under the merger model, clinicians are hired under Banner and tenured doctors continue to be UA employees. Banner is also providing financial support to the academic side of the College of Medicine. M. Jonen told members that Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Skip Garcia will be holding a Town Hall meeting on September 29th. Members were reminded that Skip will be at SPBAC on November 4.

B. Bryson will share ABOR updates after the September 23-25th ABOR meeting at NAU, including emerging discussions around revising the 32 ABOR metrics currently in the ABOR 2020 plan.

**Senior Vice President for Research Kim Espy**

Senior Vice President for Research Kim Espy shared a PowerPoint focused on areas of potential growth and on strategies the ORD is using in service to our goals. Espy noted that the UA is competing to secure an even larger portion of an ever shrinking federal research and development budget. The ORD is prioritizing its attention on increasing UA core strengths, focusing on local-global impact and bolstering infrastructure.

A lively discussion followed, including the impact of state investments on the institution’s ability to reach research expenditure goals, given that the best predictor of success is the number of faculty the institution supports.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

**Future Meetings**

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