Pierce Council  
November 12, 2010

Present:

Absent:
Doug Challenger (sabbatical), Bob Goodby, Bob Lawson, Diane Monico, Kim Mooney

Report on University Identity Forums: So far there have been nine completed forums on the Rindge campus. There is one more forum scheduled for the Rindge campus to take place Tuesday, November 16 at 4:30 in the Alumni Lounge. This one is to be comprised of faculty members. There will be two additional forums: Wednesday, December 8th at 3:30 at the Concord campus center and the final one will be on Tuesday, December 14th at 3:00 at the Lebanon campus center. These two forums are for CGPS constituency: faculty, staff and students. On average, the forums have numbered eighteen participants each. Joni Doherty reports that the forums held for the SGA students were the best deliberative dialog sessions she has seen occur on this campus. Adam and Kyle, the student representatives agreed that these sessions were very active and participatory.

Members shared their forum experiences with others. The timeframe was a hot topic. Some members felt it limited delving deep into an identity discussion while others felt that it was sufficient for getting a lot of ideas out there.

The next step is for Joni Doherty to write a summary report pulling together the themes that were discussed. This report will be brought back to the Pierce Council for discussion. The Council will then decide how this information is then disseminated to other constituents on campus such as: the Strategic Planning Committee, GERC, Retention Committee, etc. Dr. Birge stated we need to take the findings and integrate them into our marketing and recruitment plans.

Jed Donelan asked about the possibility of having an online forum so that those not able to attend one of the forums could become a part of the identity discussion. People felt that being inclusive was a great idea but cautioned on the vehicle or method of delivery. There have been times in the past when participants have been rude or used the online forums in an inappropriate manner. Rich Abel brought up the fact that most CGPS students do not have access to the online forums as they are not given Franklin Pierce email addresses. It was reported that all doctorate and most graduate students have been assigned email addresses and hopefully in the near future CGPS undergraduate students will be brought on board as well. Jed will check with Tom Tullio to see how the online forum can be addressed. This will need to be done ASAP.

Jed informed the Council that Doug Challenger wanted to film a deliberative dialog discussing the University Identity Issue brief. Doug was hoping to get folks from diverse groups such as Pierce Council, GERC, the Retention Committee, etc. No one had any objections to this as long as participants were aware that filming was going to take place prior to the discussion.

At the last Council meeting the attendance of the President and Provost was discussed. There was some concern that neither of them had been able to attend the last two meetings in a row and Jed, representing concerns raised by the Council, wanted Dr. Birge’s feedback. In years’ past some Council meetings were rescheduled or not held when the President was away or the Provost ran the meeting in his absence. Dr. Birge feels strongly that the work of the Council should continue whether he is in town or not. He stated that his duties often take him off campus and would not want to jeopardize the Council’s good work. He will work with the Provost’s office and try to arrange that one or the other could be present at each meeting when possible.

Scott Ansevin-Allen had chaired the Pierce Council’s Calendar sub-committee in the past and is now currently working with some folks to make some changes to next year’s calendar. He will report back to the Council next month.

Paul Tedder proposed a new idea for the membership to consider. He would like to see this body give some sort of recognition to Franklin Pierce members that “go above and beyond” the scope of their duties. He provided an example of someone who in his mind went above and beyond. Council members felt that this proposal was a worthwhile endeavor. A sub-committee has been put together to work out the details such as criteria for recognition.

On a similar note, some members were wondering what happened to the Annual Service Awards Luncheon that used to take place in the spring. This was a time for faculty and staff to come together to mark milestone anniversaries of
employees that had served 5, 10, 15, etc., years of employment and to wish retiring members farewell. It was noted that this wasn’t done any longer due to budget cuts. Most members stated they missed this event and would like to see it, or something similar to it, return. One member felt that longevity was not necessarily a reason for celebration, but rather it needed to be more of an accomplishment. Dr. Birge felt strongly that as a community we don’t celebrate often enough and a service awards ceremony would be something most people would support. A sub-committee was pulled together to look into revitalizing this event.

Jed asked the membership to revisit the issue surrounding athletic representation to the Pierce Council. It was noted that last year one of the student representatives was also an athlete and he was able to bring that perspective to the board. Membership to the Council is primarily by election so it was pointed out that if a representative from athletics was appointed it could be construed as favoritism. A discussion followed concerning the makeup of the entire Council. One member was quick to point out that if we redefine our constituency we then refine our identity. For now our membership will remain as it. Jed pointed out that we need to replace Wendy Acerno, the CGPS student, to the Council.

Jed would like to see an agenda put together prior to meetings. In the future a call for agenda items will be sent to members when the meeting reminder goes out. Please send items/topics to Vicky Rank and she will send out a working agenda approximately 2-3 days prior to each meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Rank.

Schedule of Meetings:
Dec. 10, 2010
Jan. 21, 2011
Feb. 11, 2011
Mar. 11, 2011
Apr. 8, 2011

(All meetings are scheduled from 2-4PM in the Alumni Lounge.)