Faculty Senate University System Relations Committee
November 13, 2017

Present: Misty Anderson, Chis Boyer, Andrea Ludwig, Beauvais Lyons, Sally McMillan, and Gary Skolits

Absent: Martin Griffin, Husheng Li, Bruce MacLennan, Yvonne Kilpatrick,

Guests: Dennis Hengstler, Assistant Vice President and Director of Institutional Research
India Lane, Interim Vice President Academic Affairs and Student Success
Denise Gardner, Assistant Provost and Director of Institutional Research

1. Approve minutes of last meeting (attached)
   Lyons moved and Skolits second to approve as distribute. Unanimous approval.

2. Discussion of institutional research and related academic affairs and student success issues
   - Hengstler distributed a summary of IR functions (attached) and noted the various definitions of many different data types and the challenges of insuring that the data shared with the board were always consistent.
   - Gardner noted that her office is the repository for all campus data and that they align with federal definitions and follow a professional code of ethics.
   - Discussion of various reports from Oklahoma, Delaware, CSRDE, IPEDS, etc. There are also reports from NSF, NACUBO, and other professional organization.
   - IPEDS is a national database available to any researcher and provides institutional data at the aggregate level. IPEDS is the safest for comparisons.
   - Noted some of the challenges that occurred because of years as reporting as "big orange." In 2010, NSF required separation of the institution of agriculture and health science center from research data.
   - Discussed the challenges created by different definitions of things like FTE.
   - EAB is a large consortium with many functions. What the system has purchased is a Academic Performance Solution, a reporting tool that allows for dashboard views with drill-down capabilities.
   - Anderson asked whether the questions that are being asked are the "right" questions. How is it different from Delaware?
   - Lane suggested that EAB is an "Accelerant." EAB currently only has one of the UTK peers in their system. Discussed in the context of classroom utilization and tenure. Need to show that practice is following policy to keep the board from getting into the weeds. Board is into "trust but verify."
   - Skolits noted the potential impact of the use of an external vendor on capacity of IR at both the system and campus level. Gardner noted that there is a system-wide meeting to address these issues. Noted the problems of siloed data between information systems (e.g., students and alumni).

- Ludwig and Lyons discussed the cost of being able to answer these kinds of questions. Skolits noted that it might be better to invest in campus-based IR resources.
- Gardner provided information about CIVITAS. Noted that it is a tool for predicting student progression. Noted that it is based on student data. Noted that EAB has a tool for doing something similar. But CIVITAS won that bid.
- Anderson noted that part of "what got us here" is programs that don't talk to each other.
- Lane distributed a handout on the structure and function of the office of academic affairs of student success. (attached)
- After the guests left, the committee briefly discussed procedural issues about getting faculty input on bid for vendor products.

3. Set next meeting
Agreed to invite Anthony Haynes to the next meeting. Set time for Monday, December 11 at 10:30. At that meeting, the group will consider "standing time" for spring semester based on teaching schedules.