

## **University Faculty Meeting**

Friday, December 2, 2022

Agenda:

1. Welcome (Noel Painter)
2. Remarks from the President (Chris Roellke)
3. Academic Advising Council (Danielle Lindner, Monica Mendoza, and Daniil Zavlunov)
4. Enrollment planning (Gio Fernandez and Ray Nault)
5. Financial planning (Joel Davis, Jeremy DiGorio and Bob Huth)

The meeting was called to order at 12:00

### **1. Opening Remarks and Welcome (Provost Painter)**

Provost Painter welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on how much was accomplished during the fall semester. He also described the sense of vibrancy that has returned to campus and gave some examples of events that give evidence to the returned vibrancy. This includes the energy at the midnight breakfast and return to full capacity at the Christmas concerts.

Provost Painter then talked about the challenges to retention (the return of students from year-to-year) and persistence (the return of students from semester to semester). The work that is being done by our faculty, with students at this time in the semester, is some of the most crucial that done all year. Allowing students time with you to help see their pathway to success at Stetson, and to give them a reason to return in the spring, to understand how they will graduate and graduate in a timely fashion is essential.

### **2. Remarks from the President (Christopher Roellke, President)**

President Roellke began by sharing some student responses to his FSEM final exam. Taking from Ralph Waldo Emerson he asked "What has become clearer to you about higher education in America? Since we first met as a class on August 15, 2022?" President Roellke closed his remarks by saying that Stetson University is the perfect antidote to the perils of the global pandemic. This is because we are so profoundly relationship rich, and people oriented as a community. In 30 years in higher education there has never been a more challenging time in our landscape, nor has there been a more exciting time in our landscape.

### **3. Academic Advising Council (Danielle Lindner, Monica Mendoza, and Daniil Zavlunov)**

Provost Painter provided a brief description of the working groups that were used in the past to ensure that Stetson's academic advising is meeting the advising expectations of our students and identified the challenge to move forward recommendations of the previous working groups. Beginning in 2021, Provost Painter appointed three Coordinators of Faculty Advising,

provost faculty fellows in the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence. This initial appointment led to the development of the Academic Advising Council (AAC).

Monica Mendoza presented “The Coordinators for Faculty Advising (CFA’s) and the Academic Advising Council (AAC)”. The presentation began with the history of the task forces, focus groups and reports that lead to the development of the AAC. A review of the previous work and reports revealed some common themes and recurring recommendations. Dr. Mendoza then shared the CFA Charge, Guiding Principles and work that was completed in 2021-22. Monica then presented the AAC Membership and overall Mission/Vision. She then briefly presented the Mission/Vision that applies to Students, Faculty/Staff, and the Institution. All sections of the Mission/Vision are available on the Councils and Committees website. Lastly, Dr. Mendoza explained the work that is being done by the CFA and AAC in the 2022-2023 academic year.

Faculty were then given the opportunity to ask questions, one of which centered on assessment of advising. Dr. Mendoza clarified that the work currently being done assesses the student’s perception of the overall advising process and the services being provided. Dr. Lindner went on to clarify that the anonymous survey was developed based on a NACADA instrument (and in collaboration with Academic Success staff) that is used to assess a student’s general satisfaction with the advising process. Students are not asked for information for their specific faculty advisor. Dr. Lindner went on to say that any reference to a particular faculty member is removed from the survey before a report is shared.

#### **4. Enrollment planning (Gio Fernandez and Ray Nault)**

Dr. Nault began by presenting “Fall 2023 Strategic Enrollment Planning. The presentation focused on three specific areas: Fall 2023 Goals, Transfer Student Population and Special Populations.

- Fall 2023 Goals:
  - FTIC – 825 (850 push goal)
  - Transfer 125
  - Discount 67-69%
  
- Transfer Students:
  - There is a focus on bringing in well-qualified transfer students to relieve the university’s dependence on FTIC students. Dr. Fernandez then explained that there is a frustration among enrolled transfer students who have an A.A. and expect to graduate in two years and this is not possible in many cases. The Admissions Committee is also focused on identifying the high-quality students that we are not enrolling at Stetson because they do not see a pathway to graduate in two years. All departments have been asked, how they can become more transfer friendly. Outlined below are two policy changes that are currently being discussed.

- Increase cap of transfer credits to 80
- Increase the number of transfer credits allowed to meet courses towards major
- Focus on High Achieving Students
  - Premier Programs
    - Honors
    - Presidential Fellows
    - Stetson Entourage
    - Global Gateways

President Roellke closed this discussion by recapping some of the remarks that he made back in November, that summarized the challenges that Stetson and higher education are facing.

### **5. Financial planning (Joel Davis, Jeremy DiGorio and Bob Huth)**

Mr. Huth presented “Finance and Budget Update” Power Point. He began with an update of how we ended last year and where we are currently. He explained that the full, detailed report of last year’s budget is available on the Stetson Finance website and summarized that we are projected to finish FY 2023 in the black, but persistence of students is critical to meeting the target. Mr. Huth then provided an example of how a small percentage change in persistence can significantly impact the overall budget.

Joel Davis and Alan Green presented a Finance Committee Power Point. Dr. Green began by explaining that the University Finance Committee reviews the university budget and other information provided by Mr. Huth to categorize and visualize the university’s revenues and expenditures. This information was presented in a year over year bar/line chart.

Provost Painter reminded everyone about the gathering outside the new wing of the Hyatt and Cici Brown Hall immediately following the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM