

Meeting on 10/12/16

Dr. Moroney presented a detailed update on how the recent changes to summer registration have been going. It's mostly a success story. There are some challenges they are working through, such as the loss of a few seats per class due to TRS and other classes being linked to EN 125 (capped at 15), and the possibility that some classes might be skewed toward weaker students, since under-performers are given priority to enroll, and anyone with AP is not granted priority. Bumps are being addressed.

Dr. Santilli shared an overview of the results from the HLC mandated student survey: 10% of the students responded. JCU received just a report, not a data file, so this seriously limits our ability to manipulate the data. The problem areas that were flagged in the survey include: student need for greater financial literacy (on the consequences of loans etc.); student complaints regarding academic advising; complaints about scheduling limitations; concern about the rise in tuition; and mention of condescension among some staff. Members of Provost Council then discussed how we might revise our system of advising to better meet student needs. Some wondered if it's too big of a job for faculty. Boler has a full-time person to do advising. **The question arose as to whether we should import such a model into CAS. Another idea was whether we should make it a 2-year process and introduce a 1-credit "sophomore experience."**

Another reaction to the survey was some consideration of whether we should standardize student evaluations across university. **Does Faculty Council wish to weigh in?**

Jeanne announced the Office of Civil Rights lawsuit against JCU. We did not discuss or receive much detail, but faculty will have some, albeit very limited, ability to respond to the report David Sipusic is making.

Meeting on 10/26/16

Jeanne provided an update on the African-American Alliance and a meeting they recently had with JCU leadership. In summary AAA would like more of a voice in hiring; a more diversified curriculum (more courses on race); a black cultural space (Father Niehoff is unable to provide this right now); mandatory training for staff and faculty (this cannot be imposed without federal action – but some body could provide it for those interested). **The institution is working to embed changes to enhance diversity and inclusion on campus, rather than viewing this issue and response as a "once off" event. How should they do this? Terry proposed starting with training for chairs and supervisors. He also proposed that departments do a self-assessment, using a multicultural assessment tool,**

which he described as very robust, to target areas for improvement. Who should be trained? Do all faculty need training? **Would faculty seek it out training were it not mandated by the government?**

Terry noted that there is a history at JCU that has led to demoralization of many faculty leaders associated with FOCO. How can we tap their expertise and involve them in change? We spoke about trying to keep a living record of what we've done and are doing to address this important issue.

We concluded with the preliminary reports of a few of the newly formed PC sub-committees (ones on student data and advising). **We learned that the retention rate is 85% at JCU, and that it is imperative to see this rate rise by a few points this year, or we will face dire financial consequences. All hands need to help to increase student retention.**

On 11/9 there will be a forum providing a detailed report about the University's finances – please attend.