Meeting Agenda

10:00 – 10:05
Introduction

10:05 – 10:15
Executive Dean Search Update
Lucille Tenazas, Search Committee Co-Chair

10:15 – 10:30
Student Health and Wellbeing Resolution – next steps

10:30 – 11:30
University Budget Listening Tour
Tim Marshall, Provost and Tokumbo Shobowale, Chief Operating Officer

MEETING MINUTES
Submitted by Anezka Sebek 12/12/18

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 by John Sharp, co-chair of the PFC
John presented the agenda items. John and Caroline Dionne explained we would reverse the ordering of the Executive Dean Search Update and the Student Health and Wellbeing Resolution conversations as Lucille would be arriving closer to 10:15. John also noted The PFC is missing an additional SDS member – open call for colleagues from SDS to fill this seat.

10:05 – 10:15 Student Health and Well-being Resolution - next steps
Caroline presented working Google doc from Shana Agid, in their absence.

PFA Discussion:
Caroline – There is a proposal of an idea that a faculty-led group (with membership open to staff and students as well) could form to collaborate on decisions with Student Health Services (SHS) since we see, firsthand, so many of the issues our students experience. Shana is out at a conference but the doc is open for all to see and edit.

Comment – The University Faculty Senate (UFS) is looking at this item as well.

Comment – There are other issues as well, such as the lack of childcare options for faculty. This discussion has been had in the past, but there is no transparency or communication from the President’s or Provost’s Offices.

John and Caroline – We need to identify the most urgent topics and make working groups around them.
10:15 – 10:30 Executive Dean Search Update
Lucille Tenazas, Co-Chair of the Search Committee presented

PFA Discussion:
Lucille – Discussed the final composition of the search committee, containing 13 Parsons representatives (school deans, faculty, staff, and students). There were approximately 107 feedback forms received per job talk. The committee consolidated feedback into a color-coated chart to examine data for review. There were traits the group agreed on as a must have for a successful candidate: A genuine interest in curriculum, faculty, and students; An ability to work across The New School; Inclusivity; Strategic Thinking; Fundraising; Generosity of Spirit; Tenure eligibility at Parsons. Of the 6 candidates who visited campus, there are 3 viable and 3 non-viable candidates resulting from these interviews. The committee decided to hand deliver the final report to Tim Marshall and David Van Zandt on Friday, December 7, 2018. A transition team for a new dean to be successful is also recommended.

Comment – Can leadership move ahead with a non-viable candidate? How do we prevent such a thing from occurring?

Lucille – We have been assured that only those in our viable list will be considered.

Comment – The committee will riot if this does not happen.

Comment – Should we have something in writing about what will happen if a non-viable candidate should be named Executive Dean? While the committee assures us this won’t happen, many are still concerned that leadership would not implement our recommendation.

Comment – The final report should have something in writing that leadership will discuss their decision with the search committee first, should they decide on a non-viable candidate.

10:30 – 11:30 University Budget Listening Tour
Tokumbo Shobowale and Tim Marshall were joined by members of the budgetary committee, including Luciana Scrutchen (Parsons), Bea Banu (SPE), and Charles Allison (Milano).

The group explained the budget committee has been operating, with varied representation, for at least five years. All agreed that the dissemination of information surrounding budgetary concerns could, and should, be more transparent and clear, as the current work is not sufficient.

PFA Discussion:
Tokumbo – 96% of the revenue budget to distribute comes from students.

Question – How does the budget disseminate? How do we bring more into the university?
Tokumbo – The total operating budget per year is $410,000,000. Resources increase at a moderate level meaning we are unable to afford too much growth. Of the 2.7% increase we see in tuition, this money usually goes to cover basic inflation costs, leaving no substantial funds for new things.

Tim – We do move faculty lines (meaning a few hundred thousand dollars to Parsons recently) based on projections and needs.

Comment – All faculty lines do not go back to the original school where it came from and demands change. Part-time faculty should also follow these demands.

Question – We are told there is no money, yet we are always seeing emails announcing new AVP and Senior VPs throughout various divisions and offices. We’re also seeing that in Roy’s retirement, HR is taking on more work in the area of general counsel, and HR already seems overburdened.

Tim – We could do a better job of in communicating these new hires, making a more clear connection to the roles they are replacing, rather than making it seem we are constantly hiring new senior level administrators. Concerns about the general counsel are duly noted. However, this question conflates two different issues.

Comment – Each fall, all School Deans meets with their communities and their incremental budget is submitted to Tim, with prioritization in mind. This information then goes to the budget committee. Lastly, recommendations are then made to the leadership (Tim and David) and eventually the Board of Trustees.

Budget committee — the requests and resources are allocated across the university.

Joel – In understanding the budget process, need to look at the incremental changes.

Question — Where are these costs “baked into the budget?”

Comment – It would give us reassurance knowing that there is a robust process in place, across the divisions and colleges within the university.

Question – With the nine full-time faculty hires, how did that allocation work?

Tim – This was a mixture of two kinds of decisions:
  1. Where is the demand? Where are the students going in terms of schools and programs?
  2. New directions and new programs
To represent this, as student populations moved from SPE, these positions were moved to Parsons.

Comment — The faculty feel dissatisfaction with how the budget is handled and the lack of communication and transparency. Knowing that 50% of the institution is Parsons, we want to feel that you are listening to and acknowledge us and our feedback surrounding these issues.

Comment – We should be considering enrollment shifts, faculty, and facilities.
Comment – At one of the Executive Dean job talks, we heard three numbers: 411 million total operating budget, 360 million coming from Parsons, and 68 million going back to Parsons. As you can imagine, when we heard these numbers our heads spun around. We feel as though we are in the dark.

Comment—The budgetary constraints in place are not sustainable. There is not enough money to run our programs. How do we fix this? It feels as though the budget committee is simply window dressing.

Tim – We hope to address some of these issues with the Centennial project.

Comment—We need to address equality and inequity of salaries at the different colleges across the university. Salaries at Parsons are not comparable to those of our colleagues in other divisions.

Comment—Part of the above discussion also has to do with the number of tenure track positions at Parsons vs. the rest of the university.

Tim – We can help people get the information, as there is nothing to hide.

Tokumbo – We would like to provide a Google form where you can ask these kinds of questions and we can supplement anything that was not available today.

Comment – As a dean, I feel like this was not listening and there is actually not proper representation on the budget committee. This still comes back to being a discussion about clarity, transparency, and accountability.

Comment – What I heard was, “Stay in your lane”

Joel—We have the last 5 years of budgets, which we may share. Some of this information is also shared at our town hall meetings each year. You will see more of this at our February meeting, open to all faculty and staff.

Comment – The committee looks at areas like Student Success, as leadership does not have relevant details. This is a central core of the conversation.

Tokumbo and Tim—We do want to know what the faculty wants and this is not meant to be heard as “stay in your lane.”

Meeting Adjourned by John Sharp at 11:40.