

**NOTES FROM THE ALL DIVISIONS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2006
CU 2&3**

Dr. Brenda Harrison called the meeting to order at approximately 12:33 p.m. Dr. Harrison along with the faculty/staff welcomed Dr. Sechrist to the meeting. Dr. Sechrist addressed the faculty/staff by first thanking the deans for allowing him to share information at their scheduled division meeting time.

Organizational Plan

Dr. Sechrist informed the faculty/staff that the Academic Affairs organizational plan includes the creation of two twelve month Department Chair positions. These positions will report directly to the dean and will have budget and faculty responsibilities. He indicated that if divisions were split, this would result in an additional administrative level which would cause faculty to be further from the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. As a start, these two new positions will be in the Division of Arts and Humanities. If this plan works effectively and efficiently, then the plan will move forward in the direction of other divisions hiring twelve month Department Chairs. Dr. Sechrist emphasized that this is still a plan and has not been approved in the budget process.

Dr. Sechrist also informed the faculty/staff that the positions of Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Economic and Community Development will be advertised, and he hopes to have them filled by July 1, 2006. He also indicated that there is no plan to eliminate any College positions.

Budget

Dr. Sechrist reported that the amount of proposed College-wide new initiatives is approximately \$11 million. He feels that all of these initiatives are important to have, but due to our budget they will not all be funded. He indicated that personnel are needed in many areas of the College including the new eight faculty positions that are being advertised. He stated that the State Regents is proposing an additional \$123.1 million for higher education. If granted, the College may receive 3.4% of these funds. OCCC is second from the bottom of 25 institutions per budget formula. The College receives about 58% of our budget needs. None of the 25 institutions receives 100%. Dr. Sechrist stated that we may receive \$2.5 to \$2.7 million, perhaps as much as \$3 million. Mandatory increased costs of health care and utilities will be funded from these additional funds if granted. He stated that the utility budget has not been raised in over five years. He said we are in good financial shape, but have many needs. He also complimented physical plant on their dedicated work.

Dr. Sechrist said if the funds are granted and approved, then approximately \$300,000 will go toward utilities, approximately \$300,000 to health care increases, approximately \$400,000 toward new full-time faculty, and approximately \$1 million toward salary increases.

He also mentioned that if the College personnel receive salary increases, adjuncts will be included.

A question was asked if the Oklahoma lottery has had an impact on OCCC. Dr. Sechrist responded by stating not yet but that it will. The lottery funds for higher education include bond debt service. The gaining funds designated to higher education will go for OHLAP.

A concern was expressed about the newspaper article on retirement pension. Dr. Sechrist replied by stating that the pension plan is under funded and to contact your representative or senator about your concerns.

Construction

Dr. Sechrist reported that the Robert P. Todd Science Engineering and Math Center is four months ahead of schedule. The Health Professions Education Center construction plan was approved in January and will go to bid in two months. The construction will start in August and the College has a budget to fund this project. The new Arts Education Center is still in draft and has not been approved by the Board yet. The 1,000 seat theatre will not be built initially; the classroom/lab portion will be built once approved. The estimated cost to build the Arts Education Center excluding the theatre is approximately \$8 million. The cost for just the theatre is estimated at \$14 million. Drafts of the Arts Education Center were displayed at the back of the room.

Dr. Sechrist also reported that the arts festival site will be relocated to the area around 74th St entrance. The new Arts Education Center will be located outside of entry 5 where the arts festival site is currently located. Construction could start in October, 2006. It should be an 18 month construction project.

Other

He also welcomed them to email him any questions or concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.