

Minutes, Priorities and Governance Meeting, May 7, 2019

Present: Manu, Steven, Nicole, Angela + 2019/2010 committee members Naima, Sharon, David + Chair of Faculty Howards Brooks

President McCoy present from 16:00-17:00

President McCoy delivers data from the restructuring process that led to layoffs, early retirement offers, etc., suggests that parts of it are privileged data that will not be published; truncated version has already been presented to faculty; reiterates that yielded data was financial and the result of a benchmarking process prompted by the question about how other schools gained revenue. President McCoy continues to reiterate fact finding mission: from the top 100 liberal arts schools those that were not in the black were subtracted plus those “too unlike us,” which left 14 schools with balanced budgets. He presents the figures from previous meeting and the fact that those schools had a smaller staff and fewer full professors.

A couple of committee members want to know whether other structural things had been noted in this benchmarking process (that speak to the success of those schools in comparison with DePauw).

President McCoy suggests that DePauw has the largest campus among them and that people are “calling us to ask our facilities’ secrets” (we have a lot of buildings to maintain).

One committee members interjects that we saw cuts in facility management three years ago that can felt in their building.

President McCoy continues to explain—in response to the question about “structural things [that] had been noted”—that some schools were as Greek as we are, but not all of them. Dennison has a cap on salary for full professors.

President McCoy affirms that there will be no more cuts, no more talk about cuts.

Committee members wonder what else might be missing in comparing DePauw to the fourteen selected peer institutions.

One committee member critiques the way in which the Administration + Board of Trustees make decisions only to tell faculty afterwards. The committee member suggests that financial decisions and plans (for example, how to improve revenue, objective maximization) include faculty input.

McCoy addresses the diminished enrollment for 2019/2020. He reports that Greek students shared with him that they told prospective students not to come because of crack down on high risk behavior. President McCoy conjectures that “we lost 50 kids, maybe none”. Moreover, other schools sent emails linking our troubles with low enrollment. On a positive note, two press releases have addressed the successful financial campaigns.

President McCoy declares his availability in working with the Priorities and Governance committee in 2019/2020.

One committee member wonders whether we should invest more rigorously in the academic reputation of our departments, as reputational capital yields more tuition. The committee member suggests that

we might compare ourselves to peer institutions with regard to academic reputation and solicit their opinion of us (U.S. News & World report is based on reputational scores).

What, we might ask, is distinctive about DePauw's academic reputation in the way that Oberlin's motto "to change the world" or Wooster's independent faculty-student research are distinctive.

The committee discusses *leadership education* as DePauw's distinctive academic contribution.

After President McCoy leaves, Howard Brooks addresses the forthcoming searches for a new president and VPAA in 2019/2020. President McCoy has inquired whether it would be acceptable that if there were a candidate who brought diversity to the cabinet and was a DePauw graduate, that person might be acceptable as a candidate without a search committee and without an interview. Would Priorities and Governance think it wise to see this person as a viable candidate?