

ACTION ITEMS

- Involve the Student Government: Put the name switch to them and let them survey the student body.
- It was suggested that we postpone the decision to switch from a College to a University until we have a new administration in place.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The Faculty Senate (by way of the Faculty Handbook) can call an Emergency Meeting whenever there is a special issue facing the faculty. This meeting has been called to address issues that have arisen since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees (in regards to the potential switch from College to University and the presidential search committee).

To clarify, Gary Freeze has talked to members of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Oxendine has been authorized only to explore the possibility of the switch to a University. His findings will be presented during the February meeting of the Board of Trustees. Any and all faculty participation in this decision will be handled by the Strategic Planning Committee.

The Faculty Senate has recognized that there is a concern amongst the faculty about these possibilities and wants to create avenues for full faculty participation.

A NOTE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Michael Bitzer was informed by Bill Graham that there will be a conference call next Tuesday (November 8, 2011) to talk about the start of the presidential search. Unfortunately, the faculty members on the committee have been left out of the initial screening of applicants?

Question: Do we have any idea what sort of criteria was used in the initial screening of applicants?

Answer: No. We have not been involved in the search at all. The only communication was through email during the week of homecoming. A meeting was planned for homecoming and the prospect of the initial conference call was brought up.

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

There was some debate about whether or not President Oxendine presented the switch from College to University as something that will definitely happen or something that he is exploring. The overall consensus is that it's something Oxendine is interested in doing, but that does not mean it will happen (at least according to the Trustees).

One of the purposes of our initial meetings is to open up lines of communication between the faculty, the faculty senate, and the Board of Trustees.

Question: Has the Dean's Council had any input on this potential name change?

Answer: Not really. It seems like it's a direction the administration wants to move in, but the Deans themselves are ambivalent.

Question: Why is the college concerned about the name change?

Answer: Part of the problem is that community colleges are moving in the direction of calling themselves colleges. The potential exists to blur our identity as a College.

Comment: I don't buy that being called a College is damaging. There's a mix of quality colleges above us on national lists that refer to themselves as colleges. What is the justification to making the switch? What programs would we add, etc.? Is this more of a marketing issue?

Question: It's troubling that we've been left out of this conversation. What should we do moving forward?

Answer: Let's get some data. Survey the students. Find out if they'd have come if we were named Catawba University. How important is the name to them?

Comment: One way to get answers to these questions is to address them to the student government. Let them address the student body. In addition, we should invite President Oxendine to an open-floor meeting to ask him questions about this potential switch.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH & COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CONVERSATION

It strikes the faculty senate and the gathered senate as problematic that we do not have a clear vision of what our College should be to present to potential presidential candidates. Are we able to move forward with a search without a clear strategic plan?

Comment: We need to survey the faculty to find out how we feel about the name switch. Also, we need to have a conversation about strategic plan. Are we trying to be like Wofford College or are we trying to be like High Point University, for example? We need a strategic plan which will inform what sort of institution we want to be.

Response: The Carnegie Classification already has data on what sort of institution we currently are. This data needs to be reviewed and that will help us make sense of which direction we can and should head in.

Comment: It's frustrating that the faculty and the faculty members on the presidential search committee have been left out of the process—both the name switch and the presidential search. Here's the issue: Whether you agree with what's happened to these institutions or not both Elon and HPU said something along the lines of, "Here's the type of institution we are and

here's our plan for the future." Having a plan went a long way to attracting donors and students. We aren't hearing this vision from our Board of Trustees.

Question: Will the strategic planning committee have a vision before we hire a president?

Comment: The senate should ask that the decision to switch to a college or university gets postponed. Then, it can become a part of the conversation we have with prospective candidates. It should be up to the next administration.

Comment: Do you think we should postpone hiring a President until we have a strategic plan?

Response: To be reasonable, it seems unlikely we can delay the presidential search. The switch decision really must be part of the criterion we use for deciding what kind of president we want. We can't wait for the strategic plan.

Question to the Members of the Presidential Search Committee: What do you think about the issue of the name switch and the hiring of the president?

Response: Rhonda: If somebody is applying to be the president then he or she will have to deal with these issues. I don't think asking them about the college or university is a fair question or the way to proceed.

Michael: For once, I would like to be able to say to a presidential candidate here's what we'd like to be... how will you get us there? That will take the input of the strategic planning group. If they had a vision by February, it may be possible to work that into the conversation with potential candidates.