Provost Meeting with A&S Senate

December 12, 2022
Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges
• Budget hangs over everything
• Insufficient state support
• Lingering impacts of leadership turnover

Opportunities
• Strong faculty and staff
• Moving towards stability in leadership
• Can be strategic across research, students success, and community engagement
• Excellent faculty-led reports to guide efforts
  - Graduate School
  - Continued, Professional, and Executive Education
Senior Leadership Searches

Approach
• Begin with announcement of intention including survey and request for committee members
• Additional agency given the search committee throughout process

Searches
• Four deans appointed in current semester
  • Library (external)
  • School of Medicine (external)
  • School of Dental Medicine (external)
  • School of Nursing (internal)
• Two searches are nearing completion
  • College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
  • College of Business
• Two searches soon to be launched
  • Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education
  • Vice Provost for Continued, Professional, and Executive Education
• Searches in the queue for spring
  • Vice Provost for Global Affairs
  • Vice Provost as part of portfolio refresh
School and College (S/C) Operations

• My goal is for great autonomy for deans in oversight of S/C
• Goal is challenged by the current budgetary picture
• Considering all approaches to bring S/Cs out of debt

• In the meantime, looking for ways to empower deans while also increasing accountability
  - Meet weekly with East and West deans together
  - Developing metrics for annual review
  - Five-year reviews for senior leaders
  - Enhanced shared governance and communication university-wide
Strategic Areas of Focus

Enrollment Planning
• Regular strategy meeting and communication with deans in place
• Develop key aspects of planning
  - Increase in domestic and international out of state students
  - Evaluate how we are using scholarship funds
• Identify barriers
  - Heavy interest in a smaller number of areas
  - Insufficient housing to grow enrollment
  - Insufficient instructional resources and spaces for high demand classes

Economic Development
• Industry partnerships
• Innovation ecosystem across the University (commercialization, tech transfer, utilization of R&D park)

Budgetary Approach
• Review of our current budget model
• Incentives for entrepreneurial activities
• Strategy for University-level Centers/Institutes
Notable Central Initiatives

• Project REACH / Strategic Planning

• IDEA Fellows

• PIE Funds
  - Underway: 1) Quantum, 2) Healthy Aging, 3) AI, 4) Clean Energy
  - Others that may include: Addiction, Cancer, and Drug Discovery
  - Meant to complement full range of research seed support

• Simon’s STEM Scholars
Faculty Affairs and Development

• Enhanced process, procedure, and policy
  - Promotion and Tenure Process Review
  - Allocation of Responsibilities for Faculty

• Faculty Support
  - Leadership Development
  - Internal and External Awards and Recognition
  - Review of support for contingent faculty (lectures, adjuncts, etc)
  - Attention to how we treat each other
  - Removal of 10% of friction in daily faculty lives

• Enhanced engagement in decisions; subsequent communication
Students

Undergraduate
• Several strategic re-organizations
• Focus on student support
  - Efforts to limit factors impacting retention (course un-availability, overtaxed advising)
  - Expand availability of experiential learning
  - Leverage strong career services
  - Keep mindful of lingering impacts of COVID-19
  - Enhanced communication with USG

Graduate and Professional
• Restoration of staffing
• Expansion of diversity recruiting
• Programming for a wide range of careers
• Future review of allocation of GTA/GRA lines
• Examination of GTA stipend level
Minimum Stipend across AAU Publics

**Actual Amount**

- Median = $21,115
- 25% = $18,880
- 75% = $22,569
- SBU = $22,500

**Adjusted for Cost of Living**

- Median = .47
- 25% = .43
- 75% = .55
- SBU = .42