

USFC Summary

Houston Davis, the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) for USG is interested in establishing a relationship with faculty through the USGFC. He would like his message to be passed on to all faculty and not get hung up at an administrative level.

Our conversation covered

- MOOCs
- Salary compression
- Consolidation of institutions
- System vs institutional goals
- State funding
- Defining a more formal relationship with USGFC
- Past USGFC resolutions
- Quality assurance of teaching
- Class enrollments
- ADP and D2L upgrades

MOOCs:

- Importance of quality control
 - ID management
 - How to assess learning objectives
- How to tackle quality control issues
 - Looking to form two groups to address issues
 - A forum consisting of academics from each institution
 - A consortium that examines both academic and fiscal issues that arise from MOOCs, will include administrative personnel and academics
 - Getting MOOCs to operate in the D2L environment

Salary compression: The board of regents is very concerned about the lack of pay raises for the last 6 years. Healthcare costs have eaten into salaries. The BOR is encouraging individual institutions to find ways to address salary compression and are supportive of putting aside funds to address these problems. Along with this, workload issues need to be addressed. He was concerned about 5/5 and 7/7 workloads at some institutions and felt that allow workloads such as this compromised quality of instruction.

Consolidation of Institutions: It is likely that more consolidations will take place. Positive lessons learned: There were administrative savings that were ploughed back into the consolidated institutions. Having SACs come in early for assessment helped the process. Problems experienced were merging institutions with different missions, departmental differences, promotion and tenure expectations, people feeling the rules were changed on them. In the future they plan to include transitional executives.

System vs. institutional goals: The recent announcement on the missions of different institutions was not meant to halt institutional aspirations but is instead to define place a process whereby institutions follow a series of steps to move up to the next tier. Facilities and funding must be in place along with the proposed degrees and programs.

State funding: while state funding is currently roughly 50%/50%, at one point the state contributed approximately 75%. He firmly believes that we will never get that level of contribution in the future, however he seems to think that perhaps we might get 60%. He suggested that BOR needs to look at administrative costs.

Defining a more formal relationship between CAO and USFC:

- Dr. Davis has requested an annual report from USGFAC and regular meetings with him. To develop an institutional memory on the committee it was proposed to expand the executive committee and/or establish a subcommittee, both of which would serve longer terms.
- CAO will review past resolutions passed by USGFC
- Financial support for food for the meetings (\$500) and request to institutions for travel allowances for faculty representatives

Status of past USG resolutions:

- Domestic partner benefits: Dr. Davis indicated that there active conversations around Domestic Partner Benefits (DPB), and the board is looking at trying to work within the space available, since there is no state law that supports DPB.
- Gun resolutions: In regards to the gun resolution, BOR supports existing state law. BOR would like to focus on appropriations that contribute towards salary increases rather than on this issue.

Quality assurance of teaching: Dr. Davis requested that USGFC provide leadership on the best way to evaluate learning. Best practices are mentioned in Complete College Georgia and he felt that much of what is in these reports could contribute to conversations about evaluating quality teaching. USGFC did have a subcommittee discuss this at the meeting, however nothing formal has been stated.

Class enrollments: Single digit enrollments in courses will not automatically lead to shutting down programs. Traditionally there are some essential programs, such as Physics, which have low enrollments. Such programs will not be closed. However an excess of low producing programs may affect approval of future programs if the low producing ones are not justified.

USGFC resolution: The USGFC asks the system office to encourage individual campuses to research the issue of declining summer enrollment and propose solutions with the goal of increasing RPGs, overall summer revenue, and facility utilization by improving access to part-time summer enrollments. We feel strongly that this aligns with CCG (Complete College Georgia). Proposed solutions might include experimenting with fee structures, financial aid and academic advising, and strategic course scheduling.