## Minutes

College Senate

January 21, 2014 12:15 p.m.
Bedsole Conference Room (BL 201)

**Meeting Start Time:** 12:14 p.m.

**Members Present:** Patrick Lameka, Ricardo Pita, Eric Vicente-Flores, Sam Church, Mindy Hovell, Andrew Tumminia, Steve Almquist, Todd Warren, Tim Jenkins, Meg Smith, Colette Windish, Stephanie Girard, Billy Kavula, Lindsey Bosko-Dunbar

**Members Absent:** Emily Fife

**Guests:** John Barter, George Sims

**Primary Business:**

John Barter reported on cabinet meeting and priorities for Spring Hill College:

* Priorities are 1) Student satisfaction and success and the effects on retention; 2) Admissions—how do we cause more high-quality prospective students to be interested in SHC
* Still debating as priorities: Continuing Studies; Institutional Advancement (fundraising, appealing to constituencies)
* We need to more naturally work across functions (reach out, communicate across college)
* We need to be mindful of speed in moving forward on what we value as an institution so we can move on to other things
* Other lines of discussion in cabinet meeting:
	+ We are understaffed in Business and Nursing; need to think about staffing in some of our majors; need more faculty members in robust majors
	+ Also understaffed in other areas (marketing, development)
	+ Faculty/staff salary increases
	+ Cost of living adjustments/merit increases
	+ New majors: Make sure every dollar we are spending counts; work as a team to ensure that capable people (staff) are cast in the right role
* Discussion
	+ Ricardo Pita: What role do you see shared governance playing? Is our role consultative or governance?
	+ John Barter.: To improve the decision-making by our institution, i.e., bringing overarching goals that go back to the institution for shared governance impact leads to improved decision-making. For example, curriculum issues have to do with the faculty—in these areas, governance is strong; in other areas the consultative role might be stronger. This doesn’t mean that you don’t get to participate—you participate as relates to the strength of your arguments.
	+ Colette Windish: Shared governance is a place for different stakeholders to feel that they have a voice
	+ Stephanie Girard: How do we be proactive? Consultative sounds reactive, so how can we be more engaged?
	+ J.B.: The key is to get the organization pushing ideas toward us (not the administration saying, for example, ‘we need to work on admissions,’ but getting to the point where members of the community are pushing these ideas). This goes back to cross-functionality; embracing speed; unlocking ideas
	+ Steve Almquist: Last year we discussed the flow of information. Now, we wait to get an idea from a VP then carry it out with efficiency, but we’re willing to be more proactive.
	+ Steve Almquist: Do we know why students leave?
	+ George Sims: Yes, we have data through exit interviews. Research shows that the best strategy is to focus on why students stay. SHC has 76% retention; other comparable schools have 85% retention; we are talking to other Jesuit schools to see what they do.
	+ John Barter: We have to pick out things that we have money to do; we can’t do them all
	+ Sam Church: We have to look at reallocating resources
	+ Billy Kavula: How is capital campaign going?
	+ Sam Church: We’ve raised 13.8 million since last January; for the fiscal year, we have 4.9 million (ahead of last year)
	+ Stephanie Girard: Have we thought about outsourcing our dormitories?
	+ Sam Church: South tried that and they are having an awful time (students think they’re off campus and so are not abiding by the rules)
	+ John Barter: We have to figure out how to accommodate students for 2015-2016

**Business for next meeting:**

* Figure out our rotations
* Discuss updates/status on the Criteria and Process for New Program Proposals

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 18, 12:15 p.m., BL 103

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:15 p.m.