

Department Chairs

Great Basin College

Friday, September 25, 2015 – 11:00 a.m.

Battle Mountain #3, Elko HSCI #107, Ely #112, Pahrump #122, Winnemucca #108

MEETING NOTES

Call to Order – Roll Call

Members Present: Carrie Bruno Meisner – Science, Jill Chambliss – Battle Mountain, Wendy Charlebois – Social Sciences, Angie de Braga – Continuing Education, Cindy Hylsop – Computer Technologies, Heidi Johnston – Health Science and Human Services, Karen Kimber – Physical Education and Exercise, Veronica Nelson – Ely, John Newman – Math, Russ Orr – Arts and Letters, Tom Reagan – Teacher Education, Rod Sidwell – Career and Technical Education, Glen Tenney – Business, Lisa Frazier – Online Education, Robert Hannu – Interactive Video, Meachell LaSalle-Walsh – ABE/ESL, Eric Walsh – Library, and Ping Wang – Academic Success Center, Pete Bagley – BAIS/Natural Resources, Jonathan Foster – BAIS/Social Sciences, and Bret Murphy - BAS

Members Absent: Lisa Campbell – Winnemucca and Diane Wrightman – Pahrump

Guests: Mark Curtis, David Freistroffer, Laurie Walsh, Mary Doucette, Stephen Theriault, Scott Gavorsky, Janice King, Michael Bail, Kathy Schwandt

Item #1: Dr. Mike McFarlane's Pending Retirement, What to Do?

- a. GBC is still facing a budget crisis and we need to cut between \$300,000 and \$600,000 over the next two years.
- b. Dr. Curtis proposed that Lynn Mahlberg be appointed to the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, redistribute workload, and then create a Dean of Arts and Sciences. The president has no interest, long term, in doing without an individual vice president for academic affairs. The proposal is a short term solution to a financial problem. Hopefully, with the growth agenda, the position will be reinstated in three to five years. The cost savings is approximately \$50,000 a year. Chairs were asked to share the document with their departments and provide suggestions and comments to the president; the plan is not set in stone.
- c. The preference is to promote a qualified internal candidate. The initial steps in the process is to develop a job description, form a search committee, and post the position internally. If the internal search is not successful then a national search will occur. The position could be filled by the end of the year if an internal search is successful.
- d. Participants were asked to broadcast the plan out to their peers and provide serious feedback to the president over the next few weeks. The next step will be to address Faculty Senate.

Item #2: GBC Becoming a State College

- a. The State College topic has been on the minds of people since 1999. The topic is being revived with the vision for growth by adding new bachelor's degrees. President Curtis has been working behind the scenes for at least 18 months. Persistence and logic has paid off and GBC received approval for two new four-year degrees. Some regents have inquired about GBC's vision for the future. The president has met with the chancellor and shared a document describing GBC's next steps. The chancellor provided good advice and offered some ideas to enhance the proposal.

- b. There will be meetings held with all those involved. Certain protocols have to be followed to open doors and not to close them. The intent is to set up growth potential for 20 to 40 years out.
- c. The transition to a state college would cover multiple years. State colleges have a different workload infrastructure, student fees, and operating systems. The change does not require legislative approval if the fee structure doesn't change.
- d. Oppositions to overcome are: 1.) Convincing Nevada State College, 2.) full support from the chancellor, 3.) approval from the regents, and 4.) cost increase for students. The universities need diversity from the rural part of the state and this will allow for more students to feed into their programs. Several possible solutions to deal with fees were described.
- e. We have to move in an expansion way with current resources to be rewarded at a later time. Student credit hours that are generated this fall will fund GBC for the next two years. The funding formula is identical across the board for community colleges, universities, and state colleges. The difference is the number of higher division courses that are offered at the four-year institutions. GBC currently receives multipliers at the one and two levels for most of our work. Over 50% of the universities receive the higher funding in the three and four levels.
- f. As soon as clearance is received from the chancellor, it will then go to the GBC campus and committees will be formed to discuss all the nuances and issues associated with the proposal. Community inclusion will also be important for the plan to be successful. Faculty will be involved in the process. Certain things will have to put into place to preserve our mission, history and roots.

Item #3: Changes to the GBC Foundation

- a. The Foundation brings in a fair amount of money but it is restrictive. The general fund budget could no longer financially sustain three full-time positions. Unfortunately, a reduction in staff occurred. Greg Brorby, a former foundation trustee, was selected as the new foundation director. The foundation director is not considered a tenure-track position.

Item #4: Associate VP of Distance Education

- a. Lisa Frazier was appointed as the Associate Vice President of Distance Education. Ms. Frazier is now on an "A" contract and the appointment provides her with substance within her position. Her job functions did not and will not change.
- b. It was suggested to appoint more resources, namely staff, to the area. Faculty need more help with online education.

Item #5: Shared Governance, Politics, and Open Doors

- a. The president provides a weekly update, has an open door policy, and has increased participation in President's Council. If there is ever a concern, pick the phone up or stop by and talk. There are times when situations arise that have to be done in a certain way and exclusion does occur. There will be criticism for these times and he will handle it accordingly.