

**Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts  
Faculty Meeting  
Sheldon Museum of Art  
Friday, March 31, 2017**

3:30 – 4:30 pm

O'Connor made opening remarks, thanking the faculty for their work on behalf of our students, and announced leadership changes in the College. O'Connor recognized Harris Smith as Director of the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film, Andrew Park as the new Artistic Director of the Nebraska Repertory Theatre, and Megan Elliott as founding Director of the Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. O'Connor also announced that in July the College will welcome Sergio Ruiz as the new Director of the Glenn Korff School of Music, and thanked Peter Lefferts for his leadership as Interim Director.

**Approval of Minutes from November 11, 2016.**

Marks noted one correction. (Minutes were approved from November 13, 2015, not November 11, 2016. Carolyn Barber made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Ian Borden seconded. Rachel Danay will also attach an attendance list to the minutes from November 11, 2016.

**College Milestones**

O'Connor announced that Paul Steger, who served as Director of the Johnny Carson School and whose association with the College dates back to 1990 will be leaving the faculty to become the new director of the School for Performing Arts at Virginia Tech. O'Connor thanked Steger for his service to the College and wished him well.

O'Connor announced that Janice Stauffer, a valued faculty member in costume design since 1979 and whose legacy has been unsurpassed will be retiring after 38 years of service.

**Building Projects**

O'Connor reported that renovations are under way in the Woods Art Building with a new elevator and stairwell installed, allowing students with mobility issues to take classes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and lower level. The College has also done minor renovations to include new seating and the stage floor in Kimball Recital Hall. O'Connor reported that the estimate for renovations to the Westbrook Music Building was \$100 million dollars, more than the university thinks it can afford, and the state legislature does not allocate money to build new buildings. The university expects the \$100 million cost to be reduced to \$65 million, and this is beyond our current donor base. O'Connor remarked that the design process is starting immediately on putting the Dance program and Digital Arts Initiative facilities into the Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts in the former Nebraska Bookstore building. O'Connor remarked that the Dance department is losing their space in Mabel Lee Hall and the College is envisioning our IT offices in the Carson Center, as well as some multimedia computer labs for graphic design, music technology and to reduce the new amount of space needed in new music and art facilities.

**Update on State Budget**

O'Connor remarked that what we know right now is only that the State budget came up short by 4%, state agencies are being asked to look at what funds are available to give back, and the amount specifically for our College is unknown. The academic year that we are currently in is

the second year of the biennium. O'Connor continued that next (fiscal) year, in the new budget for the next 2 years; the University will be expected to make permanent budget cuts. O'Connor remarked that the College is trying to conserve and save money where we can and will work collaboratively with unit directors, and we cannot let this stop our forward momentum. We will do everything we can to protect the integrity of our academic programs

### **Update on University Strategic Plan and Budget Modeling**

O'Connor remarked that Chancellor Green has convened a series of task forces and charged them with creating a series of principles defining what makes the University of Nebraska – Lincoln the standard as the flagship University of Nebraska. Principles defined are: Increasing enrollments, improvement and increase of retention rates, and a more broadly based academic distinction. O'Connor encouraged the faculty to reflect on those principles and our gains in majors, noting that our graduate enrollments are slightly down but that is not a cause for alarm. O'Connor noted that credit hours are generally up by about 8%.

### **Looking ahead**

O'Connor challenged faculty members to teach freshmen to reflect that of every 10 students in a classroom, three will not be there the next year. Statistics show that 1/3 of college freshmen will not go on to sophomore year, and less than half will graduate from our College. Some will go on to graduate from other colleges, but half will not graduate at all. O'Connor reminded faculty that these numbers will become increasingly important, and asked faculty to use MyPlan to help identify and predict students who are missing classes who may be at risk of dropping out or not completing coursework.

### **Academic Affairs – Christopher Marks**

Marks advised the importance of applying for external grants through NU Grant.

Jacqueline Mattingly presented information about using MyPlan to improve student retention and help them stay on track to graduate.

Mattingly advised faculty members to access MyPlan through MyRed with Canvas or Blackboard credentials and cookies must be enabled. Mattingly commented that she uses MyPlan both as an instructor and as an Advisor.

Mattingly advised faculty members to use MyPlan to communicate with students, flag those who are not attending classes and find the phone number or email address that a student has on file. Courses that the faculty member is instructing will show for each student. Students can be flagged for attendance, missing assignments or for a low test score, prompting a message to both the student and their advisor. When three flags are received on a student, a message goes out to encourage student to reach out to First year Experience coordinators. Half of students that we currently have make contact. When three flags come from three different classes, an instructor can make a referral to first year experience, to recommend workshops to the student.

Mattingly also encouraged faculty to use the Scheduling Wizard, which allows setup of appointments with current students. This tool sends a daily reminder of scheduled appointments with students. For students doing dual matriculations, instructors can leave notes for each other, can see if students have appointments with other advisors. The system also sends student notifications to remind of appointments. Appointments can be rescheduled or declined, and scheduling parameters can be set according to office hours.

### **Other Business**

Duerfeldt Schutte commented that Student Emergency Fund program has been successful in assisting 22 students, Of those, all but one are still in the programs or have graduated. Duerfeldt Schutte reminded faculty that they can nominate students to receive emergency help in the form of a check from the NU Foundation, and that the check is given to the faculty member as the nominator to be given to the student. The program helps to bridge the gaps for textbooks or supplies, emergency or health related expenses, unexpected breakage of computers or equipment, and Duerfeldt Schutte also checks if any scholarship money is available to the student.

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 pm.