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Educational Leadership Council

August 23, 2021
President's Suite, Kennedy Union
10:30am-12:00noon

Present: Joanna Abdallah, Maureen Anderson, Philip Appiah-Kubi, Paul H. Benson,

Carlos Bernal, Jada Brown, Ali Carr-Chellman, Trevor Collier, Jennifer Dalton,

Lee Dixon, Sam Dorf, Jim Farrelly, Sharon Gratto, Andrew Horner, Fr. Joseph Kozar, SM, Carissa Krane, Margie Pinnell, Eric F. Spina, Andy Strauss, Kathy Webb, Sarah Webber,

Tom Weckesser

Absent: Jason Pierce

Dean Kathy Webb began the meeting with a prayer and reflection.

As the first in-person meeting and with many new members to the ELC, time was given for brief introductions for the ELC members.

1. Path Forward updates

Andy Horner gave a high level overview of the University's current vaccination rates, protocols for 2021-22 AY, and outlined the processes for those who may become ill.

Paul Benson underscored several points related to the changing vaccination rate, expectations for students regarding course modality and for faculty who become ill, privacy matters related to vaccination status, and where to send COVID-related questions throughout the semester.

2. Update on FY22 budget planning; planning for future financial sustainability

Eric provided the context for this topic in two parts: a) continuing the conversation regarding the FY22 budget and its evolving state at this time, and b) re-engaging the campus conversation that began prior in Fall Term 2019 around long-term financial sustainability pressures in higher education, especially for private universities in the Midwest.

Andy shared a PowerPoint presentation that was recently shared with President's Council, the UD All-Leadership group, and the Board of Trustees Executive Committee. The upcoming faculty and staff meetings will provide an additional venue for presenting this information.

Andy and Paul reviewed where the University had been one year ago and summarized the financial picture as challenges to the University's operations continued despite record enrollments and higher education relief funds (HEERF) from the federal and state levels. The discussion focused on how best to address the University's core mission and resilience in the face of future challenges.

The University's generally strong position allows the needed time for making strategic decisions to implement over the next 3-4 years for the University's long-term financial health, sustainability, and mission. Transparent consultation will continue to occur with the ELC throughout this process.

With no additional discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:59am.