

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5.C

DATE: January 24, 2013

SUBJECT: System Conference on Academic Quality

At the end of last year, a group consisting of two people from each campus began meeting to coordinate a system-wide conference on Academic Quality. The working group is in the early stages of planning the conference, which will be held May 8 & 9, 2013. The tentative location, pending availability, will be Cedar Shores in Chamberlain. Peter Ewell, a Vice President with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, has been asked to speak at the conference. Ewell is the author of *Making the Grade - How Boards Can Ensure Academic Quality* and several other works on assessment, quality and rigor.

After the working group's first conference call in mid-November, the members from each campus were asked to gather feedback from faculty regarding topics and themes for the conference. By including faculty in this process, the thought is that there will be more interest in participating in the conference. The feedback was presented during the group's most recent conference call, and included a wide range of topics that would be suitable for discussion at the conference. Group members are currently reviewing these topics with faculty at their own campuses, and a decision regarding the final themes and topics for the conference will be made by the end of January.

Members of AAC were included in the e-mail that listed the topics. The Council should be prepared to offer thoughts or recommendations to guide the planning process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information.