

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5.F

DATE: April 3, 2013

SUBJECT: System Conference on Academic Quality – Update

The planning group for the System Conference on Academic Quality has been continuing the process of coordinating the conference that is set for May 8–9, 2013. One of the major developments in the planning process is the change in location to the campus of SDSU, due to a scheduling conflict at Cedar Shore in Chamberlain.

The main goal of the conference is to engage attendees in a series of presentations, panel discussions, and conversations devoted to understanding—and to improving—teaching and learning on our campuses. The planning group determined the central themes for the conference, which include the following:

- Academic quality in higher education: how is it defined and measured? How might we promote, institute, and sustain it?
- Student preparation, engagement, and expectations: how do they affect curricular and instructional quality?
- Faculty expectations regarding student performance, learning, and institutional support for teaching: how do they affect curricular and instructional quality?
- Assessment: what should we measure? And how best can we measure it?
- Technology: how does it promote or compromise academic quality—in face-to-face or online instruction?
- Enrollment and retention: how do we keep college accessible and support student success while maintaining rigor and ensuring academic quality?

At the end of February, a Call for Proposals was sent out to AAC and the planning group, with the expectation being that they would distribute this throughout their campuses. Submissions for presentations are due April 6, and we plan to announce the proposals that have been accepted a week later. A draft agenda has been circulated within the planning group, and will be finalized and distributed to the campuses after submissions have been accepted.

(Continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information.

In addition to the panels and presentations, each campus will have the opportunity to meet separately with Dr. Peter Ewell, our keynote speaker, and discuss an issue regarding quality they believe is of importance to their individual campus. While the discussions with Dr. Ewell will be shaped by the conference, each campus will be asked to frame this topic in advance of the conference. The planning committee will be meeting with Dr. Ewell later this week so more information will be available at the meeting.

We expect that the provosts will be actively involved within their campus to select the participants. It is expected that each campus will send about 12 individuals and two-thirds of these should be faculty. In addition, each of you should be working with others on campus to identify the topic to discuss with Dr. Ewell.

As with the last conference that focused on retention, the Board Office will cover the expenses of Dr. Ewell as well as of the meals provided. Each campus is expected to cover transportation and lodging costs of participants.

Members of the Council should be prepared to discuss.