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President, Faculty Senate
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Curricular response to tightening financial times

The storm clouds are closer and larger than feared. The Provost believes we will receive word of a 15% cut this month. He believes there may be further cuts next spring and even next year.

The Provost re-affirms his commitment to protect the jobs of all tenured and tenure track faculty. He hopes that we will be able to maintain contractual agreements with restricted faculty past 08-09, especially with long-term restricted faculty, as they are a core resource of our university. (Note, we surely will respect our 08-09 contracts through their termination in May 09).

Other conditions:

- Can not afford anticipated growth, 10 faculty/year.
- Current search – 29 positions. Will wait to hear what Richmond decides. CNU then has flexibility in what we pursue.
- The President and Provost are committed to the 3-college model. However, this year, we may pause 2 Dean search. President and Provost say we cannot expand administration while faculty is facing cuts.

Provost's academic commitments

The provost is committed to

- Assuring our students
 - Quality, broad liberal arts education

The provost is committed to

- Protecting the jobs of all full time, permanent faculty
- Honoring the promised move to a 4-3 load for tenured faculty in 2010
- Moving to a 3/3 load, as befits a vibrant liberal arts institution

while

- Protecting faculty from course overloads
- Fostering a teacher/scholar model of faculty life including
 - ♣ teaching in one's specialty
 - ♣ regular sabbaticals for professional development

Provost asks:

- Look at the curriculum with an eye to
 - Greater efficiency
 - Teacher/scholar model
- Identify areas of the curriculum we can fine tune, modify or eliminate.
- Forward recommendation to BAC.

To this end, the Provost asks for formation of a Curriculum Task Force to achieve these aims.

SEC asks for feedback from Senate. If Senate affirms, we ask Senate to charge SEC with naming this committee.

Composition: Broad university constituency:

- Members of former LLC
- Rep from UCC
- Department Chairs
- Reps from all major divisions
- Vice Provost Schwarze
- Patti Paten (formerly Cavender)
- Carol Safko

Mission:

- a) Collect data
 - a. Provost will submit a list of curricular efficiencies to consider
 - i. (example) Math requirement: 3 credit hours instead of 6?
 - ii. (example) Look at tracks w/in departments. Can not afford to have a track taught by only a single faculty member. Courses must be taught by multiple faculty (to get us to 4/3; 3/3 loads with sabbaticals regularly). Could that current track be temporarily reduced to several courses?
 - b. Institutional Research, Registrar, Dean, Departments
- b) Make recommendations for curricular efficiencies in line with CNU commitments and mission.

Timeframe:

- a) SEC forms Committee: By October 10th (a week from today)
- b) Committee constitution: by October 17th
- c) Research: October, November, December
- d) Recommendation to Provost, BAC: December, January
- e) Implement curricular change Winter Semester: Follow "Approved Procedures for Undergraduate Curricular Changes" (p. 44, Handbook)
- f) Submit catalog changes April/May/June
- g) Catalogue changes *effective Fall 2009*.

