

Pollard

Report: CNU Board of Visitors, Academic Affairs Subcommittee (9/24/10, 10am)

5 of 7 members of the subcommittee were present, along with Provost Padilla.

Provost Padilla began the meeting speaking about the academic side of the house, in particular how the Colleges, Institutional Research, budgets and grants are structured to support faculty work. He then went on to speak about where students are congregating, vis-à-vis majors and departments. The top four are: Biology, Psychology, the Business degree, Communication Studies.

Veasey Wilson asked about the 5 year trend, and the Provost pointed to continued increases in Biology, Psychology and Comm Studies majors. He then pointed to the problem of following students trends: shifting faculty positions to serve the swells and dips of students' choice of majors. The university does not want to lose its Liberal Arts focus or destabilize department faculty populations, particularly in the Arts and Humanities, to follow variable trends.

Bill Thomas noted that the Obama administration is pledging significant government funding (\$50 million) for the sciences and wondered if CNU would be in a position to take advantage of it.

The Provost spoke to the need of growing Biology and Comm Studies slowly. Biology needs to the new building up and operating. Both need to be grown slowly because of the difficulty of bringing on tenure-track faculty as well as the curricular management issues that come with a larger faculty. Currently, NBS has 72 FTE faculty. The plan is to add 2 faculty/year per program until a total of 30 more faculty are added. The Provost raised the question of whether CNU wants to cap the number of students in the Biology program.

Another board member I did not catch her name), asked if the university was thinking of starting an MBA program. The Provost answered in the negative, saying that CNU limits the number of its graduate programs. Moreover, CNU aims not to have elite graduate programs, but be an elite liberal arts school.

Veasey Wilson asked how the university attracts faculty of color. The Provost spoke about the university's lists (Top National, Top Liberals Arts), noting that there are no historically black schools on them. Both Veasey Wilson and Bill Thomas noted the problem with the lists, asserting that CNU needs to adopt deliberate measures to bring in faculty of color. Bill Thomas said that HBCUs produce 40% of doctoral candidates in graduate programs and that CNU needs to begin to identify HBCUs. Conversation returned to the \$50 million in research money for the sciences and how CNU can tap into it. Bill Thomas claimed that focusing on diversity is a way of attracting higher quality faculty, thus attracting research monies. Vicky Freeman said that CNU needed to move carefully when hiring for diversity. The Provost said that he has been mandated by President Tribble to use the current lists for hiring, but that if he were told to

implement different lists and different strategies he would. In other words, he told them to talk with President Trible. I would note that the Provost spoke sympathetically about the need to hire a diverse faculty, particular in as diverse a city as Newport News.

Finally, one more projection: the Faculty Student ratio will be 16:1 in four years.