BOG Metrics Impact UWF: Town Hall

The Florida Board of Governors has developed a performance based system that rates universities on 10 metrics, with a possible total of 50 points. As expected, the BOG made this proposal to the Florida Legislature and requested $50 million in new funds, but unexpectedly, they also proposed a $50 million match from the base budgets of the state universities. Also unexpectedly, they proposed there will be financial winners and losers. Only universities earning 26 points or higher will be eligible for new funds, if they are not in the bottom three in total score. Universities with fewer than 26 points stand to permanently suffer a 1% cut of their base budget in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and 3% in 2015-2016.

The BOG used data from previous years to calculate the scores for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. As the current model is presented, UWF scored 21 points out of a possible 50. The proposed metrics definitely favor large research institutions and penalize smaller, regional, comprehensive universities. The UWF leadership team has developed strategies to pursue appropriate modifications to the proposal to ensure the metrics are more favorable to regional universities. We have also developed action plans that include immediate, medium and long-range tactics for improving our scores at UWF. These plans are being discussed and implemented now in each division.

The ten metrics, definitions, and scores are listed on the Government Relations Website at: http://uwf.edu/govrelations.

Please take time to review these documents and then attend the Presidential Townhall on March 4, 2014 in the Commons Auditorium at 11:00am, where I will the details of this situation and present our strategies and priorities. Please don't miss it.
Academic Reorganization in Progress

Provost Saunders accepted the recommendations for academic reorganization. This was a hallmark suggestion stemming from Academic Visioning, as our last reorganization of Academic Affairs was accomplished in 1999. The specific reorganization plan comes from an open and transparent process conducted in the Fall of 2013. The plan was vetted by the Provost Council and representatives from Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, the United Faculty of Florida, and the UWF Board of Trustees. This group voted unanimously to adopt the recommendations.

The recommendation is a restructuring of our current colleges into five colleges: College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities; College of Business; College of Education and Professional Studies; College of Health; and College of Sciences and Engineering.

For the short term, the College of Health will be a part of the College of Science

The Provost is working now to appoint an implementation team to oversee the restructuring process. The plan can be found at: http://uwf.edu/academic/reorg

Football Coach Announced

UWF has hired Pete Shinnick as our first Head Football Coach. Coach Shinnick will join the UWF family this spring and will begin to implement our plan to play football in Fall 2016. Coach Shinnick joins us from University of North Carolina, Pembroke where he rebuilt their Division II football program after being dormant for 50 years. He raised the funds to refurbish a football stadium, and took his team to NCAA Division II playoffs, as the youngest program ever (three years) to advance to the playoffs.

In his seven years coaching at UNCP, Shinnick finished with a record of 50-24 (.676 winning percentage). The second year team in 2008 finished as the NCAA Division II statistical national champion in scoring defense (11.2 points allowed per game), and they ranked sixth in the same category the following year (15.1). He led the Braves back to their second

BEI Update

Business Enterprise, Inc., is moving forward on development of East Campus Argonaut Village and University Park in the center of campus. East Campus development will begin this spring and will include four restaurant and/or service shops. The facilities are being constructed by Chartwells at no cost to UWF, and will generate new revenue from ground lease payments and commission on sales. Anticipated opening of the restaurants/shops is December 2014.

Business Enterprise, Inc., has partnered with Balfour Beatty, the fourth largest construction company in the world, to build University Park. We expect to know what will be included in Phase 1 of University Park later this month. Construction preparation will begin in the summer. This development is a public/private partnership, that will be the first of its kind on our campus. it will not rely on the usual state PECO funds to build the facilities. For up to date information visit the BEI website at: http://uwf.edu/bei.
NCAA tournament in 2013, as the team earned a first round bye into the round of 16. The 2013 team was also ranked as high as No. 8 in the American Football Coaches Association national poll.

Coach Shinnick also enjoyed a winning record as Head Coach at Azusa Pacific in Azusa, California for seven years, prior to joining UNCP. He also served in Assistant Coaching positions at Richmond, Arkansas, Clemson, Oregon State, Northern Michigan, St. Cloud State, and Humboldt State.

Please join me in welcoming Coach Pete Shinnick to the UWF Family.