

The Academic Subcommittee of the University Cost Containment Committee met on Wednesday December 14, 2011. Members in attendance were Chair Susan Hanrahan, Pradeep Mishra, Tammy Fowler, Gina Hogue, Kim Pittcock, and Christy Valentine.

The group covered the charge of the committee and reviewed a draft of discussion points compiled by Susan Hanrahan (see attached). They discussed how to quantify the efforts of cost containment relative to the charge of the committee.

The group agreed we cannot afford to lose any additional resources if we intend to maintain our level of success/achievement. Often, reallocation could be a better choice than cutting resources altogether. We want to continue to emphasize maintaining and ensuring quality in light of containment.

We also need to strive for cost efficiencies, particularly in staff and staff resources. Staff resources do not follow the work and inefficiencies exist. For example, departmental administrative assistants (AA) could be cross-trained to specialize in performing specific functions for the entire college rather than just their own department. This would prevent the AA from relearning a task they are seldom asked to perform and would allow them to become "experts" in certain functions. We have personnel on this campus who are trained to analyze processes and provide recommendations for increased efficiency. We should use their expertise to benefit this project.

The group discussed ways to address faculty work load including concurrent enrollment. In addition, as we increase our admissions standards, the need for remedial courses will diminish. This could also help to reduce faculty work load.

Opportunities exist to focus on the mission of the university while creating innovative ways to reach those goals. Gina Hogue discussed an iPad initiative in her college. They are currently weighing the benefit of using technology against the real time cost of faculty travel. Tammy Fowler asked about online course generation outside of Academic Partnerships. We are curious to know if this presents an opportunity for revenue generation. (The faculty member develops a class and markets it to other campuses for a fee.)

Next steps:

Gina Hogue will work on a pilot program for technology enhanced student internships.

Tammy Fowler will try to find a study concerning revenue generation for online coursework.

Kim Pittcock will look at a cost analysis of concurrent enrollment.

Susan Hanrahan will add notes to the Academic Cost Containment document and resubmit.