The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Provost Announcements  Doug indicated that he has been working on the script for Convocation which he will share. He reminded deans to be brief in their introductions of new faculty and those who have attained promotion and tenure. We want to make sure that we provide appropriate recognition but need to move through the program somewhat quickly.

Doug said that with the absence of a director for University Outreach, he has been meeting with staff to understand what they do and how it aligns with academia. He indicated that they are doing good work but wants to assess how effective their initiatives are.

Ongoing Planning and Budget Issues  Doug indicated that he wanted to discuss our understanding of some of the revenue implications of moving forward with the Strategic Plan implementation, space, and what we need to invest and how we are going to do that. He explained that it seems like we are all going about things in different ways and not with the same expectations. He wants the Council to define space as academic leaders.

Greg indicated that he would like to tweak the budget process and asked for input in doing so. He said that a possibility would be of maybe getting information sooner so that preliminary decisions can be made earlier. A suggestion was made to possibly announce the budget process in November.

Greg said that he thought that it was helpful when he met with faculty groups and explained the Budget Model. He felt that they got a better understanding of how it works and the goals for their particular unit. Doug mentioned that in terms of budget, we need to strive to be more transparent, more strategic, and align goals across units so that as leaders, we set and drive the academic priorities.

Greg indicated that sometimes acquiring additional space becomes an issue because then there is a need for finding additional revenue streams to accommodate the cost of the additional space. Also, we need to look at operational expenses and get a hold of those costs. Finally, cost containment is extremely important and is an interest to the Regents. He knows that we practice that all the time, but we need to document our stories of how we are doing that.

Greg said that as deans we need to understand and plan for future programs and what is needed to be successful but there also has to be balance.
Deans inquired how space decisions are made. Greg responded by saying that that is a very sensitive topic. We have to know the specific need(s) for space requests and pull everyone together.

Vahid provided an overview of past practices for allocating space several years ago. He said that the VC for Budget and Finance and the Provost co-chaired a committee made up of representatives from all units and other departments. He indicated initially the committee was successful. An example of a successful space reallocation was the process used when the space that used to be occupied by WFUM on the fourth floor of WSW became available. The Interim Provost issued an RFP to the deans seeking space requests based on certain guiding principles. Once all of the requests were submitted, they were given to a consultant who assessed the requests and provided the Committee with its recommendations. Other factors that have been used for space allocation have been giving priority to those units that may have been disbursed in several locations and/or those that had submitted a request for a number of years.

**ACTION:** Doug asked Vahid to provide a copy to the deans of the guiding principles that were used when the committee was active. He wants Council members to review the guidelines prior to the next meeting and be prepared to provide input.

The Deans discussed the importance of a building that is identified by the name of a college/school, i.e. the School of Management/Riverfront Center. They agreed that it has impact by emphasizing a “signature,” an identifier, a brand, it is an attracter for those visiting, etc.

Greg added that we have to look at a number of factors besides cost per square footage, for example, how effective will it be, does it drive retention, and/or where we get the “biggest bang for the buck.” He also indicated that in trying to get other revenues, one of the biggest complaints that Development Officers have is that academia does not give them lists of specific needs for each unit.

Doug said that we will be discussing cost containment in future meetings in terms of efficiencies, i.e. what do faculty need to be productive, what do we really need to be successful, can we share resources based on different cycles, etc.

**ACTION:** Doug would like each Council member to bring two examples of cost containment to share at the next meeting that they have either done and/or are planning to do. Your overviews should provide the details leading up to the decision and what outcome was either incurred and/or is anticipated.

One of the deans expressed a need for possibly consultative data providing them with what future discipline demands may be, especially at the undergraduate level. They would like to receive some kind of assessment information.

Doug thanked Greg for his participation in the meeting and said that our year-long conversation will be discussion of some sort regarding strategic plan implementation, guiding principles for space, and cost containment. Discussion ensued.

One topic that was discussed was the need for a more interdisciplinary curriculum. Some examples that were shared were efforts between foreign languages versus business and Spanish versus health professions. They noted that employers keep complaining about graduates lacking critical thinking, writing, and language skills. Doug said that our job is to fill those gaps and identify competency that maps to programs.

**Updates** Bob announced that Sapna Thwaite has been appointed as the Associate Dean for SEHS. Her role will include management of the LEO lecturers, international affairs in the School, and accreditation.
Susan announced that Chris Pearson will be serving as Interim Associate Dean for the College and he will primarily be handling the Murchie Science Building disciplines because that is his expertise. She also reported that additional advising workshops will be held again in CAS in both Fall 2015 and Winter 2016 semesters. Professional staff and faculty from all units are invited, as there have been staff attendees from SEHS and requests from SHPS faculty. One of the major advantages of the workshops is that they provide consistency in student advising.

Scott indicated that a breakfast was held this morning with all employers of their interns. He reported that they are pleased with the intern program and feels that it is successful based on the number of student interns who are eventually hired permanently.

Chris suggested that maybe it is time to reconsider leadership in General Education. She explained how it is piece-mealed throughout campus and thinks that it might be more effective under one leadership area/role, but admits that it would take a lot to sort out.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

~~ Next Meeting Reminder ~~

Wednesday, August 26
3:30 to 5:00 p.m. – Shiawassee Room

This is a deviation from the normal meeting day/time.