Chairs Discussion Forum
Evaluation Results November 2, 2005

Future Workshop Topic	Number or Responses of Interest in the Topic
The qualities of a good leader	2
Departmental work-life issues	3
Recruiting for excellence	3
Mentoring emerging leaders	2
Department climate	2
Communication	6
Conflict resolution	4
Mentoring faculty through their careers	3
Development & your department	3
Effective planning processes for academic departments	1
Promotion & tenure: Issues & opportunities	2
Enhancing program quality	3
Budget management	8

Other Ideas

- Identify common problems with either potential solutions or problem statement to administration.
- Demand representation as users on PeopleSoft teams.
- Presentation on PeopleSoft Scripts.
- Chairs' manual, including PeopleSoft tricks and a calendar.
- Space Issues.
- PeopleSoft tips.
- Endemic problems and inefficiencies at URI's administration that present chair's from efficiently doing their jobs.
- How to play the URI game "where's the paperwork?"
- A session with some University Administrators re: 'common problems and potential resolutions' (maybe after this group meets a couple more times).
- How can the chairs communicate to the Administration. That the university needs a strategic vision and plan that is actually followed?

How valuable was this experience today? What did you appreciate the most?

- It was ok. It's going to depend on what comes out of this.
- Quite valuable, enjoyed hearing that everyone else has similar problems and appreciated that candor.
- Hearing the range of types of problems that Dept. chairs deal with.
- Yes- Finding out other people's perspectives.
- Appreciated being able to talk and see common concerns.
- Maybe.
- Of course it's valuable to share experiences and identify common frustrations—a necessary place to start.
- Somewhat. Insight into orderly shared problems.
- Useful.
- Confirming same or similar problems, e.g. lack of support human resources, etc.
- Very good, opportunity to hear from other chairs and realize that we share a lot of the same problems.
- Yes. Opportunities to meet and hear from other chairs.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Have a bit more defined agenda. Choose a few things to focus on.
- If something is actually changed for the good.
- Some issues are most relevant for subgroups of chairs (e.g. those with significant grant funding in their departments).
- More focus on individual problems.
- Provide sufficient support, e.g. human resources including qualified technical staff for research in addition to teaching.
- Maintenance of existing facilities in addition to adding new buildings.
- Small group discussions within large group.
- Develop workshops for new chairs that occur before chair starts job. Develop chair's manual.

Would you like to see future similar opportunities to come together?

- Yes.
- Yes, with focused task-aimed agendas we could opt into or not.
- Maybe.
- Meeting on specific issues.
- Yes, with a specific issue focus problem solving vs. general discussion.

How would you like it to be structured? (Some ideas: lunch or breakfast topical discussion, informal gathering with no formal topic, half-day seminar, etc.)

- Formal topic.
- Pitch a problem, discuss it; maybe suggest and approach. Tell/get the responsible parties to solve it or at least ameliorate the problem.
- Work on solutions to problems.
- No-I don't need a social gathering. Maybe 1/year or 1/ semester workshop to train new chairs or a manual for chairs.
- Lunch or informal.
- Lunch topical discussion works well as formal.
- 1.5 time block is good.
- Lunch, informal gathering, half-day seminar not breakfast.
- Informal gathering-maybe varied times so different people could attend.
- Lunch or breakfast topical discussion.
- Food helps- coffee earlier.