

Faculty #1 Meeting Notes

October 9, 2014: 8 am

Number of Attendees: 7

Question 1: In being a faculty member, what is good about being here at CSUSB?

- Support for teaching is quite extensive and substantial. Teaching Resource Center provides a lot of resources/information about teaching. Blackboard provides training and assistance and is helpful.
- Administration has been supportive and they're comfortable enough with the Provost to ask questions and he is approachable, which is important. There's a closeness that was felt when coming here.
- This is first exposure to teaching. Impressed with technology and connectivity to students and enjoy the communication with them via Blackboard.
- Impressed by our students and the composition of our student body is one never seen before. Public institution is quite a transition and see engagement and enthusiasm here.
- There are systems in place that provide support and it is appreciated.

Question 2: Why did you take a faculty position here?

- It was the only tenure track position offered. The attendee wasn't expecting to like the university as much as they do and the workplace environment has been impressive.
- Campus is close to home. Additionally, the disparities in San Bernardino and the Inland Empire allow them to continue their research while here, which is critical.
- Wanted to be in California to do their research. A lot of bilingual learners in the area, which makes it a very exciting place to be. The department they were hired into aligned with their personal mission.
- The university is engaged in the communities in the area, providing resources and support.
- Connection to community is important. Campus is an environment where they don't eat their young and it is tuned into work-life balance and allows for the continuation of their research agenda.
- Had another offer from a different university, but chose CSUSB after considering salary, work-life balance, affordability of homes, and where research could be continued.

Question 3: If you were asked by a friend who was thinking of taking a position here, what would you say the cautions would be?

- There are a lot of opportunities to support their research through external grants, but it is structured as a balance between teaching and research. If faculty wants to solely do research, it would be a struggle for them.

- Do not see much inter-collaborative research with different departments, which is important to have.
- Concern about San Bernardino's stability - economically, financially and politically. It will be bad for the university if it can't be resolved.
- Culture doesn't support being a selfish scholar and such scholars wouldn't be happy here; the environment is one of being engaged and giving back rather than just making a name for yourself.
- Faculty have a lot of responsibilities put on them and find themselves doing a lot of committee work in addition to teaching and research, so it is hard to juggle.

Question 4: What do you think your students need that they don't get here?

- We don't have enough faculty. Students often don't feel connected to San Bernardino and the program they're in. There are no full-time faculty that are core in the program so the students aren't getting continuity when we have only part-time and adjunct lecturers.
- Some departments have about the same number tenure-track and adjunct faculty so most classes are taught by adjuncts. There is concern about the consistency and classes taught differently depending upon who's teaching the class and what they feel the course should look like. Consistency is a concern in students' education and training environment.
- Parking is an issue and there is a lack of connectivity because we're a commuter school. Students go to school and go home, but not much else.
- It isn't easy to get to campus. We have a new train, but it isn't easy.
- It is hard to get into campus via one road.
- There are signs that the university is expanding, but how far can you expand when these issues are there? We can go from a commuter school to a residency school. Housing is more expensive on campus than in town and housing doesn't feel connected.
- Traffic isn't quite as bad as was expected.
- Suggested having university-sponsored faculty housing to allow faculty to become familiar with the area prior to settling down.
- Faculty need resources from their departments to help navigate places to live, daycare options, etc. One attendee's dean provided that information and it was incredibly helpful.

Question 5: What do you think the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee needs to hear?

- Assuming non-tenured faculty have to publish and carry a high teaching load, it isn't easy to juggle all this. Faculty really need time to do their research and an option would be to buy-out a course. There should be more great opportunities to competitively

apply for buy-out funds or allow for the time and tools necessary to continue their scholarly works.