Cabinet Meeting
February 7, 2017

Members present: Jo Ann Rooney, Margaret Callahan, Pam Costas, Lorraine Fitzgerald, Phil Hale, Kana Henning, Tom Kelly, Wayne Magdziarz, Susan Malisch, Rob Munson, Jane Neufeld, Jamie Orsini, John Pelissero, Kelly Shannon, and Winifred Williams

Absent: Fr. Jim Prehn, S.J.

1. Jo Ann Rooney opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Rob Munson offered a prayer.

2. The minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Winifred Williams gave an update on the mandatory online Harassment Training which began on January 10th. The overall training completion rate so far is 89% and Winifred and her staff will work with managers to ensure full compliance with this important training.

4. Susan Malisch gave an update on a mock phishing exercise and detailed ways that administrators and department heads can work with faculty and staff for continual training in order to mitigate the risks of phishing attempts on our network.

5. Wayne Magdziarz and Jamie Orsini distributed a vendor list to the Cabinet and asked for members to review the list by February 21 to help Advancement identify vendors that could be solicited to help support Founders Dinner in June. Letters will be sent to vendors in mid March and Dixie Ost, the interim director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, is the point person on this effort.

6. Tom Kelly presented a proposal from Athletics regarding the desire of junior and senior student-athletes in Men’s Basketball, Women’s Basketball, and Men’s Volleyball (so called “Headcount” sports where the scholarship includes Room and Board) to have the option of living off-campus. There are under 20 students who would be eligible to take advantage of this housing opportunity next year and likely in any given year. After a lengthy discussion about student-athlete development, athletic team recruiting/success, and academic and community standard outcomes and financial concerns, the Cabinet agreed to allow a two-year trial “exception program” - meaning all headcount student athletes would live in University Residence Halls unless a special exception was sought and granted. During the two-year pilot program, any student athlete granted an exception must use Lakeside Management Properties as their “off-campus” housing. The presumption is that this pilot program would end after two years, unless a review of the “exceptions” granted show no adverse effect on academic performance, community relations, participation in the campus community and athletic program success. Both the review of the exception program and implementation of any exceptions should involve Academic Affairs, Student Development and Athletics. Tom Kelly will work with Steve Watson, Athletic Director, on developing this kind of “exception” program. All existing financial aid policies and protocols and NCAA rules will be incorporated into the two-year pilot program.
7. John Pelissero gave an update on the DREAMER Committee report which was submitted to Dr. Rooney in December and which was reviewed as a recent Council of Deans meeting. The Cabinet discussed the importance of ongoing communications with the university community to reinforce our commitment to DACA students and our intention to advocate for these students to the full extent of the law. A formal response to the Committee will be drafted and co-signed by Dr. Rooney, Dr. Pelissero and Dr. Callahan within the next few days.

8. Phil Hale gave a federal relations update and detailed the meetings that he and Dr. Rooney had in Washington, D.C. last month. They met with congressional leadership on both sides of the aisle and discussed a number of issues, including the travel ban executive order and anticipated future orders as well as Senator Durbin’s proposed Bridge Act and reauthorization of the Higher Education Act this spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.