The Fifield Business Hub was discussed and a summary of yesterday’s meeting with the 3 department chairs, Joe Joyce, Mary Ann Morgan, and Kim Browne was given by Rebecca and Steve. Mary Ann presented a draft of what the hub would look like, and included Student Services, Fiscal, HR, and Departmental Support. The argument was made that a phase-in period was a good idea, starting with fiscal (including post-, but not pre-award) and HR, then including other services as needed. Mary Ann and Kim seemed open to the idea; however, it was unclear where Joe actually stood on that.

Joe did emphasize that pre-award would stay in the departments.

Each service will have a team leader. Joe discussed the idea of having Donna Dyer - as part of her part-time duties to HS - initiate the transition of fiscal and HR to a hub. Steve argued that since we only have Donna ½ time, this would seriously hurt HS. Rose suggested some of her staff could help HS until such time as the hub was operative. After the meeting, Steve then suggested to the chairs that instead of Donna heading up the transition, the team leaders (fiscal and HR) do that, as they will be much more vested in initiating a successful hub and it frees up Donna’s time so she is not overwhelmed with even more duties. This idea will be presented to Joe, Mary Ann, and Kim at the meeting they will have next Monday with Fifield staff.

The location of the hub was discussed. Joe suggested that it occupy the space that is currently being occupied by HS HR, student services, fiscal, the chair’s office, and IT space. This would mean locating the HS chair to the back of Fifield Hall. This idea was soundly rebuffed by the HS FAC, as proximity to the chair is important. Further, all of the hub space would come from current HS space.

Steve suggested and the FAC agreed that the 3 department chairs and their fiscal and HR staff meet to talk about organization of the hub and potential pitfalls, approaches, and priorities. This would be followed by town hall meeting of all Fifield faculty.