

PROVOST'S COUNCIL

April 27, 2021

Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Andy Casiello, Paul Currant, Tammi Dice, Gail Dodge, Annette Finley-Croswhite, Renee Felts, Stuart Frazer, Giovanna Genard, Nina Gonser, Kate Hawkins, Jonathan Leib, David Metzger, Renee Olander, Tisha Paredes, Brian Payne, John Sokolowski, Narketta Sparkman-Key, Ben Stuart, Jeff Tanner, Bonnie Van Lunen, and Robert Wojtowicz. Attending as a guest was Bryan Porter.

1. The March 23, 2021 minutes were approved with one revision.
2. Review of Graduate Student Survey Data

Robert Wojtowicz, Bryan Porter and Tisha Paredes presented an analysis of and highlights from the Class Modality Survey results. The survey was designed to identify graduate students' preferences for course delivery options given the pandemic. They found four variables to be significant in selecting online courses.

- Master's students were more likely to prefer fully online courses vs. doctoral students.
- Students coded as Education vs. those who are not were more likely to prefer online courses.
- Students 33 years and older were more likely to prefer online courses.
- Part-time students were more likely to prefer online courses than full-time students.

The results by college were shared. Common themes that emerged from the survey are as follows.

- Online courses are preferred because of flexibility and convenience.
- Hybrid courses offer flexibility for scheduling, but also offer in-person experiences for certain courses.
- In-person courses offer students more interactions with other students and faculty.

Dr. Paredes noted that no "one size fits all" for each college and department. She encouraged the Deans to conduct their own analysis to determine preferences for graduate students in their college. In-person classes are key for certain programs, but graduate students are not saying they want only in-person classes. Factors to look at include the type of student a program is trying to recruit – full time vs. part time – and the type of program – master's vs. doctoral.

3. Program Prioritization Update

Brian Payne gave an overview of the Program Prioritization process and shared the presentation that will be given at the open Forum.

- Desh Ranjan will discuss the academic subcommittee process.
 - A rubric was developed to guide the work of the subcommittees.

- Each subcommittee prepared a preliminary report that was discussed with the Task Force. The subcommittees met again to discuss the feedback from Task Force members and provided updated reports to the full group.
- Wie Yusuf will discuss the administrative subcommittee process.
 - Initially, two subcommittees reviewed the administrative units.
 - After the preliminary reports and feedback from the Task Force, the two subcommittees met together to develop an updated report that was presented to the full group.
- Nina Gonser will give an overview of the Task Force's work related to financial data. She will present the types of data the Task Force reviewed for both the academic and administrative units.
- Mileta Tomovic will present an overview of what the prioritization process might look like in the future.
 - The consensus of the Task Force is that the process should continue in the future and become part of the organizational structure.

The findings will be in the form of tables with categories for the recommendations. The categories for academic units will be strategic investment, maintain as is, maintain with recommended actions, restructure/consolidate, and terminate. The categories for administrative units are similar and will be to expand resources, maintain as is, maintain with recommended actions, restructure/repurpose, and terminate. There was concern about using the term terminate in the recommendations. Brian Payne will adjust the term for this category.

Additional recommendations from the Task Force will be as follows.

- Change the certificate approval process.
- Develop service-level agreements between administrative units and academic programs.
- Develop a strategy to routinely evaluate administrative units.
- Replicate the program prioritization process every five to six years.
- Use the process to support future strategic planning.
- Broaden the process to include all units at ODU.
- Prioritize new programs in the future.

Dr. Payne presented the following timeline.

- The last meeting of the Task Force is May 5.
- The draft report will be shared with the Provost's direct reports in early May.
- The draft report will be shared with the University community on a secure website in mid-May, and confidential feedback will be solicited through a special email account.
- The Task Force will reconvene September 1.
- The final report will be submitted to the Provost, Deans and Faculty Senate on October 1.

Council members asked about the difference or overlap between the program prioritization process and the annual program and department review process. Ideally the two processes would be meshed together. The annual reviews could form the basis of a program prioritization process

every five to six years. A suggestion was made to look at what other institutions do with regard to program reviews.

4. Virginia Beach City Public Schools "Beach Girls Rock" STEM-H Opportunity for ODU

Renee Olander discussed the opportunity for ODU to partner with Virginia Beach Public Schools in their 2021-22 "Beach Girls Rock" program. The program is grant-funded and provides STEM-H interactive/experiential learning events for girls in grades 5-8 and possibly high school students. Council members were enthusiastic about participating in the program. Ms. Olander recommended that a task force of interested parties be formed to develop the program and agreed to lead the effort. She asked Council members to send her the names of individuals to serve on the task force.

5. Fall 2021 Enrollment

Austin Agho called attention to the April 24 enrollment report that was forwarded to the Deans. He noted enrollment for the summer is up, but fall enrollment is down and significantly behind last year. He stressed the need to address enrollment for the fall.

6. Announcements

- A. Austin Agho encouraged Council members to participate in two upcoming events: a discussion of the Minnesota V. Chauvin verdict on April 27 and a program to share stories and speak up against AAPI hate on Wednesday, April 28.