

DEANS COUNCIL  
March 9, 2021  
Minutes

The Deans Council met on March 9, 2021 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Tammi Dice, Gail Dodge, Stuart Frazer, Kate Hawkins, Jonathan Leib, Brian Payne, Ben Stuart, Jeff Tanner, Bonne Van Lunen, and Robert Wojtowicz. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The February 9, 2021 minutes were approved.
2. Update on the Program Prioritization Initiative

Brian Payne presented an update on the Program Prioritization Initiative and shared the goals, tenets, and meeting summaries. He provided the following updates.

- The rubrics have been completed; there are separate rubrics for the administrative units and academic programs.
  - Overall, one of three recommendations will be made for administrative and academic units: (1) consider providing additional support, (2) consider reallocating resources to another program or area, and (3) no action needed, keep as is.
  - The motivation for the prioritization initiative is not to close programs but to maximize resources. However, it is possible some programs could close.
- Preliminary reviews have been conducted for the administrative units. The subcommittees looked at how to use resources efficiently and reduce duplication. Initial recommendations are to create service-level agreements for administrative units and develop a routine process for the evaluation of units similar to the way academic programs, deans and chairs are evaluated.
- Certificate programs have been reviewed. In 2019-20 there were 67 certificate programs, and 245 certificates were awarded. There were no certificates awarded in 28 programs during this time and only seven programs awarded 10 or more certificates. Initial recommendations are to discontinue certificates active for a period of time with few or no awards. In addition, the Certificate Policy has been submitted to the Faculty Senate for review. They have been asked to look at guidelines for how certificates are structured and whether new certificates should require approval from the Senate.
- The timeline has been revised. The Task Force will meet through April, and the draft report will be released in early May. The University community can provide feedback until September 1. The Task Force will meet to review the feedback and submit the final report to the Provost, Deans and Faculty Senate on October 1.

Dr. Payne asked the deans to discuss the program prioritization initiative with their chairs and faculty, provide feedback on any input they receive, and share their responses to the earlier surveys with their college. Several of the deans asked to see the data used by the Task Force in order to provide input prior to the recommendations. Dr. Payne will work with Tisha Paredes and Nina Gonser to share the student and financial data they prepared for the Task Force with the deans. In addition, he will share the draft report with deans and chairs before the report is released to the public; however, the report will not be changed before it is released. Several of the deans also expressed concern about how research is taken into consideration. Dr. Payne responded that research is outside the focus of the prioritization process.

Austin Agho indicated that the focus of the next Academic Affairs Leadership Team retreat will be program prioritization.

3. Proposal to Make the Change to the Last Day to Withdraw from Classes in Fall and Spring Semesters Permanent

Brian Payne asked for input on whether to change the deadline to withdraw from classes to the last day of classes for the semester. Overall, the deans were supportive. They suggested that withdrawals at the end of the semester trigger an alert to advisors for additional support for those students. The recommendation to change the withdrawal date will be sent to the Faculty Senate for review.

4. Revisions to Graduate Catalog Policy on Evaluation of Transfer Credits

Robert Wojtowicz discussed the proposal to revise the policy on Graduate Credits by Transfer. The revisions make it clear that credits earned at another institution for a conferred graduate degree or certificate may not transfer. However, experiences gained in those courses may be evaluated for credit through Prior Learning Assessment. The deans supported the proposed revisions, which will be sent to the Faculty Senate for review.