

Deans' Council Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Miller Administration Boardroom

Attending: Madonne Miner, Brad Mortensen, Bruce Bowen, David Ferro, Kristin Hadley, Tim Herzog, Wendy Holliday, Brenda Kowalewski, Matthew Mouritsen, Brett Perozzi, Julie Rich, Yas Simonian, Scott Sprenger, Yimin Wang

Guests: Rick Ford for Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Jed Spencer, Chaz Steimel

Excused: Bret Alexander, Eric Amsel, Bruce Davis, Bret Ellis, Andrea Easter-Pilcher

1. Approval of [Minutes from October 16, 2019](#)
 - a. The minutes were approved as written.
2. Strategic Plan for Recruitment, Retention, & Completion (Madonne Miner & Bruce Bowen)
 - a. The group discussed the projected USHE funding metrics and how those metrics pertain to upcoming university goals, etc. Bruce presented information about the [Strategic Plan for Recruitment, Retention, and Completion](#), offering background and goals, and thanked Chaz for his involvement in this project. Chaz invited Deans' Council to reach out to him or to Gail Niklason if they have questions about the data included in the report. Deans' Council discussed the report, including possible ways to implement the proposed goals.
3. Four-year Scholarships (Bruce Bowen & Jed Spencer)
 - a. Bruce and Jed referred Deans' Council to the scholarship memo distributed in previous meetings, emphasizing that the new 4-year scholarship model is designed to help with retention efforts. Jed described the new model in relation to when Pell awards are applied to a student's financial aid package. Academic awards have been, and will be, applied first. Pell awards are currently applied last, and will be moved to the second position in Fall 2020. Jed explained the importance of nominating students early so that financial aid can package their awards in the most advantageous way. He also asked that departments please nominate 3-4x the students that are normally awarded and that they include prioritization info and comments as necessary in the Scholarship Nomination System (SNS). SNS now includes a two-way comment section and a ranking box.
4. [Honors Awards Language](#) (Brenda)
 - a. A hard copy "Honor Award" letter signed by Pres. Mortensen is sent each semester to students who achieve a 3.5 or 4.0 GPA. The Honors Program, with Brenda's and Bruce Bowen's support, suggest that these letters be rebranded as "Academic Excellence" in order to lessen student confusion. Deans' Council was supportive and the change will be made starting this semester.
 - b. Some colleges publish Dean's Lists, but this is not a university-wide initiative.

5. Study Abroad Fee Update (Yimin)
 - a. Yimin offered an update on her last proposal and shared national accolades received by Study Abroad. After much research and considering many options, Yimin proposed that the following change be made: Study Abroad fees be raised by \$100, the first change in over 25 years. Deans' Council supported this initiative and applauded Yimin on her work. The proposed changes will be presented as an Executive Council information item.

6. Liaison Reports
 - a. **UCC:** Wendy and UCC encourage deans to speak with those proposing new programs to make sure that library resources are available before proposals get to curriculum committee. UCC suggests that a letter of support from the subject librarians be attached to proposals in Curriculog starting in next academic year.
 - b. **SBBFP:** The committee is discussing updating CUPA comparisons to remove the current practice of discounting CUPA data by 94% in comparison.
 - c. **Course Fees:** The committee meets 11/21/19 to review submitted course fee applications.
 - d. **Scholarships:** The committee reports that they are unlikely to have increased departmental funding for scholarships next year.

7. Other Business
 - a. Deans' Council discussed what happens when classes unofficially migrate into a "hybrid" format. PPM 9:5-2 includes language about not changing the format after the beginning of the semester.
 - b. Faculty & Staff Forums: Madonne reported on the event which focused on academic freedom, diversity and harassment, safety and free speech, and thanked Tim and Wendy for their participation on the panel. Another event will be held 11/21/19 at 1:30 PM, and a student panel will be held 11/25/19 at 2:30 PM. The university announcements will contain more information about these events.