

Deans' Council Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Space

Attending: Ravi Krovi, Brad Mortensen, Adrienne Andrews, Eric Amsel, Bruce Bowen, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Bret Ellis, David Ferro, Kristin Hadley, Timothy Herzog, Wendy Holliday, Brenda Kowalewski, Betsy Mennell, Matthew Mouritsen, Brett Perozzi, Julie Rich, Yas Simonian, Julie Snowball, Amanda Sowerby, Brian Stecklein, Norm Tarbox, James Taylor, Yimin Wang

Guests: Luke Jenkins, Angela McLean, Gail Niklason, Becky Thompson

Excused: Ben Ferney

- 1. Approval of August 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
 - a. The minutes were approved as written.
- 2. Provost Updates**
 - a. Updates
 - i. **CASE Competition:** Ravi congratulated Matt Mouritsen, GSBE, and the Supply Chain Management team for winning the national CASE competition.
 - ii. **Trustee Interactions with Colleges:** Trustees will reach out to deans and will report back in Trustees Meetings about accomplishments and ways that the Board can support the colleges.
 - iii. **Executive Committee:** CSBS tenure document recently passed Faculty Senate. Executive Committee and Faculty Senate also discussed collegiality requirements in P&T documents. Civility was also discussed in Executive Committee in relation to the upcoming election. Adrienne's team is working to put together resources to help after the election.
 - b. **Fall Commencement (Betsy Mennell & Becky Thompson)**
 - i. Becky spoke with the group about plans for fall convocation exercises and the social distancing requirements for these events. Convocations are proposed to be held Dec 10-11. Similar procedures to those used in August would be in place. Becky will pull the commencement committee together to continue the planning process. Brad thanked Becky & Betsy for their work.
- 3. Academic Agenda/Policy Discussions**
 - a. **Faculty Loading (Ravi Krovi & Brad Mortensen)**
 - i. The attached document was written by colleagues at UVU and was presented at the Council of Presidents meeting. USHE plans to start a task force focusing on this policy at some point.
 - b. **First Year First Time Student Retention (Brad Mortensen)**
 - i. Brad thanked everyone for their efforts in supporting these efforts. WSU reported the highest rates on record for Fall 2020.
 - c. **Centers Discussion (Ravi Krovi)**

- i. Ravi recently visited a few of the WSU centers and introduced a discussion about how to best leverage their usage. The group discussed balancing the best use of the centers with the need for student services, along with discussing other potential opportunities, strengths, possible institutional barriers, and the impacts of faculty teaching at centers. Deans' Council also discussed considering the centers as part of the current strategic planning efforts and setting up departments so that they allow work at centers to be part of faculty members' core work, rather than an additional responsibility. Ravi will organize a smaller group to continue this discussion.
 - d. **Discussion on Selection & Evaluation of Chairs, see PPM 1-19 (Ravi Krovi & Tim Herzog)**
 - i. Some concerns have been raised about the transparency and facilitation of chair elections. Tim suggested that minimum standards be discussed to encourage anonymity and participation in the process. The academic deans were supportive of this suggestion, and Ravi asked that they collaborate to discuss developing commonality of process.
 - e. **Accreditation (Eric Amsel & Gail Niklason)**
 - i. Eric & Gail presented an accreditation update, explaining that the upcoming 7th year review will be different from years past. They presented data about the 2021 accreditation report including the three elements of Mission Fulfillment: Lower division students achieving success, Enrolled students retained, and Students completing degrees. They also announced an incentive for any interested faculty to develop a Google Scholar profile by January, and asked that deans announce this to their faculty, asking that the deans' admins collect a list of those who have participated. Eric & Gail spoke about the NWCCU new accreditation standards, which are better aligned with Department of Education reforms, along with their impacts on WSU, and about the expected progress of the accreditation process and its collaborative nature. They also offered to attend any college meetings to discuss concerns about accreditation. Deans' Council discussed the impact of assessment on the curricular change process.

4. Academic Support Discussions

- a. **Academic Materials Captioning (Brenda Kowalewski & Angie McLean)**
 - i. Brenda & Angie spoke about CARES funding available to support academic materials captioning that must be spent by December. Angie presented on the impact of COVID on Kaltura Usage, and the associated obligation to make this media accessible to all students. She explained that there have been 10,000 unique clicks this semester to request closed captioning. Angie explained that they are looking for long-term content that could be shared, along with innovative ideas. She distributed an email with a description of the opportunity and a Google Form for application. She asked Deans' Council to help share this information. Angie is also happy to present at chairs' or departmental meetings as appropriate.
- b. **Purpose of Aletheia Banquet (Brenda Kowalewski)**

- i. Brenda lead a discussion about the Aletheia banquet, including its impact on colleges and how to proceed in a time of pandemic. Deans' Council requested a list of current Aletheia students sorted by college, and expressed interest in follow up data. The group also discussed communication, recruitment, and retention strategies in relationship to Aletheia students. Deans' Council expressed support for a virtual experience in February 2021, and suggested some sort of virtual tour be involved in the experience. Brenda encouraged deans to contact CATS about producing a virtual tour, and Bruce suggested that these could also be used for future recruitment efforts.