

Deans' Council Minutes
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
2:00 pm–4:00 pm

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, James Taylor, Deborah Uman, Yimin Wang

Guests: Rachel Cox, Casey Bullock, Cori Horne, Alexander Lancaster, Ty Naylor, Jessica Oyler

Excused: Ben Ferney, Norm Tarbox

1. Approval of November 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved as written.

2. Provost Updates

- a. **Faculty/Staff Communication:** Ravi encouraged everyone to reach out to faculty and staff to encourage dialogue around uncertainty surrounding the current COVID environment. He also asked for feedback about organizing smaller round-table discussions with faculty and staff during spring semester. The council was supportive and encouraged smaller group meetings. Brad also offered to be part of conversations as appropriate.
- b. **Spring Semester Enrollments:** Ravi and Bruce spoke about spring registration enrollments. They expressed thanks to those who have participated in student outreach and monitored course waitlists, and described retention advisor and Student Success Center efforts to encourage students to persist to spring semester. Brad shared early and encouraging information about the upcoming legislative session. The group also discussed planning for fall semester.
- c. **Post-Pandemic Curriculum:** Ravi encouraged the group to think about curriculum post-pandemic, including curricular innovation. He hopes to begin discussing this more in spring semester.

3. Academic Support Discussions

- a. **Environmental Scan Findings of the Weber State Internationalization Strategic Planning Process** (Yimin Wang)

- i. Yimin shared information from the Internationalization strategic planning process and offered a summary of the findings. She will reach out to each dean in spring semester to discuss next steps and to speak about recommendations for members of the internationalization advisory board. She also spoke about plans targeting an increase in international student enrollments, and enhancing the global branding of WSU.

- b. **Bridge** (Brenda Kowalewski, Ty Naylor, Jessica Oyler)

- i. Brenda offered a brief overview and history of implementing the Bridge training platform. Jessica and Ty spoke about the need for just in time training and demonstrated Bridge. They highlighted the ease of use and ability to push out trainings, along with other available features. They plan

a campus launch on 12/8/20, and are working to integrate it with Training Tracker.

- c. **Adjunct Academy** (Brenda Kowalewski, Rachel Cox, Alex Lancaster)
 - i. The group discussed the development of the Adjunct Academy and demonstrated some of Academy's features in Bridge and in Canvas. They also spoke about the roll-out plan for spring semester, assessment plans, beta testing, and communicating the availability to campus. They also asked for ongoing feedback from the group.
- 4. Academic Agenda/Policy Discussions**
- a. **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)** (Bruce Bowen and Casey Bullock)
 - i. Bruce offered background about transfer articulation and prior learning assessment. Casey demonstrated the prior learning website, including its role as a landing page to allow students more ease in accessing information that is historically disparate. They will also include each category of information in the A-Z index for students who may not be familiar with the term "prior learning." He also shared a matrix showing how PLA credit is posted on student transcripts, the responsible office, and the number of credits awarded per type of PLA. Casey explained that WSU leads the state in average PLA credits awarded per student. He also spoke of the challenges involved with making the credits transferrable as required by the legislature. The group discussed PLA's impacts on adult learners and how badging affects PLA categories. Casey encouraged deans to work with their departments on developing pathways that are most beneficial to students.
 - b. **DEI Statement** (Eric Amsel)
 - i. Eric presented a draft of the Academic Affairs DEI statement produced at Deans' Council's request. Wendy spoke of the committee's intentions as they wrote the statement. Adrienne expressed her support for the statement, highlighting WSU's work in using an equity lens. With Deans' Council approval, the committee proposes to take this statement to other campus constituencies and report back on their feedback. The council thanked the committee, highlighting Adrienne, Wendy, and Eric's work.