

Deans' Council Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 2020
2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Space

Attending: Ravi Krovi, Brad Mortensen, Eric Amsel, Bruce Bowen, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Bret Ellis, David Ferro, Kristin Hadley, Timothy Herzog, Wendy Holliday, Brenda Kowalewski, Leslie Loeffel, Matthew Mouritsen, Brett Perozzi, Julie Rich, Yas Simonian, Scott Sprenger, Brian Stecklein, Norm Tarbox, Yimin Wang

Guests: Casey Bullock, Doris Geide-Stevenson, Rich Hill

Excused: Bret Alexander

1. Approval of [March 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

- a. Approved as written

2. Provost Updates

- a. Ravi spoke about the recent faculty/staff town hall meetings, including announcing that there is a group working to clarify the definitions of virtual, face-to-face, online and hybrid classes. He reported that WSU plans to proceed with fall semester as scheduled, but asked that, pursuant to faculty request for advance notice, deans encourage faculty to prepare to convert face-to-face classes to a virtual delivery model if social distancing is still recommended by health authorities. The group discussed the need to map the fall schedule to the types of courses listed in the catalog, and further emphasized the need to better define hybrid classes as they are sometimes treated differently. Ravi announced that he plans to email faculty and students to explain the current plan for fall semester and promise to advise everyone if changes are required.
- b. Ravi also explained that another group is working on the Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grading option and implications. Deans' Council discussed the outstanding needs of students, and Bruce reported that the Financial Aid department is fielding many questions about how choosing CR/NC would affect students' education progress.

3. Academic Agenda/Policy Discussions

- a. **Credit/No Credit Discussion (Eric Amsel/Casey Bullock/Doris Geide-Stevenson)**
 - i. Eric, Casey, and Doris explained the immediate need to make a decision on extending the CR/NC deadline and pointed out that the current policy would need to be amended to allow for changes during Continuity of Operations Periods. Doris shared language that could be presented to President's Council which would allow for changes in this type of situation and explained that it was in response to student and faculty requests. Universities across the nation have made changes to their grading policies, including USHE schools. WSU could change our current policy if needed/suggested. Doris will distribute a summary paragraph for review.
 - ii. Casey presented three options for how WSU could best respond to requests for CR/NC options. The group discussed each option at length, and decided to proceed with an option that Casey summarized as keeping WSU's current CR/NC policies,

- with a possible change to a minimum credit grade of C rather than C-, which would allow departments discretion to change as needed. WSU would extend CR/NC deadline as identified by Financial Aid. WSU would allow students to choose CR/NC after their class grade is posted. Casey promised to distribute a summary paragraph of the proposed changes.
- iii. Deans' Council strongly emphasized the need for timely communication of any policy changes to students, faculty, and advisors
 - iv. The proposed changes will be finalized and presented at the April 2, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.
4. The remaining agenda items were tabled for the next meeting.