

Deans' Council Minutes
Wednesday, July 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, Amanda Sowerby, Brian Stecklein, Norm Tarbox, Yimin Wang

Guests: Carl Porter, Sherri Melton

Excused:

1. Testing Centers (Carl Porter)

- a. Carl presented the current plan for the Testing Centers in Fall 2020 and explained that they anticipate opening under yellow conditions. Testing Centers will be limited to less than 50% capacity, mirroring the classroom usage plans. The Testing Center staff have sent out a request to chairs and departments to be involved in selecting priority/rank order. Notification of acceptance will be given, then faculty will be asked to submit a form with the criteria for each test. Tests will be restricted to 4/semester, and will need to be open for 3 days to allow for distancing. Priority lists are due 7/20, and the criteria form will be due 8/1. Deans' Council discussed the importance of speed in reporting testing prioritization, as this information is needed before testing center reservations can be finalized. Once prioritized, any available spaces will be backfilled with other requests. The group is still looking at open spaces for testing for finals, with some discussion about midterm testing. A state RFP is in process for Proctorio to allow for distanced testing. Further communication will be sent to chairs and faculty, along with info in the AA Newsletter. Carl & Brian hope to offer an update on progress at the next Deans' Council.

2. Approval of June 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved as written.

3. Provost Updates

a. Completion Initiatives

- i. SPR groups reported on their discussion sessions, which Ravi hopes will act as seeding events for fall semester.
 1. **Completion Rates and Gateway Courses:** The SPR discussion group explained that courses are large and can be difficult to mentor, which may inspire a rethinking and redesign of gateway courses. The group also discussed structural racism in these classes and the need to have representative faculty on campus. Gateway classes can be discouraging for students exploring different majors, which necessitates advising and support of students. Recruitment

Retention Completion and Issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion were discussed in all of the SPR discussion groups. This group suggests developing a statement addressing these issues in curriculum, and many other areas. An initiative from AA may offer coordination and commitment to connect many disparate programs.

2. **Zero-credit courses in GSBE:** the curriculum is divided into foundations, core, and major courses. The zero-credit course is taken by students at the end of the Foundations course, which addresses resumes, advising, and creates relationships to keep students' momentum alive.
3. **Prevention/Intervention:** This SPR discussion group explored preventing issues through multiple advising interactions, peer mentoring programs, and possible departmental interventions if GPAs or competencies haven't been met.
4. **Alternate scheduling patterns for non-traditional students:** This group discussed immersive block scheduling as a retention and recruitment tool. This would require piloting an alternative scheduling program, along with identifying a cohort who could participate in the pilot. Discovering differential effects on non-trad/high-risk groups would be important. They also discussed implications on scheduling, pedagogical strategies used, and if capping courses would be required. The group felt that this is an area ripe for innovation. Deans' Council discussed that many of the scheduling challenges for this type of pilot program could be solved by using the existing blocks built into the schedule.

b. CARES Grant update (Brenda, Betty)

- i. President's Council has identified 10 AA items that can be funded through CARES II (non-student) money. More information will be included in Monday's AA Newsletter. Distribution of funds will need dean involvement, including honoraria and stipends for faculty coaches and mentors. Betty will parse the list of courses by college and asks that deans verify that faculty listed are actually teaching. EPARs will then be produced in the Provost's Office with the goal of including the \$1,000 and \$500 honoraria in August paychecks.

c. A&H Dean search

- i. Ravi explained that the candidates have visited campus and reminded Deans' Council that presentations were a few weeks earlier. Ravi asked those who have not yet submitted feedback to send it to him.

d. Staff planning

- i. The staff planning group spearheaded by Wendy will start meeting tomorrow. A Google doc used to gather issues has been distributed to the group.

e. Fall planning update

- i.** An update email was distributed this morning that stated that course information will be updated in Banner by 7/17. Ravi strongly encouraged Deans' Council to visit the [Course delivery format website](#) linked in the email to view the faculty videos.

4. Academic Agenda/Policy Discussions

a. SARA Update (Bruce, Sherri Melton)

- i.** Sherri presented information about the SARA requirements, explaining that the Department of Education policy requires WSU to inform prospective and current students each semester of the professional licensure requirements in the state of students' current residence. She emphasized that compliance is connected to Title IV funding. Sherri has spearheaded the implementation efforts and provided background, progress, next steps, and timelines surrounding these requirements.

b. Summer Course Evaluations (Eric)

- i.** Eric discussed the historical precedence of some departments offering different course evaluations for online and on-campus courses. Questions have come up about which of these are best used for summer courses. Eric will ask Gail to work with local decision makers to determine the best course of action.

c. U of Alaska Anchorage (Brian)

- i.** Ravi offered background about the current state of UAA's plans to teach out some of their programs. Brian gave a brief overview of the current discussions with his contact at UAA, including sharing a draft MOU. Deans' Council discussed potential concerns, but were overall supportive of exploring an agreement. Brian will begin drafting an agreement for review by the associated parties.

5. Academic Support Discussions

a. UETN Cares Act Award (Bret)

- i.** Bret explained that funding was distributed between K-12 and Higher Education. It was divided into 5 categories, with the excess used to help with the AA IT requests. UETN Cares Act funded items must be purchased by 7/31/20, and be in place by 12/30/20. This funding has spawned 100+ IT projects. President's Council will review the requests and provisions tomorrow and campus technology coordinators will be communicating with deans on what is approved. Ravi reminded deans that these are one-time funds.

6. Other Business

a. New Faculty Retreat

- i.** Brenda explained that the New Faculty Retreat planning team recommends postponing the face-to-face portion of the new faculty retreat until next year. Deans' Council was supportive of this decision.